

# DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

15 May 2026

## Takeaways

### Politics

- ◆ **“India is violating human rights by killing Bangladeshis at the border”**: At the central executive meeting of the Khelafat Majlis, leaders expressed deep concern, stating that the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is repeatedly violating international law and human rights by shooting and killing Bangladeshi citizens at the border. There is an attempt to push Bengali-speaking Muslims from India into Bangladesh through the Assam and West Bengal borders. We strongly condemn and protest against such hegemonistic behaviour and human rights violations by India. **The sad matter is that, although three Bangladeshi citizens were killed at the Brahmanbaria and Lalmonirhat borders in the past week, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh has not yet summoned the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to seek appropriate response.** “We demand that the Government of Bangladesh take immediate effective measures regarding this matter.” (*Naya Diganta*, [14 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **“Friendship is not possible by piling up corpses at the border”**: Former adviser of the caretaker government, Professor Dr. Asif Nazrul, in a Facebook post, commented that the killing of Bangladeshis by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the border is in no way acceptable. Asif Nazrul wrote, “On May 13, at the Amjhol border in Lalmonirhat, a Bangladeshi youth named Khademul Islam was killed by BSF gunfire. Such killings have occurred at the border even after the BNP government came to power.” He further said, ‘I have previously protested, written, and spoken against these killings. While in government, we also strongly protested these killings, demanded explanations, and took a tough stance at the border.’ **In his statement, he mentioned, “Truly, if someone wants to cross the border illegally, they can be arrested, and if necessary, they can be warned with blank gunfire. But we do not hear of any arrests, nor do we hear of blank gunfire. We only hear about direct killings by gunfire. This is not acceptable under any logic.”** He also commented that the BNP government must take effective measures to stop these killings. **In his words, “True friendship between the two countries cannot be established by trampling over bodies at the border.”** (*Naya Diganta*, [15 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **“Neither I nor anyone in my family has ever been to India”**: Nationalist Citizen’s Party (NCP) chief organiser (north) Sarjis Alam has dismissed as “Awami rumours” that his father had recently gone to India for treatment. “None of my family, including myself and my father, have ever gone to India, let alone for treatment,” he said. It’s a rumour. When these rumours are spread in the form of news without verifying the rumours, the poor condition and quality of their media can be understood. **Sarjis Alam made the remarks after an Indian news portal published the news on Thursday.** Sarjis Alam said, “What I said in my speech is very clear. We are not anti-state in the world. I am not even anti-India. But India’s relations should be with the state of Bangladesh, with the people of Bangladesh. The dominance of not only India but also any other country over Bangladesh will not be accepted by having any relationship with a subservient ruling party. “After the BJP’s victory in West Bengal, the Chief Minister of West Bengal himself has made such

derogatory remarks against Muslims and it is shameful and condemnable. **“If India thinks that our relations with our brothers will be normalized by killing our brothers on the border, it will never be possible,”** he said. Relationships should be of equality and respect. (*Amar Desh*, [14 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **EU envoy meets opposition leader, discusses democracy and reforms:** The Ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh, Michael Miller, paid a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman at the latter’s office in parliament. **The discussions focused on making democracy more meaningful following the national parliamentary election, ongoing reform initiatives and the implementation of the referendum verdict, according to a press release issued by the Parliament Secretariat.** The two sides also exchanged views on various issues relating to Bangladesh and the European Union, the release added. During the meeting, both sides stressed the importance of taking necessary measures to ensure that the upcoming local government elections are held in a free, fair and credible manner. They also expressed optimism that the existing relations, development cooperation and progress between Bangladesh and the European Union would be further strengthened in the future. (*The Daily Star*, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat prepares to contest independently banking on youth support, 12 candidates finalised:** Although Jamaat-e-Islami contested the parliamentary election as part of an alliance, the party now wants to contest in the city corporation elections on its own strength. It has accordingly finalised 12 mayoral candidates for 12 city corporations. According to party leaders, priority is being given to younger candidates. In the 13th parliamentary election held last February, Jamaat participated as part of an 11-party alliance. Alongside several other Islamist parties, National Citizen Party (NCP) was also part of the alliance. However, Jamaat leaders say they are preparing to contest local government elections, the city corporation elections in particular, on their own. Several party sources said that although party nominations were once limited only to *rukons* (sworn members), that policy has now changed somewhat. In the 13th parliamentary election, nominations were given not only to party workers and supporters but also to people from other religions. The same policy may be followed in the local government elections. This time, special importance is being given to young leadership. Jamaat wants to bring forward student leaders who led the 2024 student mass uprising in the local government elections. The plan also includes former leaders of the party’s student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir. (*Prothom Alo*, [14 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Local polls may start in Oct:** The Election Commission is preparing to start local government elections in October this year, but the exact date remains unconfirmed, EC high officials said, adding that the initial phase might begin with municipality or upazila parishad elections. Meanwhile, political parties, including the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party, apprehended that the government might delay holding the elections as it had appointed administrators to almost all the city corporations across the country. The parties demanded that the local government elections should be started as early as possible though they, too, did not provide any specific time frame. ‘The local government elections might commence in October but the commission is yet to receive any formal notification from the ministry concerned of the government,’ election commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud told *New Age* on Thursday. He said that city corporations might not be the priority, the process could start with upazilas or municipalities. Masud said that determining which elections would be held first depended on several factors as the EC maintained formal and informal coordination with the government, various stakeholders, and political parties. The decision would be made taking into account weather, examinations, and other factors to ensure high voter turnout, he said. Leaders of the Jamaat and the NCP, however, said that they had almost finalised their party candidates for city corporations, upazilas, municipalities, and

union parishads but the government had already appointed administrators to city corporations and district councils and were trying to delay holding the elections in the name of some legal reforms. On the other hand, local government minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on May 5 said that the local government elections at all tiers would be completed within next one year. (*New Age*, [15 May 2026](#))

- ◆ **BNP panel sweeps SCBA polls: Ruling BNP-backed candidate AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, MP has been elected president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the 2026–27 session, while Mohammad Ali, from the same panel, won the post of secretary.** Md Magfur Rahman Sheikh and Md Shahjahan were elected vice-presidents, while Md Ziaur Rahman won the post of treasurer. Maksud Ullah and Mohammad Shamsul Islam Mukul were elected assistant secretaries. The elected executive members are AKM Azad Hossain, HM Sanzid Siddiqui, Md Kabir Hossain, Md Tipu Sultan, Md Zia Uddin Mia, and Wahid Afroz Chowdhury. Azim Uddin Patwari was the lone Jamaat-backed candidate to win a post, securing the position of executive member. The results were announced around 2:00am on Thursday by election sub-committee convener and former High Court judge Miftah Uddin Choudhury. The BNP-backed panel secured 13 out of 14 posts in the election, while the Jamaat-backed panel won one post. The two-day election to the executive committee of the association ended peacefully on Thursday with a low voter turnout, amid a boycott by pro-Awami League lawyers following the disqualification of their prospective candidates during scrutiny. (*New Age*, [15 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Draft ACC reforms seek to bring foreign-based offenders under Bangladeshi law:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is drafting fresh amendments to its law, proposing sweeping changes that would bring even crimes committed from outside Bangladesh under its jurisdiction, regardless of whether the offender is a citizen of another country. The move comes after the ACC ordinance issued during the interim government lapsed and following a parliamentary committee recommendation for further review of several ordinances. **According to the draft proposals, any person -- citizen or non-citizen -- could be brought under the law if they commit offences inside Bangladesh or engage in corruption, money laundering or listed offences against the state from abroad. The draft also proposes expanded powers covering confidential inquiries, enforcement drives, intelligence operations, filing of cases, asset management, and decision-making authority for the commission secretary in the absence of commissioners.** ACC Secretary Mohammad Khaled Rahim told reporters on Thursday that no formal amendment process has begun yet. (*bdnews24.com*, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ICT-1 shows Dipu Moni, Babu, Rupa arrested in case over Shapla Chattar crackdown:** The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 today showed former minister Dipu Moni, former Ekattor TV Editor-in-Chief Mozammel Babu and the channel's Principal Correspondent Farzana Rupa arrested in a case filed over the then government's crackdown on a Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh rally at Shapla Chattar in the city on May 5, 2013. The tribunal passed the order after holding a hearing on a petition filed by the prosecution in this connection. The court later sent them back to jail. The trio, who were arrested in 2024 and have remained in jail since then, were brought to the tribunal premises around 9:40 am and later produced before the court. (BSS News, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Journalist Anis Alamgir granted bail in ACC case:** A Dhaka court has granted permanent bail to journalist Anis Alamgir in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Sabbir Faiz issued the order on Thursday. The court also rejected his application seeking exemption from personal appearance and directed him to appear in person.

On the day of the hearing, Anis Alamgir appeared before the court as scheduled. He filed three separate petitions seeking permanent bail, exemption from personal appearance, and permission to travel abroad at any time. After the hearing, the court rejected the plea for exemption from personal appearance but approved the other two petitions. The ACC filed the case against Anis Alomgir on January 15 over allegations of acquiring wealth beyond known sources of income and money laundering. Later, on January 25, an ACC assistant director sought to show him arrested in the case, which the court approved on January 28. He was earlier granted bail in this case on March 11. (*Dhaka Tribune*, [14 May 2026](#))

## Economy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, US sign deal on energy cooperation:** Bangladesh and the United States have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Strategic Cooperation in the Field of Energy aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's long-term energy security. Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and US Energy Secretary Chris Wright signed the MoU at the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC, on Thursday, according to a statement issued today by the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC. "This MoU would contribute to the efforts of Bangladesh to enhance its long-term energy security by diversifying its energy sourcing options based on affordability and supply chain sustainability and would open up new avenues of broader energy cooperation between Bangladesh and the US," the statement said. The MoU will facilitate capacity building, exchange of knowledge and expertise, and studies on oil, gas, geothermal energy and bioenergy between the two countries. It will also support Bangladesh's import of US LNG, LPG and other energy products at affordable prices. Speaking briefly at the signing ceremony, Khalilur described the MoU as another milestone in the growing Bangladesh-US relationship. The agreement comes at a time when many countries, including Bangladesh, are facing serious challenges in ensuring energy security due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. (*The Daily Star*, [15 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Muktadir for stronger Bangladesh-China partnership in green textile sector:** Commerce, Industries, and Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir stressed the need for greater Chinese investment, technology transfer, and innovation to transform Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry into a sustainable, eco-friendly, and technology-driven sector. "China's vast experience in industrialization, technological advancement, and poverty alleviation could play a significant role in Bangladesh's industrial transformation," he said. The Minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the 2nd Bangladesh China Green Textile Expo 2026 here, said a press release. In his speech, Muktadir urged Chinese investors to make meaningful investments that would create a win-win partnership between the two countries. Highlighting that China is Bangladesh's largest trading partner, Muktadir emphasized the importance of increasing Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to help reduce the bilateral trade gap. He specifically sought Chinese cooperation in reopening and modernizing closed state-owned mills, revitalizing the jute sector, promoting renewable energy, and advancing green industrialization initiatives. (*BSS News*, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Padma Oil contributes Tk 3.7 cr to labour welfare fund:** Padma Oil PLC, one of the country's leading energy sector institutions, has contributed Tk 3.7 crore from its net profit for the 2024-25 fiscal year to the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund. The cheque for the amount was formally handed over to Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury at a ceremony held today. Welcoming the contribution, the minister praised the role of state-owned

institutions in the country's economic development and expressed hope that the funds would help improve the living standards of workers. (*BSS News*, [15 May 2026](#)).

◆ **Govt mulls tax holidays, duty cuts to boost solar power investment:** Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood yesterday said that the government is considering introducing a five-year tax holiday and reducing import duties to nominal levels to encourage greater private sector investment in the solar power sector. "An investment-friendly policy framework for the solar energy sector is expected to be finalised and announced by June," he said. The minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a market sounding workshop on "130-140 MW (AC) Grid-Tied Solar Power Plus Battery Storage Project" at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) headquarters in the city. Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) organised the workshop to establish a solar power plant under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) method at the National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) in Mirsarai, Chattogram. In his speech, the minister said that the government is evaluating reductions in import duties and taxes on key solar equipment, including solar frames, photovoltaic cells and batteries. He said the proposed five-year tax holiday and reduced import duties are aimed at encouraging entrepreneurs to invest in the sector, after which the government would begin receiving tax revenues from a mature industry. Highlighting the potential for urban solar generation, the minister said nearly 1,000 megawatts of electricity could be produced by utilising rooftops in the Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur areas of Dhaka alone. Under the proposed model, private investors would be allowed to use rooftops for solar power generation through net metering systems, enabling them to earn revenue while easing pressure on the national power grid, he added. He said the saved electricity could then be redirected to industrial factories to support production and economic growth. (*Prothom Alo*, [14 May 2026](#)).

◆ **Japanese delegation visits Ctg Port:** A delegation led by Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Saida Shinichi visited the Chittagong Port on Wednesday to discuss strategic infrastructure projects and ways to enhance maritime cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan. Chittagong Port Authority member, harbour and marine, Commodore Ahmed Amin Abdullah received the delegation, said a press release. During discussions, both sides exchanged views on several ongoing development initiatives of the port authority, including the Matarbari Port Development Project. The talks also focused primarily on technical cooperation, project implementation timelines and strengthening bilateral maritime collaboration. The delegation later joined a meeting with senior port officials at the CPA boardroom. **They discussed the operational capabilities of Chattogram Port, future expansion plans and its growing importance in regional trade and connectivity. During the meeting, the integration of modern technology and international safety standards in port management also received significant attention.** Following the meeting, the delegation visited different operational areas of the port. The Japanese delegation expressed satisfaction over the port's overall progress, management efficiency, and ongoing infrastructural development. (*New Age*, [15 May 2026](#))

◆ **Experts offer mixed reactions on Padma Barrage Project:** Water experts, environmentalists, and economists on Thursday gave mixed reactions to the Padma Barrage phase-I to be built at Tk 33,475 crore to offset ecological damage in Bangladesh caused by the controversial India's Farakka Barrage across the border. They said that economic activities would increase, creating employment if the aim of the project of supplying more fresh water in the saline-hit southwestern regions was achieved. But instead of becoming a boon the project may prove bane if the overall management of the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure goes wrong, they said. The mixed reactions

came on Thursday after the government on Wednesday decided to implement the project aiming at rejuvenating Bangladesh's moribund river system – Hisna-Mathabhanga, Gorai-Madhumati, Chandana-Barashia, and Baral and Ichhamati. **Water resources minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee has already stated the project does not intend to counter the function of the cross-border Farakka Barrage -- some 300 kilometres upstream in West Bengal of India, but to improve the life and livelihoods of many people as well as the bio-diversity in the country's southwestern region.** M Inamul Haque, chairman at Institute of Water and Environment said that many were giving observations on the proposed barrage to be built on one of the tricky rivers on earth. **Highlighting not-too-happy experiences by Indians with the Farakka Barrage, operational since 1976, the *Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan*, a rights body that works on protecting environment, in a statement on Wednesday said that alternative options should be ascertained to rejuvenate the moribund river system in the southwestern region instead of building the barrage. The Padma Barrage, like the Farakka Barrage, can spell disasters for Bangladesh, said the BAPA.** Md Tauhid-Ur-Rahman, an environmental engineering expert at the Centre for Advisory and Testing Services of the Military Institute of Science and Technology, said that the Padma Barrage would not cause the same experience as the Farakka structure if the modern technology was applied in dealing with sedimentation in the water reservoirs. (*New Age*, [14 May 2026](#))

◆ **Mirza Fakhrul urges swift, cost-effective, people-friendly LGD project rollout:** LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Thursday asked the authorities concerned to implement the ongoing development projects under the Local Government Division (LGD) in a speedy, cost-effective and people-friendly manner. He gave the directive while addressing a review meeting on the progress of different ongoing development projects being implemented under the initiatives of the LGD and city corporations. LGD Secretary Md Shahidul Hassan chaired the meeting held at the conference room of the LGRD ministry at the secretariat in Dhaka as the chief guest, said a press release. Senior ministry officials, representatives from different city corporations and project directors were present. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said public welfare is the main objective of the government's development activities and all concerned must attach the highest importance to ensuring that not a single penny of public money is wasted. (*Dhaka Tribune*, [14 May 2026](#))

◆ **Nevian exports medicines to Canada:** Nevian Life Science PLC, formerly Novartis Bangladesh Limited, held an event, celebrating a milestone by commencing medicine exports to Canada, at Nevian's manufacturing plant of Tongi in Gazipur on Wednesday. Health and family welfare minister Sardar Sakhawat Husain joined the event virtually as chief guest, said a press release. The export initiative has begun under a contract manufacturing arrangement with Sandoz AG headquartered in Switzerland. In the first phase, Sandoz Canada Inc is importing multiple pharmaceutical products manufactured at Nevian's Tongi plant against purchase orders from Sandoz AG, Switzerland. Under the same agreement, several countries across Europe, North America and South America under the Sandoz network are expected to be added as future export destinations. **This marks the first time Bangladesh has exported pharmaceutical products to highly regulated North American markets, including Canada, on behalf of a leading multinational pharmaceutical company.** Following the recent transition of Novartis Bangladesh into Nevian, the company's shareholders described this achievement as a testament to Nevian's internationally recognised manufacturing capabilities and quality standards. (*New Age*, [15 May 2026](#)).

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan Becomes New Training Venue for Bangladeshi Civil Servants** as Dhaka halts long-standing programmes in India after the **August 2024 political transition**. Twelve senior officials are now at Lahore's Civil Services Academy, with **Pakistan covering all costs**. India's earlier exclusive arrangements under NCGG lapsed, though New Delhi has reopened opportunities under ITEC. Former BPATC rector **AKM Abdul Awal Majumder** urged training in both countries, noting that **"civil service systems in India and Pakistan are more advanced"** and stressing evaluation of outcomes.) (*Prothom Alo*, [14 May 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Bangladesh reaffirms commitment to peacekeeping, sustainable development:** Bangladesh has reaffirmed its strong commitment to democratic governance, sustainable development, peacekeeping, and multilateral cooperation. State Minister for Foreign Affairs **Shama Obaed Islam** made the affirmation during a meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General **Khaled Khiari** in New York. She outlined the priorities of Bangladesh's newly elected government, emphasising efforts to restore public trust, strengthen institutions, enhance transparency and accountability, improve public service delivery, and uphold human rights and the rule of law, according to a statement from the foreign ministry. Shama Obaed highlighted government initiatives such as the "Family Card" and "Farmers Card" programmes, designed to address socio-economic vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups. She also underscored Bangladesh's role as one of the leading contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, stressing the importance of preserving peacekeeping mandates despite the UN's ongoing liquidity crisis. She called for greater participation of women and youth in post-conflict settings. **On the Rohingya crisis, the state minister said repatriation of displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar remained the only viable long-term solution and urged continued international support for their safe return.** UN Assistant Secretary-General **Khari** commended Bangladesh's longstanding contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and its role in promoting women's participation in peace and security initiatives. (*The Daily Star*, [15 May 2026](#)).
  
- ◆ **Foreign Minister pledges to be a 'full-time president' of UN General Assembly if elected:** Bangladesh Foreign Minister **Khalilur Rahman** has pledged to serve as a 'full-time President' of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) if elected. The foreign minister also asserted that, should he be successful, he would be a President for all. **Khalilur Rahman** made these remarks while campaigning for the Presidency of the 81st UNGA session at the UN Headquarters in New York on Wednesday. During the event, he presented a written statement outlining a six-point plan of action. In presenting his candidacy for the presidency, **Khalilur Rahman** set out a comprehensive vision aimed at restoring global trust in the United Nations. He identified six core themes for his proposed work plan. **Among these six priorities, Khalilur Rahman emphasised the need to revitalise peacekeeping operations, bridge the gaps in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and address the urgent threat of climate change.** Drawing on his extensive diplomatic experience, **Khalilur Rahman** advocated for ensuring the equitable and prudent governance of emerging technologies and championed the protection of the human rights of displaced populations. A central feature of **Khalilur Rahman's** proposal was a commitment to multilateralism and institutional reform, aimed at making the global body more inclusive and effective for all member states. (*Prothom Alo*, [14 May 2026](#)).

## Security

- ◆ **BGB steps up patrols across 198km Kurigram frontier to stop infiltration:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has tightened its vigil along the nearly 198-km stretch of the frontier in Kurigram to prevent drug smuggling, trafficking, and illegal infiltration. The Kurigram-22 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion took the measure on Thursday morning to ensure overall border security, citing political instability within India, said its commanding officer Lt Col Md Mahbub-ul-Haq. The frontier force says it has increased special patrols and intelligence activities alongside regular duties to tackle any unpleasant situations and prevent illicit cross-border movements. Every Border Outpost (BOP) under the battalion is conducting seamless day-and-night patrols. Vital points along the border are under heightened surveillance. The BGB remains on “maximum alert” to monitor any suspicious movements and handle developing situations. Lt Col Mahbub said the force remained committed to its “zero tolerance” policy against smuggling and illegal infiltration while protecting the country’s sovereignty. It will continue its operations to maintain peace and security along the border, he added. (*bdnews24.com*, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Defence Adviser for highlighting AFD’s role thru accurate info flow, public engagement:** Prime Minister’s Defence Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam said the multidimensional role of the armed forces should be presented more effectively to the people through accurate information flow, research-based presentation and public engagement. He made the remarks while visiting the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate at Dhaka Cantonment. Defence Secretary Md Ashraf Uddin was present on the occasion. Director of ISPR Lieutenant Colonel Sami Ud Doula Chowdhury welcomed the adviser. During the visit, the ISPR director briefed the Defence Adviser on the overall activities and responsibilities of the directorate, news dissemination process, media coordination, research and publication activities, information preservation system and various initiatives to present the activities of the armed forces to the public. Existing capabilities, institutional limitations and future development plans were also highlighted there. Later, the Defence Adviser visited different branches of ISPR and observed the processes of news preparation and dissemination, information verification and preservation, and media coordination activities. The Defence Adviser underscored the need for making ISPR’s activities more dynamic, timely, research-oriented and people-centric. (*BSS News*, [14 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Six Chinese nationals, two others to be quizzed over ‘cyber fraud, gambling, laundering’:** A Dhaka court has granted police two days to interrogate eight individuals, including six Chinese nationals, in custody over their alleged involvement in online gambling, cyber fraud, and laundering millions to China. Metropolitan Magistrate Aminul Islam Junaid passed the order on Thursday. The court also directed investigators to interrogate another suspect, Rokon Uddin, at the jail gate after his lawyer argued that he has a speech impairment. The Chinese suspects are aged between 24 and 43. Their Bangladeshi associates in remand are Md Kawsar Hossain, 24, and Md Abdul Karim, 28. At a press briefing on Thursday, Additional Commissioner of DB Shafiqul Islam said the syndicate used Facebook, YouTube, and Telegram to lure people with advertisements for online gambling and “deposit bonuses”. The victims were promised double or triple returns on their investments in a short time. “These gangs find it ‘easy’ to entice Bangladeshis,” the DB chief said. “They use mobile financial services (MFS) like bKash and Nagad to collect money from citizens and immediately launder the funds abroad.” During the raids, detectives seized high-tech equipment allegedly used for illegal digital transactions and communications. The items recovered included one 256-port GSM gateway device and three 64-port

GSM gateway (VOIP) devices, around 280 SIM cards from different mobile operators, as well as multiple laptops and smartphones. (*bdnews24.com*, [14 May 2026](#))

\*\*\*\*

*[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**]*