

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

14 May 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **ICT charges Shamim Osman, 11 others:** The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Wednesday [charged](#) former Awami League lawmaker AKM Shamim Osman and his 11 associates with crimes against humanity committed in Narayanganj city during the July 2024 mass uprising. The three-judge tribunal, chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, posted for June 10 the formal commencement of the trial with opening statements of chief prosecutor Md Aminul Islam and examination of prosecution witnesses. The court passed the order after rejecting discharge petitions filed by state-appointed lawyers for all the 12 fugitive accused. **According to the three counts of charges against the 12, Shamim Osman was involved in planning and committing of the crimes, including opening fire on unarmed protesters.** An audio clip was earlier played before the tribunal in support of the charge. The prosecution submitted 18 video footages, audio evidence, about 300-page documents and a list of 61 prosecution witnesses.
- ◆ **Tribunal orders state-appointed defence counsel for 17 accused including Hasan, Nowfel:** The International Crimes Tribunal-2 has [ordered](#) the appointment of state-appointed defence counsel for 17 absconding accused, including former Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud and former Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, in a case concerning crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Chattogram during the July mass uprising. The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, issued the order on Wednesday. The tribunal's other two members are Judge Md Manjurul Bashid and Judge Nur Mohammad Shahriar Kabir. **During Wednesday's hearing, Prosecutor Mohammad Zahirul Amin told the tribunal that authorities had arrested five of the 22 accused in the case, including former Member of Parliament ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury. The remaining 17 accused, including Hasan Mahmud and Mohibul Hasan, remain absconding.** He said authorities had published notices in newspapers instructing the absconding accused to appear before the tribunal. However, they failed to appear. Under the circumstances, he requested the tribunal to appoint state-appointed defence counsel for the 17 absconding accused and allow proceedings in the case to continue.
- ◆ **Govt committed to implementing July Charter: Azam Khan:** Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan has said the government is [fully committed](#) to implementing the July Charter, alleging that a vested quarter is attempting to spread confusion over the issue. He made the remarks yesterday while visiting injured July fighters undergoing treatment in Thailand, said a press release received here today. The minister inquired about the progress of their treatment and wished them a speedy recovery. Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand was present at that time. **Azam Khan said the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, through the Bangladesh Embassy in Thailand, is supervising treatment of the injured July fighters at Vejthani**

International Hospital in Bangkok and bearing all their medical and other expenses. He added that the ministry is also overseeing the treatment and overall welfare of injured July fighters undergoing treatment in Russia, Singapore and Turkey, while bearing all related expenses. **Ahmed Azam Khan said the ministry is giving highest priority to the treatment and rehabilitation of those injured in the July Mass Uprising.** To preserve the ideals and objectives of the July Mass Uprising, protect its history and memories, and ensure the overall welfare of July fighters and families of martyrs, the July Mass Uprising Directorate has been established under the ministry, he added.

- ◆ **Govt. picks 96 officers from 27th BCS:** The government has [recruited](#) 96 candidates of 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination-2005 under various cadres. Ministry of Public Administration has issued notification today in this regard. Senior secretary of Public Administration Ministry Md Ehsanul Haque signed the recruitment circular which said that candidates have been appointed to the entry posts of various cadres of the BCS with the salary range of Taka 22,000-53060/- as per the National Pay Scale, 2015. The notification stated that the recruited officers will have to receive foundation course from the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre or at a training institution designated by the government. “After completion of the basic training, they shall undergo such professional and special training at the related institutions as determined by the government,” it said. The notification said the officers will have to work as probation for two years, and it necessary, the government may extend this probationary period for more than two years.
- ◆ **Minister seeks Jamaat’s cooperation to resist comeback of fascist rule:** Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader and water resources minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee on Wednesday [sought the cooperation](#) of the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami to resist the comeback of fascist rule in the country. He made the remarks while addressing a ceremony on the occasion of the publication of five books by Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Mia Golam Parwar. Prossod Prokashon, the publishing house of the books, organised the event at the National Press Club in Dhaka. Parwar wrote the books while in jail for more than seven years during the rule of the Awami League regime. **‘We want cooperation of Jamaat-e-Islami in the street movements like that the party lawmakers were doing in the parliament,’ said the water resources minister, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee, while addressing the event.** He hoped for cooperation from Jamaat in the street movements to resist the rise of the fascist Awami League in the country.
- ◆ **Jamaat-NCP not going to the special parliamentary committee on Constitution amendment:** The Jamaat-e-Islami is [set to reject](#) the government’s proposal to join a special parliamentary committee on amending the constitution in line with the July charter. The National Citizen Party (NCP), a component of the Jamaat-led 11-party opposition alliance, has also opposed joining the committee. Constitutional reform remains one of the flashpoints between the ruling BNP and the opposition, and the moves have made the fragile reform process further uncertain. **Shafiqur Rahman, the ameer of Jamaat and leader of the opposition, had initially said the party needed more time for internal discussions.** But yesterday, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair told that the party would not submit any names.

It would formally convey its decision not to join the committee before the next parliamentary session begins on June 7, he said. “We don’t see any effectiveness of the special parliamentary committee,” he said, noting that the BNP-led coalition would dominate the 17-member body with 12 seats, leaving only five for the opposition. “In reality, through this committee, the BNP will impose what it wants,” he added. Zubair argued the committee would not reflect the referendum mandate, where 70 percent voted for reforms based on the July charter. Zubair said the Jamaat-led alliance would continue protests inside parliament and on the streets. They have planned rallies in seven divisional cities, from May 16 in Rajshahi. The rallies will continue till July. A grand rally in Dhaka is likely to be held either in September or October. Contacted, BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said, “We are waiting for Jamaat’s response. If they do not agree, we will discuss the matter in the party forums and decide our next course of action.” **NCP Senior Joint Convener Ariful Islam echoed Jamaat’s stance, saying the party favours a reform council over a parliamentary committee.** “... There is no possibility of our participation [in the committee],” he told this newspaper, adding that the NCP has already been carrying out joint activities across districts to press for the council’s formation.

◆ **BNP, NCP, 23 other parties miss the deadline for Filing Polls expenses:** Yesterday was the deadline for submitting expenditure accounts of the 13th national parliamentary election, but the BNP, the National Citizen Party, and 23 other parties have yet to file their reports with the Election Commission. EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed disclosed the information at the commission headquarters in Agargaon, Dhaka. He said 50 registered parties contested the polls. **Twenty-five of them, including the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jatiya Party, have submitted their accounts, while the BNP, NCP, and the rest have not. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami spent over Tk 4.49 crore in the 13th parliamentary election, while Jatiya Party reported spending only Tk 5 lakh, according to official election expenditure statements submitted to the election commission.**

◆ **Govt to launch ‘Shishu Swarga’ for children with special needs:** The government is [set to launch](#) the “Shishu Swarga” project in 10 upazilas across as many districts to provide health and rehabilitation services for children with special needs. The directive came today from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman during a meeting at his office in the Cabinet Division at Secretariat. The prime minister instructed authorities to examine whether schools for persons with disabilities are functioning properly nationwide. He also directed that building construction policies must include disability-friendly infrastructure and toilet facilities in all government and private establishments, including hospitals and restaurants. Additionally, he ordered that facilities for persons with special needs be incorporated into the electric buses planned for women. He stressed the importance of disability-friendly infrastructure, education, treatment, and rehabilitation facilities to protect rights and ensure access to services.

Economy

◆ **ECNEC approves Tk 345bn Padma Barrage mega project:** The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has [approved](#) the Tk 345 billion Padma

Barrage project during its third meeting since the BNP took office. The decision was taken during a session presided over by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Ministry of Planning said. **The mega project marks the start of the government's large-scale infrastructure initiatives aimed at managing water scarcity during the dry season and improving environmental conditions in the southwest. It is scheduled for implementation between July 2026 and June 2033 with an estimated cost of Tk 344.97 billion.** The Bangladesh Water Development Board will oversee the project, which will be entirely funded by the state. On May 6, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee said the technical study and feasibility survey for the Padma Barrage were nearly complete.

- ◆ **Ecneec approves 9 projects worth Tk36,696 crore:** The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) on Wednesday [approved](#) **nine development projects involving an estimated cost of Tk36,695.72 crore. Of the total project cost, Tk36,490.93 crore will come from government funds, while Tk204.79 crore will be financed from the own resources of the agencies concerned.** The approval came at an Ecneec meeting chaired by Prime Minister and Ecneec Chairperson Tarique Rahman at the Cabinet Division conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat. Among the approved projects, three are new, five are revised and one received a time extension.
- ◆ **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant unit-1 completes fuel loading:** Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) authorities on Wednesday [completed fuel loading](#) at its first unit. **"Fresh nuclear fuel has been successfully loaded into the reactor core of the RNPP Unit-1, marking a major milestone toward the plant's commissioning and power generation,"** an official release said. The release said the fuel loading process began on 28 April and involved the sequential insertion of 163 fuel assemblies into the reactor core. It said the operation is considered one of the most critical stages before the unit begins generating electricity. Alexey Deriy, vice president of Atomstroy export, said the work was carried out in full compliance with the initial core loading programme, operational regulations and international nuclear safety standards. "The next stage includes installation of the upper reactor unit and integration of all required in-core instrumentation systems," he said.
- ◆ **Jamuna Bridge to be widened by 3.5 metres under Chinese firm deal:** The Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) on Wednesday [signed an agreement](#) with China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) to widen the Jamuna Bridge by 3.5 metres under a joint venture, aiming to ease traffic congestion on one of the country's most important transport links. **The project will repurpose an abandoned rail structure on the bridge that became unused after rail operations were shifted to a separate railway bridge over the Jamuna River.** Officials said the expansion is intended to increase road capacity and ensure long-term structural sustainability as traffic continues to grow between the northwestern and western regions and the rest of the country. "We signed an agreement with China Road and Bridge Corporation to widen and renovate the Jamuna Bridge under a joint venture at our office," a BBA spokesperson said. Under the agreement, BBA Chief Engineer Quazi Muhammad Ferdous signed on behalf of the authority, while Wang Benqian represented the Chinese firm, also known as the CCCC-CRBC joint venture. After the railway operations were diverted to a separate

bridge, the earlier rail-linked structure on the Jamuna Bridge became redundant, prompting plans to integrate it into the main carriageway.

- ◆ **Govt moves to set up Cumilla WASA for improved civic amenities:** The government has taken a [policy decision](#) to establish Cumilla Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) to ensure modern, sustainable and efficient water management services for residents of Cumilla city. The decision came at an inter-ministerial meeting held today at the conference room of the Local Government Division at the Secretariat here. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir chaired the meeting. **The meeting highlighted the growing need for safe drinking water, a modern sewerage system and long-term urban management in Cumilla in the context of rapid urbanisation and growing population.** Addressing the meeting, the minister said the establishment of Cumilla WASA is a timely initiative aimed at building an effective and modern water management system for the city's residents.
- ◆ **Govt under heavy pressure from LNG subsidies:** The finance ministry is [struggling](#) to manage the sharp rise in LNG subsidy costs after international gas prices more than doubled following the Iran war. Subsidy demand for just the first two months after the conflict started equals to the Tk8,000 crore allocated for the whole fiscal year. Finance Division officials said monthly subsidies for LNG imports have risen to between Tk4,100 crore and Tk4,200 crore since the war began. As invoices for spot market LNG must be paid within 15 to 17 days of delivery, subsidy payments have to be released quickly. For May, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division wrote to the finance ministry on 7 May requesting another Tk3,500 crore in subsidies, citing plans to import 11 LNG cargoes during the month. According to the letter, signed by Senior Assistant Secretary Rafiqul Islam, Bangladesh plans to import two cargoes under long-term contracts, one under a short-term contract, and eight from the spot market in May. Six cargoes are scheduled for the first half of the month and five for the second half. The total cost of importing these 11 cargoes is estimated at Tk7,730 crore, while Petrobangla expects to earn Tk3,630 crore from sales. This would leave a deficit of Tk4,100 crore. Only Tk500 crore has been allocated for May subsidies, creating an additional funding need of Tk3,600 crore. The Energy Division warned that failure to pay invoices on time would trigger late payment charges. **It said delayed payments could also lead to extra premium charges on LNG purchases, increasing the deficit further.**
- ◆ **Bangladesh net FDI inflows rise 39.36% to \$1.77b in 2025:** Bangladesh's net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows [increased](#) by 39.36% in 2025 to reach \$1.77 billion, up from \$1.27 billion in 2024, according to the latest FDI survey by the Bangladesh Bank. The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), in a press release issued today (14 May), said the rise was mainly driven by higher reinvested earnings and intra-company loans, indicating continued engagement by existing foreign investors in Bangladesh. Equity capital remained broadly stable, increasing by 1.84% to \$554.64 million from \$544.64 million in 2024, despite a weaker global new-investment environment in which greenfield project announcements declined by 16% in 2025, the release added. Bida also said Bangladesh's FDI performance in 2025 was recognised as a recovery in a report released by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 28 April.

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **US envoy discusses energy cooperation with Bangladesh:** United States (US) Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen has [discussed](#) **expanding energy cooperation with leading American energy companies, reaffirming Washington's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's growing energy and infrastructure needs.** The envoy met Javier La Rosa, President of Chevron, to discuss ongoing cooperation in Bangladesh's energy sector, the US embassy in Dhaka said. The embassy said Chevron currently supplies nearly 60 percent of Bangladesh's natural gas, helping power homes, industries and economic activities across the country. The US ambassador also held talks with Steven Kobos, President and Chief Executive Officer of Excelerate Energy, on meeting Bangladesh's growing energy demand through American innovation and expanded LNG and energy infrastructure. The discussions focused on delivering cleaner and more reliable energy to households and businesses, the embassy said. The envoy recently led a delegation of 25 Bangladeshi business leaders to the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ **Shama Obaed leaves for USA:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam [left Dhaka](#) on Tuesday morning **on an official visit to the United States of America before she joins the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping in Morocco later this month.** A foreign ministry source said the state minister departed for the United States as part of her official engagements abroad. Following her programmes in the US, she is scheduled to attend the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping to be held in Morocco from May 19-21. The source said the conference is expected to focus on strengthening global peacekeeping cooperation, enhancing operational capabilities and addressing emerging challenges in United Nations peace operations. The state minister is expected to return home on May 22.

Security

- ◆ **Young man killed by BSF gunfire at Lalmonirhat border:** At the Amjhol border in Hatiabandha upazila of Lalmonirhat, a Bangladeshi youth named Md. Khademul (25) was [killed by gunfire](#) from the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). The incident occurred around 2 AM on Thursday near the Bonchowki BOP area. **According to sources, near Border Pillar 905/6-S, about 150 yards inside India, several Bangladeshi smugglers approached the barbed wire fence when a patrol team from the Paglamari camp of the 78 BSF Battalion targeted them and fired. Khademul sustained serious injuries to his face, chest, and head. Despite being shot, he quickly returned to Bangladeshi territory.** Later, locals and his associates rescued him and admitted him to a clinic in Rangpur. He died there while undergoing treatment. Commanding Officer of Lalmonirhat Battalion (15 BGB), Lieutenant Colonel Mehedi Imam, confirmed the incident and stated that necessary inquiries are being conducted regarding the matter.
- ◆ **20 Bangladeshi children return through Benapole after serving jail terms in India:** Twenty Bangladeshi children and teenagers trafficked to India have [returned home](#) through the Benapole border after serving jail terms there. The Indian Petrapole

Immigration Police handed them over to the Benapole International Checkpost authorities on Wednesday evening, confirmed Syed Mortaza Ali, inspector (investigation) of Benapole Checkpost Immigration Police. **The returnees are residents of different areas in Bagerhat, Khulna, Narail and Jashore districts. Among them are 13 girls and seven boys. Most of the children had been staying in jail with their parents.** Although their prison terms ended, their parents remain imprisoned in different Indian jails. Immigration police said the children had illegally entered India with their parents through the Benapole border in early 2024 with the help of traffickers. Their parents worked in homes and fields in different parts of West Bengal. Indian police detained them in late Dec 2025 on charges of illegal entry.

◆ **Defence adviser says Nuclear security directly tied to national security:** Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam on Wednesday [said](#) nuclear security is not merely a technical concern but is directly linked to national and international security responsibilities. He made the remarks while delivering a special lecture at the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) in Mirpur Cantonment as a guest speaker. Addressing teachers and students of the Department of Nuclear Security and Engineering, he spoke on the topic "Nuclear Security: National Responsibility Under International Commitment and Its Implications on National Security." **In his speech, the adviser described nuclear security as a strategic dimension of national security and highlighted global concerns, Bangladesh's international obligations, and the country's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. He also outlined the role of the Bangladesh Army in ensuring security at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, alongside existing and emerging challenges in the nuclear security landscape.** "Nuclear security is not merely a technical issue; it is directly linked to national security, international commitments and state responsibility," he said. He noted that protection of nuclear facilities, materials and related infrastructure is now a matter of global security, regional stability and international confidence rather than the internal concern of a single country. **He also pointed to terrorism, cyber threats, technological risks, insider vulnerabilities and emergency response capacity as key challenges in the sector.** On Bangladesh's position, he said the country remains committed to international standards, safety culture, responsible management and compliance with relevant obligations in nuclear technology use.

◆ **Bangladesh sees fresh Rohingya influx of nearly 150,000:** The number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh has [risen](#), with 149,769 newly arrived Rohingyas registered between December 2024 and March 31 this year, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. Of them, 2,780 were registered last month alone, indicating a fresh influx into Bangladesh within a month. In March, the number of newly registered Rohingyas stood at 146,989. UNHCR revealed the figures in its monthly report published on Wednesday. The agency also identified a total of 1,194,123 Rohingya refugees in the camps. The report said escalating conflict in Rakhine State has continued to push new refugees into Bangladesh since 2024. A fresh wave of arrivals was identified in the camps toward the end of last year, with biometric registration still underway.

[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]