

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

11 May 2026

Takeaways

Politics

◆ **Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh has expressed deep concern over incidents of attacks, vandalism, arson, and intimidation against the Muslim community in West Bengal and Assam, India, in the context of the recent political situation. At the same time, the organization has strongly condemned these incidents.** In a joint statement sent to the media on Friday, Hefazat-e-Islam's Amir Allama Shah Muhibbullah Babunagari and Secretary-General Allama Shaykh Sajidur Rahman said that the way violent activities are being carried out targeting minority Muslims over the election results is a clear violation of human rights, religious freedom, and democratic values. In the statement, they alleged that the recent remarks of West Bengal BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari—where he mentioned that Muslims did not vote for him—not only provoke an anti-Muslim attitude but also indirectly encourage the attackers. They also commented that such statements from a responsible political leader are extremely regrettable. The two leaders further stated that, according to information obtained from various media and local sources, extremist BJP supporters have been accused of involvement in these violent activities. Attacks on minority communities based on religious identity cannot be acceptable in any civilized, democratic, and pluralistic state system. **Appealing to the government of Bangladesh, they said that it is essential to formally condemn the ongoing persecution of Muslims in India and to take effective measures at the diplomatic level. At the same time, they urged the Indian government to ensure the safety of minority Muslims.** The statement also said that one should not remain silent about the persecution of Muslims in a neighboring country. Ensuring the safety and rights of all religious communities is extremely important to maintain peace, stability, and communal harmony in South Asia. Additionally, international human rights organizations, the OIC, and the global community are urged to closely monitor the human rights situation of India's Muslim population and to take necessary steps.

◆ **Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) vice-president and party spokesperson Rashed Pradhan has said that Indian External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal has sought Dhaka's cooperation in repatriating Bangladeshis who are illegally staying in India. We would like to wholeheartedly help the Government of India in this regard. So, first of all, send back the genocidal fascist Sheikh Hasina.** He said this while speaking as the chief guest at a function at the National Press Club on Friday. At the event, Rashed Pradhan said, Indian Hindutva leader Suwendu Adhikari stated—Hasina Wazed is the legitimate Prime Minister of Bangladesh, she will land at Shahjalal Airport and must be taken with a salute. Please send Hasina Wazed to Shahjalal Airport; we will deliver her to prison with full 'salute'. The gallows are ready for this genocidal fascist. The JAGPA spokesperson also said, the families of the thousands of martyrs of the July mass uprising, injured fighters, and the general public of the country are eagerly waiting to see justice served to Suwendu Adhikari's beloved Hasina Wazed. **At the event, central member of the convening committee of Awpi Bangladesh, Lion Umar Razi; joint convener of Feni district, Mohammad Saif Uddin; convener of Bangladesh Kalyan Party Dhaka Metropolitan North, Md. Samsul Islam; former acting president of Bangladesh Chhatra Adhikar Parishad Dhaka Metropolitan North, Naem Al Islam and Samirul Islam Rakib; convener of National Peoples Party**

Narayanganj district, Mahmud Al Shams and Osman Gani; joint convener of Kushtia District Youth Rights Council, Md. Kausar Alam; president of Jago Tarunno, Imran Hasan Rahul; prominent businessman Akram Hossain; engineer Mohammad Arifur Rahman and Nadim Ahmed; former student leader and bank officer Sams Milon; student leader Al Amin Sojeb and more than a hundred other leaders officially joined Jagpa. **Jagpa Vice President said that looking at the current BNP, it seems that, under India's instructions, they want to complete the unfinished activities left by the Awami League. The statement is clear: if the July Charter is not implemented in light of the referendum, the ruling government will have to face public movements.**

◆ **Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, opposition leader and Amir of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, has appealed to the Government of India not to harm anyone by targeting any particular religion, caste, or community. He made this appeal during a press briefing organized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday afternoon, after returning to the country following his visit to Japan.** At that time, he provided detailed information about his week-long trip to Japan, which started on May 2. **In response to journalists' questions regarding the persecution of Muslims in West Bengal, the Jamaat Amir said, 'We are observing these matters and will do what is necessary as a neighboring country. Not just West Bengal, but anywhere in the world, if oppression is carried out against any innocent human group, we are against it. Wherever the oppressed are, we will stand by them.'** He also commented that India's constitution is secular, and therefore, people of all religions there have full authority to enjoy their religious and civil rights. **In response to a BREK question, the opposition leader said that we respect our neighbors, but we do not want any neighbor to insult us either. He stated that the government has now become more 'politicized.'** However, at this moment, we must ensure the safety of the country's people first, putting aside partisanship everywhere. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman also emphasized that against those who commit crimes and flee in places like Naogaon or Chattogram, we must fight in reality instead of a war on Facebook.

◆ **Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish's Dhaka metropolitan unit yesterday staged a protest rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, alleging repression of Muslims in India, particularly in West Bengal and Assam. The programme, held under the banner "Protest rally and march against Muslim repression in West Bengal, Assam and across India", began after Asr prayers.** Protesters later brought out a procession that ended in Bijoy Nagar area. Addressing the rally, speakers criticised the Indian government over "ongoing attacks on Muslims" following legislative elections held in some Indian states in May. They also criticised the Bangladeshi government for its "inaction" over the incidents and called on it to summon the Indian envoy in protest. "We call on the media to present the truth about what is happening in India. Bangladeshi government is staying quiet over the issue. This is the time for our media to play an effective role," said Anwar Hossain Razi, president of the party's Dhaka north metropolitan unit.

◆ **Questions have been raised about the killing of people at the border by BNP's senior joint secretary general and Prime Minister's political advisor Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. He said, when will the bloodshed stop? "On Saturday (May 9), two people were shot in Brahmanbaria. The people of India do not want such behavior either. We want friendly relations, repeatedly bloodstaining the border; relations will not be good in this way."** He made these remarks while speaking at the 45th National Congress of the Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh in the capital on Sunday (May 10). Rizvi said that in order to establish a permanent good relationship with Bangladesh, Delhi

must come out of its violent mindset. **I think elections in India are their own matter. We have no say in this. But why are Bangladeshis repeatedly being shot at the border?**

◆ **International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam has alleged that retired Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury was the “principal architect” behind the inhumane incidents and crimes against humanity committed during the 1/11 caretaker government period.** The chief prosecutor made the remarks during a media briefing at his office at the tribunal today, Sunday. On Thursday, ICT-2 showed Masud Uddin arrested in a case involving alleged crimes against humanity committed during the July mass uprising. The tribunal also granted investigators one day to interrogate him. Aminul Islam said Masud Uddin was interrogated on Saturday and that investigators are now verifying the information he provided. Responding to a journalist’s question during the briefing, the chief prosecutor said that during the 1/11 government period, Masud Uddin and several others were considered the “de facto government” and effectively ran the administration. “For that reason, he was the principal mastermind behind the inhumane incidents and crimes against humanity that occurred during that period,” Aminul Islam said.

◆ **The High Court has denied bail to Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, spokesperson for the Sanatani Jagaran Jote, in the case over the hacking and beating to death of lawyer Saiful Islam in Chattogram.** The court discharged the rule, effectively rejecting his bail petition. The verdict was delivered today, Sunday, by a High Court bench comprising Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher. Meanwhile, the court deferred its decision on Chinmoy’s bail petitions in four other cases involving attacks on police, vandalism of vehicles, and related charges. The same High Court bench fixed Monday for delivering the verdicts on those petitions.

◆ **At a joining ceremony organized by the National Citizens Party (NCP) in Chattogram, more than seven hundred people from various walks of life, including a member of Dr. Muhammad Yunus's family, officially joined the party.** The event was held on Thursday (May 7) afternoon at the July Mass Uprising at Chattogram Press Club. Among those who joined the NCP were content creators, teachers, doctors, journalists, engineers, and businessmen, as well as several leaders and activists from the LDP and BNP. **The National Citizen Party (NCP) on Sunday announced its first batch of 100 candidates for upcoming local government elections, covering upazila and municipalities across the country.** The names were unveiled by NCP Chief Organizer (Northern Region) Sarjis Alam at a press conference held at the party's temporary office at Banglamotor.

◆ **Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and chief whip of the opposition in parliament, said he still hopes the current Jatiya Sangsad will be transformed into a Constitutional Reform Council.** Speaking at a dialogue attended by diplomats from different countries, he said, “We do not want to return to the streets again to implement reforms. We do not want any instability. Going to the streets is our last option. But if the government ignores the opposition’s cooperation, we will be compelled to take to the streets.” The dialogue, titled “Reform Deadlock: The Way Forward,” was organised this morning by the NCP’s Reform Implementation Committee at a hotel in Gulshan in the capital. Representatives from embassies of various European union member states stationed in Dhaka were mainly present at the event. Addressing the diplomats, Nahid Islam said the ruling party had already broken its commitments on reforms. They did not take the oath for the Constitutional Reform Council. They created a false binary between the July Charter and the executive order for implementing the July Charter.

◆ **The Islamic Front Bangladesh has called for the cancellation of the trade agreement with the United States, calling it unfavorable. The party's acting chairman, Maulvi Allama S. M. Farid Uddin, said that because of this agreement, trade inequality would increase. If it is not cancelled,**

Bangladesh could face a major disaster in the future. These remarks were made during a human chain organized by the party in front of the National Press Club on Saturday (May 9) afternoon. Farid Uddin said that the hastily signed trade agreement with the United States before the elections would bind Bangladesh in the chains of subjugation. Even if Bangladesh tries, it will not be able to independently purchase anything from another country. As a result, Bangladesh will gradually become a colony of the United States. Speaking at the human chain, Secretary General of the Islamic Front, Maulvi Zainul Abedin Zubair, said that under no circumstances did the interim government have the authority to enter into such an agreement against the country's interests.

◆ **The Communist Party of Bangladesh has blamed Dr. Muhammad Yunus's government and Nurjahan Begum for the deaths of more than three hundred children from measles across the country.** On Saturday (May 9), from a protest rally at Puran Paltan Mor in the capital, the party demanded punishment for those involved. **At the rally, the party's former general secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince expressed anger and concern over the deaths caused by measles and its symptoms. He said that experts have stated, with evidence, that this incident occurred due to negligence by the Yunus government.** He added, 'For a long time, Bangladesh has set an example in vaccination programs for children in various areas worldwide. Today, due to the negligence of the Yunus government, this incident of child deaths has occurred. Yet the government, for mysterious reasons, has remained silent regarding the culprits.' He demanded justice for the Yunus government, Nurjahan Begum, and others involved.

◆ **Hours after assuming office, West Bengal's new Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has been greeted by former Bangladesh prime minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, reports NDTV.** In a statement on Saturday, Hasina said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s landslide victory in the state election was driven by its people's deep trust and Suvendu's people-centric leadership. Hasina has been in exile in India since her ouster on Aug 5, 2024 following days of student-led protests.

◆ **The government will amend laws where necessary to curb mob violence, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said.** Speaking as a special guest at the "Prime Minister's Special Welfare Meeting" organised at the Rajarbagh Police Auditorium in Dhaka, marking Police Week 2026, he said the government was working within the existing legal framework to tackle "mob culture". "We have spoken about mob culture before as well. We are taking action within the scope of existing laws as much as possible. However, if legal reforms or amendments are needed, those will also be made," the home minister said. "Today, I requested the home secretary and the IGP to remind me again about the issue. There may be a need for amendments or new legal provisions if mob culture has to be addressed separately, because the existing laws alone are not fully adequate to deal with it," he added.

◆ **Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called upon police personnel to try their best to ensure peace and security of the country's people.** "Ensuring peace and security of the country's people depends largely on the role of the police. You should try your best to ensure the safety of lives and property of the people-this is what the government expects from you," he said. Tarique Rahman, also ruling BNP chairman, made the call while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Police Week 2026 at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground here this morning. Urging the police members to commit themselves to a new oath, the Prime Minister said, "Our responsibility does not end with remembrance alone. It is our sacred duty to protect the independence of Bangladesh at any cost, for which our police brothers sacrificed their lives. "Let no fascism or autocracy ever again be able to

use police members against the independence of Bangladesh and its people. Standing on this soil stained with the blood of police during the very first moment of independence, let us today once again pledge ourselves to a new oath," he added.

Economy

- ◆ **The government is set to implement the much-anticipated Padma barrage project at an initial cost of Tk 33,474 crore, aimed at reviving five major river systems and storing 2,900 million cubic metres of water in the Padma river.** The project, to be executed in two phases by 2033, will require a total investment of nearly Tk 50,443 crore. Covering about 37 percent of Bangladesh's land area, spanning 26 districts and 163 upazilas across four divisions, the Padma-dependent region has long suffered from water shortages due to upstream diversions. The barrage is expected to be a game-changer for agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, and economic growth. The project gained momentum after a meeting on May 6 with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, where he highlighted the project's potential impact on GDP and gave directives for its implementation. The feedback was incorporated and the proposal for the first phase is set to be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council on Wednesday for approval.
- ◆ **Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee has said the government has begun work to build a new Bangladesh by transforming the canal excavation programme initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman into a modern and scientific movement.** "The main objective of the programme, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is to strengthen the rural economy, reduce pressure on underground water resources and tackle the impacts of climate change while making the country self-reliant in agriculture and fisheries production," he said. Anee made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) at his Secretariat office. During the interview, he discussed in detail the progress of the government's 180-day master plan, the multidimensional benefits of canal re-excavation and the targets for the next five years.
- ◆ **Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury has said that government projects will only be approved if they fulfil four key criteria, including proper utilization of funds, return on investment, employment generation and environmental sustainability.** The Finance and Planning Minister said government funds are essentially taxpayers' money, and therefore every project must have a clearly defined purpose, measurable output and public accountability. Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said the current government has introduced a set of strict benchmarks to ensure transparency and accountability in approving development projects after assuming office. Referring to past corruption and misuse of public funds, he said any new project will now be evaluated based on four key criteria value for money, return on investment, employment generation potential and environmental impact. He further said many of the nearly 1,300 projects currently under the Planning Commission lack economic returns, employment opportunities or environmental considerations, and those projects are being scrapped by the government. "Any future project that does not meet these standards will not be approved. It is that simple," he said.
- ◆ **Bangladesh's growing dependence on imported fossil fuels has sharply increased exposure to global energy market volatility, driving up electricity generation costs and straining public finances, according to a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).** The report, "Fostering Bangladesh's Energy Transition", published on May 6, says the

country's primary energy imports rose from 47.7% to 62.5% over the past four years. During the same period, average power generation costs increased by 83%. Energy analysts warn that unless Bangladesh rapidly expands renewable energy and improves efficiency in the power sector, it could face prolonged fiscal stress driven by rising fuel imports, capacity payments and subsidies. Despite repeated policy commitments, renewable energy—including hydropower—currently accounts for only 2.3% of Bangladesh's grid-based electricity generation, far below the global average of about 33.8%. The report says heavy reliance on imported coal, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) leaves Bangladesh highly vulnerable to supply disruptions, geopolitical shocks and international price fluctuations. It adds that renewable energy could act as a natural hedge against fossil fuel price volatility while strengthening long-term energy security.

Foreign Policy

◆ **Indian naval ship IOS Sagar arrived at Chattogram harbour under its multinational IOS SAGAR 2026 deployment, marking a fresh milestone in Bangladesh-India maritime cooperation and regional naval interoperability.** The Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar entered Chattogram harbour after a successful transit through the Bay of Bengal and was formally received in Bangladesh waters by the Bangladesh Navy frigate BNS Ali Haider (F17), according to a press release, issued by the Indian High Commission here. The visit is being seen as a reflection of the longstanding strategic partnership between the navies of Bangladesh and India and the growing maritime collaboration between the two neighbouring countries, said the release. During the visit, the Commanding Officer of IOS Sagar is scheduled to hold a series of courtesy calls on senior Bangladesh Navy officials, including Commander Chattogram Naval Area, Commander Bangladesh Naval Fleet and Area Superintendent Dockyard, aimed at further strengthening professional exchanges and operational cooperation.

◆ **Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Humayun Kabir has said that a BNP-led government would place strong emphasis on economic diplomacy as a key pillar of its foreign policy.** Speaking at a seminar titled “Bangladesh First: Foreign Policy Vision of a New Bangladesh” organized by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies at The Westin Dhaka on Saturday, he said economic diplomacy would be one of the government's top foreign policy priorities. **Humayun Kabir said the government would work to expand export markets, attract diversified foreign investment, ensure energy security, and enhance regional trade and connectivity. He added that Bangladesh aims to position itself as an economic bridge linking South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the wider Indo-Pacific region.** He said that under a “Bangladesh First” policy, the government would pursue a multidimensional, flexible, and non-country-centric foreign policy approach. “Bangladesh will maintain constructive relations with all countries. However, it will not become dependent on any particular country,” he said. “The government's main objective will be to make independent decisions while safeguarding national interests and sovereignty.” Humayun Kabir also said the current global order is undergoing rapid transformation. “Bangladesh is interested in maintaining relations with the global community based on mutual respect, balance, and national interests,” Kabir said. “The era of dominance by a single power is nearing its end, and new realities are emerging in global politics and economics,” he said. “In this context, Bangladesh must pursue a strategically flexible and balanced foreign policy.”

◆ **India is preparing to resume tourist visa services for Bangladeshi nationals within the next month, marking a significant step in efforts to stabilise strained bilateral relations, The Hindu Business Line reports.** Citing informed sources, the Indian daily reported on Sunday that New Delhi is likely to restart tourist visa issuance either by the end of this month or in June, as part of a broader

push to restore normal consular operations. India is issuing around 1,000 medical visas daily to Bangladeshi citizens at the moment, while preparations are under way to reintroduce tourist visa services as well. According to the report, the April visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to New Delhi served as an “ice-breaker” between the two sides, becoming the first high-level engagement since the political shift in Dhaka. That meeting helped pave the way for restoring suspended consular services and connectivity, it added.

◆ **Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and visiting Pakistan Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi held a courtesy meeting at InterContinental Dhaka on Thursday afternoon, where they discussed a range of issues related to regional security, law enforcement and bilateral cooperation.** The meeting focused on enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement agencies, strengthening judicial cooperation and improving coordination to combat transnational crimes, according to a Home Ministry press release. **Both sides emphasized intelligence sharing and joint efforts to prevent trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM), alongside ensuring protection and awareness support for trafficking victims. The two ministers also highlighted the importance of a Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAR) agreement to facilitate the swift exchange of information and evidence in criminal investigations.**

◆ **Bangladesh and Pakistan have signed an agreement to prevent the misuse and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries on the issue at a ceremony held at InterContinental Dhaka hotel on Friday. The agreement states that both countries will exchange information to prevent drug trafficking and drug-related money laundering and provide each other with the necessary technical assistance. In addition, they will regularly exchange intelligence information on suspects involved in drug-related crimes, trafficking organisations and new methods and routes of trafficking.** Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Pakistani Home Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi signed the MoU on behalf of their respective countries. A press release from the home ministry said that the agreement will be effective for 10 years from the date of signing and its period can be extended later on the basis of mutual consent. Earlier, a draft agreement was proposed by Pakistan to prevent terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling and document forgery, which was discussed and decided by the interim government in an inter-ministerial meeting. The press release said that in light of that decision, the current government is reviewing the draft. On its basis, a MoU was signed between the two countries to prevent drug trafficking. Discussions were also held on effective extradition mechanisms to prevent criminals involved in terrorism, financial crimes, drug trafficking and smuggling from evading justice across borders. They further stressed the need to expand training on modern policing and criminal investigation, particularly in tackling cybercrime and organized crime through secure intelligence-sharing mechanisms. During the meeting, Bangladesh called for stronger international support to ensure the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas.

◆ **Bangladesh and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral engagement and expanding cooperation across key sectors as senior ministers of the two countries held talks in the capital, emphasizing regional connectivity and people-to-people contacts. The discussion took place when State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam met the visiting Pakistan's Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi at a city hotel here, said a foreign ministry's press release.** During the meeting, the two ministers discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction over the recent momentum in bilateral

engagements, reaffirming their shared commitment to further strengthening relations between the two countries. They noted that considerable untapped potential remains for expanding cooperation in trade and commerce, sports, culture, women entrepreneurship, education, science and technology, and digital innovation. The two sides also underscored the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts and promoting greater institutional collaboration to deepen bilateral ties. Shama reiterated the Bangladesh government's commitment to revitalizing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as an important platform for regional cooperation, connectivity and shared prosperity. Both sides stressed the need for stronger regional cooperation for the collective benefit of the peoples of South Asia.

Security

- ◆ **Gunfire from India's Border Security Force (BSF) at the Kasba border in Brahmanbaria has left two Bangladeshi nationals dead and several others injured in the incident. The shooting took place in the early hours of Saturday at Gopinathpur's Pathariadwar border, said Nayek Subedar Md Moinuddin, commander of Chandidwar BGB camp.** The dead were identified as Morsalin, a second-year student at Gopinathpur Shah Alam Degree College identified with a single name, and 40-year-old Nabeer Hossain from Madhupur village. Nabeer was first taken away by BGB members in critical condition but later died at hospital, according to relatives. Relatives said both bodies were later at Agartala's GB Hospital. Several others were also injured in the shooting and were taken to Cumilla for treatment, though they could not immediately be identified. Locals said a group of suspected smugglers went near the border fence when BSF opened fire, killing Morsalin on the spot. His body and the injured Nabeer were later taken across the border. Villager Ripon Pathan said 20–25 people had gone near the fence when firing began. Madhupur resident Md Sabur also said he had heard reports of two deaths. Kasba Police said they were verifying details, while BGB confirmed two deaths and said the situation was under control. **The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has handed over the bodies of two Bangladeshi men whom they shot dead along the Kasba Upazila border in Brahmanbaria. BGB officials said about 15 people had entered approximately 200 yards into Indian territory to engage in "smuggling" with Indian counterparts. "A scuffle broke out between the group and BSF personnel during an attempt to stop the smuggling," a statement by the BGB said. "At one point, BSF members fired two rounds of birdshot (pellets)."**
- ◆ **Rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) has expressed concern and condemnation over the killing of two Bangladeshi nationals by India's Border Security Force (BSF) along Brahmanbaria's Kasba border.** In a statement issued on Sunday, ASK said the border can "never be a space for loss of life". "Rather, it should reflect the rule of law, humanity and mutual respect," it added. In a separate statement, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said around 15 Bangladeshi smugglers, allegedly with the help of Indian counterparts, entered Indian territory in the Dhajanagar–Pathariadwar area around 11pm. While returning with smuggled goods, they were intercepted by a patrol team of the BSF's 49 Battalion at the Pathariadwar camp. According to the BGB, a confrontation broke out when the smugglers allegedly attacked BSF personnel, leading to a scuffle. At one stage, BSF members reportedly fired two pellets at the group, injuring Morsalin and another person.
- ◆ **The Border Security Force of India on Friday pushed 10 more people, including children and women, into Bangladesh through a border point at Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar district.** The individuals pushed into Bangladesh are Habul Das, 48, of Bhangadar village under Derai upazila in

in a statement on Saturday strongly condemned the border killings and demanded justice for the victims. **The BGB press release said that 15 Bangladeshis entered 200 yards inside India with the help of Indian smugglers. It said that when the Bangladeshis had been returning to Bangladesh with smuggled goods early Saturday, a group of members of BSF's 49 Battalion created obstacles. The Bangladeshis and the BSF members then engaged in a scuffle when the BSF members opened two rounds of pellets on them, the BGB release said, adding that the BSF members then took the two injured Bangladeshis to a hospital where they died later. BGB 60 Battalion commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel SM Shariful Islam said that they had already sent a protest note to their Indian counterpart. The killing of Bangladeshis by India's BSF and Indian citizens along the border in 2025 marked the highest level in the past five years, despite repeated pledges by the neighbouring country to bring the number of border killings down to zero.** The statement issued by the Human Rights Support Society said that at least five Bangladeshis were killed and 14 others were injured by the Indian BSF in 22 incidents along the border with India between January 1 and May 9 this year. Of the injured, eight sustained BSF bullet. The rights body also said that Indian Khasiyas killed two Bangladeshis and Indian BSF also detained 23 Bangladeshis during the timeframe. According to human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra's yearly human rights report, 34 Bangladeshis were killed by the BSF in 2025. Of them, 24 were killed in BSF firing and 10 others died after facing physical torture by the BSF. The ASK data also showed that the number of border killings was 30 in 2024, 31 in 2023, 23 in 2022 and 18 in 2021. Besides killings by the BSF, the Indian nationals, mostly Khasiyas, also killed at least 12 Bangladeshis along the border with India in Sylhet Division in 2025, according to reports published by New Age.

◆ **The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has intensified border surveillance using modern technology, including radar systems, thermal cameras, drones and smart digital monitoring equipment, to curb smuggling, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking and infiltration along the country's frontiers. Guarding Bangladesh's 4,427-kilometre border as a vigilant force, the BGB has reinforced round-the-clock monitoring in sensitive areas through technology-driven patrols and observation systems.** Speaking to BSS, BGB Headquarters Director (Operations) Lieutenant Colonel Md Mahbub Murshed Rahman said the force is conducting regular patrols and special drives to prevent cross-border crimes and ensure seamless border security. He said radar systems, thermal imaging cameras and high-speed boats are being deployed to strengthen surveillance in remote hill tracts, riverine regions and dense forest areas, including the Sundarbans. The BGB official also said the force maintains regular flag meetings and coordinated patrols with India's Border Security Force (BSF) to preserve stability and a cooperative atmosphere along the border. Officials said the paramilitary force is being transformed into a modern, technology-driven border guarding agency in line with international standards through manpower expansion, new battalions, expanded Border Outposts (BOPs) and infrastructural development projects.

◆ **The Border Guard Bangladesh on Saturday brought back 14 fishermen, including one Rohingya, from the custody of Myanmar's rebel group Arakan Army.** The Arakan Army on Saturday handed over the 14 fishermen, whom they had detained from the Bay of Bengal at different times in 2025-2026 while fishing, said a press release issued by BGB Battalion 2 at Teknaf on the day. The release said that they unwillingly entered into the Myanmar territory while catching fish in the Bay of Bengal and were detained by the Arakan Army, and kept at different camps in Myanmar. The BGB received 13 Bangladeshi fishermen and one fisherman living in a camp for the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals at the zero line of the River Naf and brought them to the Teknaf Jetty Ghat, the release said, adding that the process for handing them over to their families was underway.

◆ **Extremism in Bangladesh is no longer spreading through secret meetings or underground networks alone -- it is increasingly being fueled in plain sight through social media sermons, viral videos and provocative online rhetoric, according to analysts, rights activists and law enforcement officials.** Experts warn that radicalization today often begins subtly, through religious narratives, identity politics and emotionally charged online content that gradually pushes ordinary young people toward extremist beliefs. The renewed debate emerged after controversial remarks by Islamic speaker Muzaffar bin Mohsin went viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism and renewed concerns over online extremism. In a video circulating online, the speaker was heard saying: “The unbeliever must be killed.” On his verified Facebook page, he also wrote that those who do not pray are “criminals worthy of death.” The remarks sparked alarm among observers and rights activists because of the preacher’s large following among Salafi audiences across different age groups. Analysts say modern extremism rarely begins with direct calls for violence. Instead, it often starts with emotionally driven narratives centered on religion, injustice or identity crises. Over time, differing beliefs are portrayed as enemies, eventually normalizing hostility and violence in the minds of followers.

[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by Dr. Ankita Sanyal]