

Developments related to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

July 20 - July 26, 2020



REFUGEE SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Highlights:

In the region:

- On July 22, a Malaysian court set aside a caning sentences of 27 men who had been convicted of entering Malaysia by boat without a permit, determining the punishment would be inhumane as the men were refugees.
- On July 25 there were reports that 24 Rohingya refugees who attempted to swim to Malaysia from their boat were missing and feared to have drowned. On July 27, they were found, alive and hiding on a nearby island.

Camp conditions:

- Two new COVID isolation centres opened in the camps this week, one provided by MSF and one by Qatar Red Crescent Society.

International Support:

- The German government has contributed USD \$4.5 million in funding to the UN World Food Programme to support the Rohingya community in Bangladesh.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated a \$3 million grant to three national NGOs and two international NGOs working on the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh.

Developments:

[Missing Rohingya refugees found alive on Malaysian islet](#) Prothom Alo (July 27)

Twenty-six Rohingya refugees, who had been feared drowned while trying to swim ashore on the Malaysian resort island of Langkawi, were found alive hiding in the bushes on a nearby islet, a senior coastguard official has said. Authorities have detained the refugees. Two more Rohingya migrants have also been arrested for suspected trafficking in connection with the people found.

Similar:

[26 Rohingya feared drowned found alive off Langkawi](#) New Straits Times (July 27)

[Missing Rohingya refugees found alive on Malaysian islet](#) BDNews24 (July 27)

[Malaysia finds Rohingya feared drowned hiding on island](#) Al Jazeera (July 27)

[Missing Rohingya refugees found alive on Malaysian islet](#) The Telegraph (July 27)

[Twenty-four Rohingya refugees feared drowned off Malaysian resort island](#) BDNews24 (July 26)

Malaysia's coastguard said 25 people had tried to swim to shore late on July 25 when their boat was near the west coast of Langkawi island but only one reached land. Malaysian authorities launched a search on July 26 for the 24 Rohingya refugees who went missing. Two boats and one aircraft were sent out on July 26 to scour an area of more

than 100 square nautical miles. Police detained the one person who reached shore for questioning. They did not say what happened to the boat.

Similar:

[24 Rohingya migrants feared drowned off Malaysia](#) New Age Bangladesh (July 26)

[24 Rohingyas feared drowned off Malaysia coast](#) Prothom Alo (July 26)

[Twenty-Four Rohingya Feared Drowned Off Malaysian Resort Island](#) New York Times (July 26)

[Dozens of Rohingya migrants feared drowned off Malaysia coast](#) Al Jazeera (July 26)

[Search launched for 24 Rohingya refugees missing off Malaysian island](#) The Guardian (July 26)

[24 Rohingya refugees feared drowned off Malaysia's Langkawi island](#) South China Morning Post (July 26)

[Dozens of Rohingya asylum seekers feared drowned off the coast of Malaysia](#) SBS News (July 26)

[24 Rohingya migrants feared drowned off Malaysia](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 26)

[24 Rohingya Migrants Feared Drowned off Malaysian Resort](#) VOA News (July 26)

[Malaysia Searches for 24 Rohingya Feared Drowned Off Island](#) New York Times (July 26)

[MSF opens COVID-19 treatment centre in Cox's Bazar](#) United News of Bangladesh (July 26)

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has opened a COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre at Nayapara refugee camp in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district. The opening of the Severe Acute Respiratory Infection–Isolation and Treatment Centre (SARI-ITC) is part of MSF's continuing scale-up of activities in response to the spread of COVID-19 across this part of south-east Bangladesh. The Nayapara SARI-ITC will have a 100-bed maximum capacity and start with 20 operational beds.

Similar:

[MSF opens Covid-19 treatment centre at Nayapara Rohingya camp](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 27)

[Does Facebook hold the key to the Rohingya genocide?](#) The Spectator (July 26)

[op-ed] Gambia, backed by the Organisation of Islamic Countries, has initiated court proceedings in the United States to compel Facebook to release data on 'suspended or terminated' accounts of General Min and other of Burma's military top-brass. They hope this will yield vital evidence that can be used at the International Court of Justice to prove that Burma is guilty of horrific crimes against the Rohingyas. Disclosure by Facebook could be a key moment in the quest to find and punish the perpetrators of this crime. If proof of genocidal intent is found in exchanges on Facebook or Messenger, then anyone accused of involvement in the terrible scenes that unfolded in Rakhine State can be tried in the International Criminal Court at the Hague. There is at least a glimmer of hope of justice for victims of this cruel genocide.

[Dhaka-OIC virtual youth summit Monday with mind-rockers](#) United News of Bangladesh (July 25)

The "Dhaka OIC Youth Capital 2020" will be inaugurated on July 27 with an aim to bring the youth and their spirit together from every corner of the world. The theme of the mega event is "Parity and Prosperity: For a Resilient Future." The virtual Rohingya camp tour will be one of the segments to introduce the displaced persecuted Rohingya community from Myanmar to the global participants. The virtual tour will help the international community know more about one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent history and engage with the youth around the world, as well as be empowered by the leaders of the world to bring a sustainable change and prosperity, said the organisers. It will also help build up a sense of awareness among the youth about the ordeal and struggle of the Rohingya community.

Similar:

[Dhaka to share ordeal of Rohingyas with global youths](#) Prothom Alo (July 25)

[Rohingya Repatriation: Dhaka for involving youths globally to mobilize opinion on accountability, justice](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 25)

[Ordeal of Rohingyas to be shared with global youths](#) The Independent Bangladesh (July 24)



[Dhaka-OIC virtual youth summit Monday New Age Bangladesh \(July 25\)](#)

[Rohingyas: Dhaka for involving youths globally to mobilise opinion on accountability, justice United News Bangladesh \(July 25\)](#)

[2 Rohingya 'Yaba traders' killed in Cox's Bazar 'gunfight'](#) United News of Bangladesh (July 25)

Two suspected Yaba traders were killed in a reported gunfight with members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Teknaf upazila on the night of July 24. Three BGB members were also injured in the gunfight.

Similar:

[Two Rohingyas killed in Cox's Bazar gunfight: BGB Prothom Alo \(July 25\)](#)

[2 Rohingyas among 3 killed in Cox's Bazar, Kushita 'gunfights' The Independent Bangladesh \(July 25\)](#)

[2 Rohingyas among 4 more killed in 'gunfights' New Age Bangladesh \(July 25\)](#)

[4 killed in 'gunfights' in 3 districts Dhaka Tribune \(July 25\)](#)

[Fake NIDs to Rohingyas: Investigation halted](#) Prothom Alo (July 25)

Investigations in a case filed over preparing fake National Identity (NID) for Rohingyas have been halted. No new arrests have been made in the last seven months. Five accused have been released in bail. Thirty-five officials and employees of the election commission were found to be involved with the crime in investigation and confessional statements of five employees. Fifteen were arrested. The gang was making Rohingyas voters of Bangladesh for at least five years in return of money. They have issued at least 3,800 Bangladeshi NIDs to Rohingyas. Deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police's counter terrorism unit holds the coronavirus situation responsible for the halt of the investigation. He said the investigations will speed up within a few days.

[QRCS opens Coronavirus isolation facility at Bangladesh refugee camps](#) Relief Web (July 25)

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has completed the construction and furnishing of an isolation facility inside the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) largest field hospital, operated by QRCS and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) at Refugee Camp #7 in Cox's Bazar, southern Bangladesh. The purpose of the new facility is to isolate suspected cases and treat the Coronavirus patients in the district that hosts Myanmar refugee camps. Co-operated by IFRC and BDRCS, it has a capacity of 54 beds, as well as all the isolation, health care, and services rooms.

[Four drug suspects killed in separate 'shootouts' in Dhaka, Teknaf](#) BDNews24 (July 24)

Four suspected drug peddlers have been killed in separate gunfights involving the Rapid Action Battalion and the police in Bangladesh. In Teknaf, a union council member and a Rohingya refugee were gunned down in a shootout with police. Three policemen were also injured while the law-enforcement agency recovered 20,000 yaba tablets, five guns and 19 bullets.

Similar:

[UP member, Rohingya man accused in drug dealing case killed in Teknaf 'gunfight' Dhaka Tribune \(July 24\)](#)

[Refugee health workers lead COVID-19 battle in Bangladesh camps](#) UNHCR (July 24)

Over 1,400 Rohingya refugees are trained to go door-to-door in the densely populated Rohingya refugee camps, sharing information about health and hygiene, looking out for signs of illness, recording births and deaths, and acting as a bridge between refugee communities and health facilities. They have been able to counter rumours circulating in the camps with accurate information and practical advice. The community health volunteers' role has become even more important since humanitarian workers have significantly scaled back their work in the camps to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus.

[**Virtual run to raise funds for Rohingya education centre**](#) The Star (July 24)

The first-ever “You’re Incredible Virtual Charity Run 2020” is being organised to raise funds for a Rohingya community school in Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia. The objective is to raise RM10,000 for the expansion of the alternative education centre managed by Akademi Rohingya Malaysia. The money will go towards providing a conducive learning environment for the 54 students currently at the centre.

[**Rohingya Women Take a Seat at the Table & Share Stories in a Growing Rights Movement**](#) Inter Press Service News (July 24)

On Jul. 24, the first ever Rohingya women-only panel, facilitated by the Rohingya Human Rights Network and other organisations, brought together Rohingya women leaders from around the world who shared their experiences and knowledge at the “Her Voices, Her Journey: The Gendered Experiences of Rohingya Women” webinar. The webinar aimed to provide Rohingya women with the agency to tell their own stories and be included in the larger conversation surrounding Rohingya rights, the genocide and refugee crisis.

[**New Challenge for Myanmar as US Seeks to Loosen China’s Grip in Southeast Asia**](#) The Irrawaddy (July 24)

[op-ed] The recent war of words on social media between the US and Chinese embassies dragged Myanmar into a diplomatic dispute between the two powers. While the Myanmar government insists the country is maintaining its neutral foreign policy, many observers have been critical of Myanmar’s tilt toward China as the West turns away due to the Rohingya crisis in Rakhine State. Things turned sour when the Rohingya issue drew an international outcry. This is where China came in with support, while the US repeatedly pushed the UN Security Council to adopt resolutions against Myanmar on the issue. The fact that the US statement refers to Myanmar in the context of the South China Sea and Hong Kong issues could be an indication that the West is beginning to look beyond the Rohingya issue.

[**UN World Food Programme: Germany provides \\$4.5m for Rohingyas**](#) The Daily Star (July 23)

The German government has contributed a new USD 4.5 million funding to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support the Rohingya community in Bangladesh. Donated through German Federal Foreign Office, the new funding will be used for food support and telecommunications services for the community. Welcoming the new funding, WFP said the support will help towards the critical work for Rohingya families and their host communities in Cox’s Bazar.

Similar:

[Germany donates \\$4.5m more for Rohingyas, host communities](#) Prothom Alo (July 22)

[Germany contributes \\$ 4.5m for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh](#) The Daily Star (July 22)

[Germany provides more support for Rohingyas, host communities](#) United News of Bangladesh (July 22)

[**Dhaka wants voluntary OIC Covid-19 response and recovery fund**](#) The Daily Star (July 23)

Dhaka has sought Saudi support to create a voluntary Organisation of Islamic Countries Covid-19 response and recovery fund by willing member countries. This was discussed during a call made by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud to Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on July 22. Momen also sought Saudi support in repatriating 1.1 Rohingya refugees who were forcefully displaced from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

[**The Resolution of the Rohingya Crisis May Require Military Intervention**](#) The National Interest (July 23)

[op-ed] The only practical and humanitarian answer that strengthens international democracy and rule of law is to restore Rohingya land and homes in Rakhine State in a voluntary and dignified manner. If Burma’s government continues to resist the voluntary repatriation of the Rohingyas, then repatriation should be swiftly executed under the protection of an international peacekeeping force. While military force should always be the last resort, all other solutions have been tried and found lacking. International diplomatic, economic, and—if necessary—military pressure should be gradually increased until Burma allows the Rohingya back to their villages, where they should be supported in the rebuilding process. Only this will prevent their further radicalization, decades or more of instability and terrorism in Bangladesh and beyond, and the further erosion of the international norms that are necessary for global order.



[**Government continues to seek peaceful resolution to the Rohingya crisis, MPs told**](#) Relief Web (July 23)

The UK International Development Secretary sets out in their response in a recent IDC report that the Government will continue using international pressure, co-operation with Myanmar's neighbours and other influential countries, and targeted assistance to urge progress against the recommendations set out by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State in August 2017. Further, the UK Government is adamant that accountability must form part of any long-term settlement and urges Myanmar to prosecute those responsible for the atrocities. The UK Government also said it continues to make representations to the Government of Bangladesh for telecommunications bans to be lifted in Cox's Bazar.

[**What Myanmar Is and Is Not Doing to Protect Rohingyas from Genocide**](#) Just Security (July 23)

[op-ed] The ICJ's provisional measures order has already unlocked a vital framework to meaningfully assess what Myanmar is – and isn't – doing to protect the Rohingya in Rakhine state from genocide. The Myanmar government issued presidential directives to ensure that officials do not commit genocide, to prohibit the destruction or removal of evidence of abuses, and to denounce and to prevent the proliferation of hate speech. The impact of these directives on the ground, however, has been nonexistent. The government could and should urgently lift the restrictions that prevent Rohingya from accessing equitable health care. The government should repeal the discriminatory legal framework that targets the Rohingya. The government should lift blanket restrictions on aid delivery and grant humanitarian groups and U.N. agencies immediate, unrestricted, and sustained access.

Similar:

[Myanmar and the ICJ: Ways Forward](#) Just Security (July 23)

[**Rights Group Wants Japan to Drop Plan to Give Funds to Myanmar's Police Force**](#) Radio Free Asia (July 23)

Human Rights Watch (HRH) has urged the Japanese government to drop a plan to donate 100 million yen (U.S. \$934,300) to buy vehicles and communications equipment for the Myanmar Police Force to use to protect dignitaries, arguing that the police are partners with the army in widespread abuses. HRW said that Myanmar's police has worked hand-in-glove with the military during a spate of atrocities in recent years, particularly in Rakhine state, where they expelled more than 740,000 Muslim Rohingya in 2017 and now are brutalizing civilians in a war against ethnic Rakhine fighters.

Similar:

[Don't donate money to Myanmar police](#) The Daily Star (July 25)

[**Two Rohingya men nabbed for smuggling 269 migrants into Langkawi**](#) Malaysiakini (July 23)

Two Rohingya men who are believed to have masterminded the illegal entry of another 269 fellow Rohingya into Malaysia last month were detained in an operation involving five agencies in Langkawi. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency Kedah and Perlis director Mohd Zawawi Abdullah said the two men, aged 29 and 35, were nabbed after almost two months of surveillance.

[**UK Government matches another £5 million of donations for coronavirus appeal after huge public response**](#) UK Government (July 23)

The UK Government is doubling its support to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Coronavirus Appeal, following a huge response from the British public. This increase of match funding up to £10 million follows donations of £9.8 million in 9 days. The DEC Coronavirus Appeal is helping to provide lifesaving aid to refugees, who are living in overcrowded camps where social distancing is impossible and therefore face a higher risk of catching coronavirus. The appeal will focus on providing relief in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, as well as the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

[COVID-19: Fighting an invisible enemy in the world's largest refugee camp](#) Save the Children (July 22)

[op-ed] The camps in Bangladesh are the perfect environment for the virus to spread like wildfire. It's not uncommon for several families to live crammed together in small shelters made from bamboo and tarpaulins. Social distancing, self-isolation and regular handwashing are a luxury few can practice. Health facilities in the camps are also very basic. Mobile data and internet have been cut off for Rohingya refugees, which means people have very limited access to information about the coronavirus and its devastating consequences. Save the Children has teams of health workers and volunteers moving around the camps on a daily basis providing information, but it isn't enough. It's essential that mobile data and internet access are reinstated as quickly as possible.

Similar:

[COVID-19 is hitting Rohingya Muslims in the world's biggest refugee camp, and humanitarian groups are fearing mass infection](#) Business Insider (July 22)

[3, including Rohingya, killed in 'gunfights'](#) New Age Bangladesh (July 22)

Three suspected criminals, including a 'Rohingya robber', were killed in separate gunfights with law enforcers and criminals in Cox's Bazar, Bogura and in the capital early July 22. In Cox's Bazar, a Rohingya man, suspected of being a robber, was killed in a reported gunfight with members of Rapid Action Battalion.

Similar:

[Three including Rohingya man killed in separate 'gunfights'](#) Prothom Alo (July 22)

[Rohingya man killed in gunfight: RAB](#) Prothom Alo (July 22)

[Rohingya 'robber' among 3 killed in 'gunfights' in Cox's Bazar, Bogura, Dhaka](#) United News of Bangladesh (July 22)

[Malaysia spares Rohingya refugees from caning](#) BDNews24 (July 22)

A Malaysian high court has spared 27 Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar from caning, their lawyer said, setting aside a lower court's sentence following an outcry from human rights activists. The Rohingya men were among 40 refugees convicted last month by a magistrates court on the northwestern island of Langkawi for entering Malaysia by boat without a valid permit. All 40 were also sentenced to seven months' jail. The Alor Setar High Court, in Kedah state, set aside the caning penalty after reviewing the cases. In its review, the court decided caning would be inhumane as the men were refugees and did not have any prior history of crime or violence.

Similar:

[Malaysian court to hear bid to set aside caning for Rohingya refugees](#) The Dispatch (July 24)

[Malaysia court overturns Rohingya refugees caning sentence](#) Jurist (July 23)

[Malaysia spares Rohingya refugees from caning](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 22)

[Malaysian court overturns caning sentence on 27 Rohingya men](#) Al Jazeera (July 22)

[Malaysia: Court ruling against whipping must be first step toward protecting Rohingya refugees](#) Amnesty International (July 22)

[Malaysia judge drops caning of Rohingya refugees](#) Khaleej Times (July 22)

[Malaysia spares 27 Rohingyas from caning](#) The Daily Star (July 23)

[Malaysia high court rules against caning of Rohingya refugees](#) The Mainichi (July 23)

[Malaysia Spares Rohingya Refugees From Caning](#) New York Times (July 22)

[Malaysian court to hear bid to set aside caning for Rohingya refugees](#) Prothom Alo (July 21)

A Malaysian court will hear a bid to set aside caning sentences handed down to 27 Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar, lawyers said, a punishment that rights groups have decried as vicious and tantamount to torture. In June, a court on Malaysia's Langkawi island sentenced 40 Rohingya refugees to seven months' jail for arriving in the country



by boat without a valid permit. Twenty-seven men among them were also sentenced to caning, a penalty that their lawyer is seeking to overturn in court. Under Malaysia's Immigration Act, anyone who illegally enters the country can face a 10,000 ringgit (\$2,345) fine, jail for up to five years as well as six strokes of a cane. Courts can choose not to hand down the caning sentence on humanitarian grounds if the migrant charged is a refugee and does not have any prior criminal history.

Similar:

[Malaysia: Stop Treating Rohingya Refugees as Criminals](#) Human Rights Watch (July 22)

[Malaysia to hear bid to set aside caning for Rohingya](#) BDNews24 (July 21)

[Malaysia urged to halt 'barbaric' caning of Rohingya](#) New Age Bangladesh (July 21)

[Malaysia urged to halt 'barbaric' caning of Rohingya](#) The Jakarta Post (July 21)

[Court to hear bid to set aside caning for Rohingya refugees tomorrow](#) Malaysiakini (July 21)

[Malaysia court to hear bid to overturn caning of Rohingya men](#) Al Jazeera (July 21)

[Malaysia: Stop plans to cane Rohingya refugees and release those already imprisoned](#) Amnesty International (July 20)

[Malaysian Court to Hear Bid to Set Aside Caning for Rohingya Refugees](#) New York Times (July 21)

[Rights group urges Malaysia not to cane Rohingya refugees](#) Daily Sabah (July 21)

[CERF allocates \\$3m to NGOs for helping Rohingyas amid pandemic](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 21)

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated a \$3 million grant to three national NGOs and two international NGOs working on the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh. The national NGOs are Brac, Friendship, and Reaching People in Need and two international NGOs are Save the Children and World Vision. The grants range from \$125,000 to \$845,000 and will help to address the most pressing health and water, sanitation and hygiene needs in the Covid-19 response. CERF will support the establishment of a new 200-bed Covid-19 Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Isolation Treatment Centre (ITC) in Cox's Bazar, as well as sustain other SARI ITC near the Rohingya refugee camps.

Similar:

[CERF allocates \\$3 million to NGOs for the COVID-19 response in Bangladesh](#) Relief Web (July 21)

[Myanmar leader Suu Kyi to run again in November election](#) Star Tribune (July 21)

Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, will be a candidate in this November's general election, a spokesman for her National League for Democracy party has said. Suu Kyi led her party to a landslide victory in the last general election in 2015. The victory ended more than five decades of military rule and was the culmination of over 25 years of non-violent democracy activism by Suu Kyi that won her the Nobel Peace Prize. However, her failure while in power to end military abuses of the Muslim Rohingya minority in the western state of Rakhine drew condemnation from many of her former admirers worldwide.

Similar:

[Disgraced Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi to run again in November election](#) CBC (July 21)

[Myanmar Muslims struggle to avoid another Muslim-free parliament](#) Anadolu Agency (July 21)

Political parties in Myanmar have geared up for upcoming general elections with Nov. 8 set as the date for crucial polls which will be the first held under the civilian government in more than six decades. A few days after the commission's announcement, a 16-membered team was formed to assist Muslim candidates in campaigning in their constituencies countrywide. In 2015, the commission had rejected more than a hundred would-be candidates, mostly Muslims, on the grounds of citizenship. The previous government also revoked the white cards giving Rohingya voting rights ahead of the 2015 elections, making them ineligible to vote. Rohingya politician Kyaw Min was among Muslim candidates

who were banned by the election commission from running in the 2015 elections. “With a minority group being disenfranchised, how could an election be really free and fair?” he asked.

[Myanmar Needs to Answer to UN Rights Body](#) Human Rights Watch (July 20)

Myanmar has failed to undertake meaningful reforms to bring its many rights-violating laws into compliance with international human rights standards, Human Rights Watch said in a submission to the UN Human Rights Council for Myanmar’s upcoming Universal Periodic Review in January 2021. Despite Myanmar’s commitments in the 2015 review cycle to adopt democratic reforms and respect civil and political rights, the government has made little progress. The government has disregarded its international legal obligations to provide accountability for Myanmar military atrocities. It has refused to cooperate with the Human Rights Council-established Fact-Finding Mission to investigate atrocity crimes, and barred the previous UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar from entering the country. “UN member countries should use Myanmar’s UN review to demand the government make progress through deeds, not more flowery talk, to achieve genuine human rights improvements” said HRW Deputy Asia Director.

Similar:

[Myanmar Urged to Work With UN Rights Process Rather Than Resist Scrutiny](#) Radio Free Asia (July 22)

[Momen urges Spain to employ seasonal workers from Bangladesh](#) Dhaka Tribune (July 20)

Foreign Minister Momen has requested Spain to consider employing seasonal workers from Bangladesh as they already have expertise in the agriculture sector. The Foreign Minister made the request when outgoing Spanish Ambassador Álvaro de Salas Giménez de Azcárate paid a farewell call on him on July 20. The Foreign Minister thanked the Spanish government for its continued support to Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue. He further appealed for imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar by the international community so that Myanmar abided by its commitment for the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya people.

Similar:

[Bangladesh FM urges world community to slap sanctions on Myanmar](#) The Sentinel (July 21)

[B'desh FM urges world community to slap sanctions on Myanmar](#) Daiji World (July 20)

[US Calls on Bangladesh to Ensure Media Freedom during Pandemic](#) Benar News (July 20)

Bangladesh should ensure a free and independent media during the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. State Department said on July 20, underlining threats to democratic norms and human rights in various countries during the global health crisis. In a statement highlighting its actions in different countries, the State Department said that government responses to the pandemic must not be used as a “pretext for repression of persons or ideas.” It also called for the Bangladesh government “to lift internet and phone restrictions at the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar.”

In compiling this digest, RSN has attempted to include the most relevant news accounts from the past week concerning Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. From time to time, news beyond Bangladesh or the Rohingya community is included, but currently RSN does not have the capacity to expand the scope. We recognize that some developments may have been overlooked, and that some sources may not be viewed by all as credible or balanced. Inclusion of a news story and its summary does not constitute any kind of endorsement or position taken by RSN, and the text and positions included in the above are solely those of the authors of the respective articles. If you have any comments or feedback for us regarding this digest, please email advocacy@rsn.ngo. For more information about RSN and our work, please visit <https://refugeesolidaritynetwork.org/>