

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

25 May 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **26 Awami League activists arrested in Dhanmondi over 'oath' for Hasina's return:** Police have confirmed the arrests of 26 activists of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, who were reportedly trying to gather in Dhanmondi to take an "oath" to bring Sheikh Hasina back to Bangladesh. The leaders, including several politicians from district and Upazila levels, were arrested during Friday Jumma prayer time in Dhanmondi 32 and adjacent locations, police say. "They gathered in Dhanmondi 32 and were preparing to launch a flash procession," said Dhanmondi Police chief Muhammad Saiful Islam. "We are currently verifying the detailed backgrounds of those detained." He said **security and patrolling have been significantly beefed up across Dhanmondi to thwart further political activities by the party. The arrests come amid a recent interview published by the Hindustan Times, where the ousted prime minister Hasina expressed her intent to return to Bangladesh "soon"** (*bdnews24.com*, [22 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"A party out to forge alliance with ousted force":** Prime minister Tarique Rahman on Saturday said that a political party was conspiring to obstruct the country's development and attempting to create unrest. Without mentioning any name, he alleged that the party had begun maintaining covert ties with Awami League, whom the people expelled from the country on August 5, 2024, just as it did in 1986 and in 1996. Prime minister made the remarks in a public meeting after inaugurating the re-excavation of the Darirampur Dharar canal at Trishal in Mymensingh. The prime minister also criticised the years of authoritarian Awami League rule, alleging that it had not only plundered the country's wealth and people's rights but had also weakened state institutions, including the judiciary, while undermining religious, social and cultural values (*New Age*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM declares 'Nazrul Year' from 25 May, 2026 to 25 May, 2027:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has declared the next one year from May 25, 2026 to May 25, 2027 as "Nazrul Year". The Prime Minister made the announcement after enjoying a cultural programme organized in Trishal here this afternoon, marking the 127th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. **Calling for wider spread of the life and work of Kabi Nazrul in the court of world literature, the Prime Minister said his (Kabi Nazrul) sense of life, his philosophy of life, must be passed on from generation to generation. As part of that effort, he urged the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism to explore the possibility of declaring Trishal as a "Nazrul City" through feasibility studies.** Noting that Bangladesh and Kazi Nazrul Islam are an inseparable entity, Tarique Rahman said, "He (Kabi Nazrul) is a true representative of our national identity and a symbol of our national consciousness. He is a pioneer of our nationalism" (*Prothom Alo*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Bangladesh expects India to extradite Hasina under existing treaty":** Home Affairs Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Sunday expressed hope that India would return former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries. **"We still expect the Indian government to return her through legal procedures under the**

extradition treaty between the two countries. We want her to face trial,” he said at a dialogue organised by the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF) at Secretariat. Replying to a question regarding media reports that Sheikh Hasina may return to the country and discussions over a possible travel pass, Salahuddin said Bangladesh had repeatedly sent letters to the Indian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeking her extradition (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chief prosecutor opposes Amnesty stance on journalists’ arrest in Shapla Chattar case:** Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said Amnesty should not intervene in the arrest of two journalists in the case involving crimes against humanity in the Shapla Chattar massacre. He made the comments at a press conference at his office at the International Crimes Tribunal on Sunday afternoon. Responding to journalists’ questions about an investigation into the Awami League as a party, he said he had no information about the matter. He said the investigations into 31 cases of crimes against humanity linked to the July movement were in the final stage (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ICT expects two crimes against humanity verdicts after Eid:** The chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has said verdicts are expected after Eid-ul-Azha in two crimes against humanity cases, as investigators simultaneously push ahead with probes into 150 cases involving enforced disappearances, killings and alleged crossfire deaths. On Sunday, Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said verdicts were awaited in two cases. **Of those, one involves Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu over eight charges, including killings in Kushtia during the July Uprising, and another linked to crimes against humanity at Dhaka’s Rampura.** “One case is pending before Tribunal-1 and the other before Tribunal-2,” he said (*bdnews24.com*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Asif challenges state minister over allegation of approving files without secretary’s signature:** The government has formed a seven-member committee to investigate alleged irregularities and corruption in the Local Government Division and its affiliated offices and agencies during both the Awami League government and the tenure of the interim administration. **At the same time, state minister for Local Government Mir Shahe Alam has alleged that former adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain approved project files without the signature of the ministry secretary. In response, Asif Mahmud challenged the state minister to make the specific file public.** Addressing not only the state minister but also Local Government Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, he said, “If they have the courage, they should present the file before the public by Sunday.” After the allegation was raised during a briefing at the Secretariat on Saturday afternoon, Asif Mahmud spoke about the matter during a Facebook Live session from his verified account later in the evening. He served as adviser to the Local Government Ministry from November 2024 to 10 December, 2025 (*Prothom Alo*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Betar enforces wardrobe rules for news anchors:** Bangladesh Betar has issued a dress code directive for its news anchors presenting on Facebook Live. **The directive mandates that female anchors wear full-sleeved traditional attires of either salwar kameez or saree. It also specifies the “appropriate” style of draping the mandatory scarf, and prohibits draping it over only one shoulder. Wearing a large Teep -- a traditional forehead adornment -- has been prohibited as well. The official order, signed by Tania Nazneen, deputy director general (news) of the state-owned radio broadcaster, outlines the wardrobe guidelines. While traditional panjabis are permitted on festive or special occasions, the order strictly prohibits the wearing of casual clothing, including t-shirts and polo shirts. "This decision was taken to ensure**

modesty", Mohammad Shariful Quader, additional director general (news) of Bangladesh Betar, said. Cultural and women's rights activists criticised the order, calling it an infringement on women's freedom of attire. **This order has sparked widespread criticism on social media. Activists also expressed concern that the directive could set a precedent for other formal and informal sectors, ultimately disadvantaging women in the workplace** (*New Age*, [24 May 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [25 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Former AL, Juba Dal leaders on Ullapara Jamaat candidate list:** The announcement of potential candidates by Jamaat-e-Islami in Sirajganj's Ullapara upazila ahead of the upcoming local government elections has sparked widespread political discussion, particularly over the inclusion of two leaders previously associated with rival political parties. **Among the names drawing the most attention are Abu Hanif, former general secretary of the Bangala union Awami League, and Saddam Hossain Sarkar, joint convener of the Baropangashi union Juba Dal.** Both have been nominated by Jamaat as potential chairman candidates for their respective union parishads, signalling what many see as a changing political equation in the area (*New Age*, [25 May 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **UAE tanker carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil reaches outer anchorage of Chittagong Port:** MT Fossil, an oil tanker carrying 100,000 tons of crude oil from the port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, has arrived at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port. Another tanker, MT Ninemia, carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil from Yanbu Port in Saudi Arabia, had arrived at the Kutubdia channel on May 6. Due to the Iran war and the resulting instability in West Asian countries, along with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the import of crude oil into Bangladesh had remained suspended since Feb 18. Therefore, a shortage of crude oil emerged, and from Apr 14, refining operations at the country's only state-owned refinery, Eastern Refinery, became "almost completely halted". Full-scale production resumed from the morning of May 8 after MT Ninemia's arrival (*bdnews24.com*, [22 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Permanent embankment to be built on Jamuna River in Tangail":** Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne on Friday said that a permanent embankment will be constructed on the Jamuna River in Tangail from the next fiscal year to curb river erosion and protect affected people in the area. "To fulfil the long-cherished demand of local people and safeguard public interest, construction of a permanent embankment in Tangail to prevent erosion by the Jamuna River will begin from the next fiscal year," he said. In his speech, Anne noted that river erosion by the Jamuna causes immense suffering to people every year. He said the government has undertaken a long-term plan to address the issue permanently. **He added that an initiative has been taken to build a permanent embankment at an estimated cost of around Tk 50cr to protect erosion-prone areas along the river in Tangail** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Teesta project to be cleared following expert opinions":** Water Resources Minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee on Saturday said the government would approve the Teesta mega project after the experts' report is received. **"We've started talking with experts and will consult more with the experts. Once the expert team provides us with their opinion on how the Teesta mega project should be implemented, then we will take the final decision to implement it for the sake of the national interest,"** he said. He said his ministry had already

begun consultations with experts and would continue discussions more before approving the project. Anee cited that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had repeatedly committed to implementing the Teesta project both before and after the election. However, **he stressed that the project would be implemented carefully and responsibly.** “Anything cannot be done whimsically in the Teesta project. Whatever we do, we will do so with proper understanding and consideration for the people living along the Teesta basin, the surrounding districts, and the country as a whole,” he added. **Anee cited that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had repeatedly committed to implementing the Teesta project both before and after the election** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [23 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chinese delegation inspects proposed Dharla Bridge site in Kurigram:** A five-member delegation from the China Road Bridge Corporation (CRBC) has inspected the proposed bridge construction site over the Dharla River in Kurigram Sadar Upazila. On Saturday afternoon, the team visited Bangtur Ghat and studied the feasibility of the project, said Md Ebadat Ali, superintendent engineer of the Bridge Implementation and Building Management Unit of the Local Government Engineering Department. Ali led the Bangladesh team while the CRBC chief office headed the Chinese delegation. **The CRBC is a Chinese state-owned construction and engineering firm.** The Chinese delegation examined the design and technical aspects of the proposed bridge, which is about 1,750 metres long, at Shibram Bangtur Ghat. **Once completed, the bridge will ease the journey of nearly 800,000 people from three Upazilas of the district. In addition, the transportation of goods through the Sonahat Land Port of Bhurungamari Upazila will also be easier** (*bdnews24.com*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **“40 lakh families to get Family Card in next fiscal year”:** State Minister for Textiles and Jute, Md Shariful Alam, on Sunday said 40 lakh families will get a family card in the next fiscal year. “Many of you know that within nine days of being elected, we waived the agricultural loans of the farmers of this country, especially the toiling farmers. Each family is being given a family card,” he said while speaking as the chief guest at a tin (corrugated iron (CI) sheets) distribution ceremony for 669 families held at the Town Hall's Shaheed M Shamsul Haque Open Stage in the city. The state minister said: “Since independence, if we look back, many governments have come to power. But we haven't seen previous governments take very effective steps for the welfare of marginal, ordinary, toiling, working-class people. We will focus more on them” (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh launches offshore oil and gas bidding round for 27 Bay blocks:** Bangladesh has launched an international bidding round for offshore oil and gas exploration in 27 blocks in the Bay of Bengal, offering a series of incentives, including gas export opportunities, tax benefits and duty exemptions, in a renewed effort to attract foreign investment and strengthen the country's energy security. State-owned Petrobangla on Sunday invited international tenders for exploration in 12 shallow-sea blocks and 15 deep-sea blocks under the Offshore Bidding Round 2026. **The move comes as Bangladesh continues to grapple with mounting energy shortages and growing dependence on imported fuel despite resolving maritime boundary disputes with neighbouring countries more than a decade ago.** Under the proposed production sharing contract (PSC), foreign companies will be allowed to export gas if Petrobangla or local buyers decline to purchase it. However, Petrobangla will enjoy the first right of refusal. Companies will also be allowed to sell gas domestically to entities other than Petrobangla if needed. Gas pricing has been linked to international crude oil prices, with floor and ceiling limits fixed to reduce market volatility (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **25pc discount for senior citizens, persons with disabilities on Metro Rail, effective from May 25:** The Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is set to introduce a 25 per cent special fare discount on Single Journey Tickets (SJT) for senior citizens aged over 60, and individuals with disabilities or special needs on the metro rail service. According to a notification signed by the executive director of the fare-fixing authority for metro rail, the facility will come into effect from May 25, 2026, in accordance with the Metro Rail Act, 2015 and the Metro Rail Rules, 2016. To avail of the concession, passengers will be required to present a valid NID card and relevant supporting documents. The fare reduction will be implemented following existing government rules and regulations. DMTCL had already been providing free single-trip tickets to war-wounded freedom fighters and a 15% fare discount to persons with disabilities and special needs. **With the new decision, the discount for persons with disabilities has been raised from 15% to 25%. A 25% concession has also been introduced for elderly passengers** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CHT Minister meets ILO delegation:** Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Minister Dipen Dewan met a delegation of the International Labour Organization (ILO), led by its Bangladesh Country Director Max Tunon, at the Secretariat here. **During the meeting, the minister said the ILO's proposed initiatives for Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban would contribute significantly to improving the living standards of people in the hill districts.** He reiterated the government's commitment to sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate resilience and employment generation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in line with its electoral pledges. The minister also said the activities of the ILO could be implemented more effectively in coordination with the Hill District Councils once they are reconstituted (*BSS News*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh moves toward self-reliant energy system, says PM:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday said Bangladesh is steadily moving toward clean energy, a green economy and a self-reliant energy system. 'Today we are inaugurating an initiative that is not only a power generation project, but also a symbol of Bangladesh's sustainable future,' the prime minister said. 'Through the inauguration of the one-megawatt rooftop solar power system at the Sangsad Bhaban, we will be able to give a clear message that Bangladesh is steadily advancing toward clean energy, a green economy and a self-reliant energy system,' Tarique said. At the request of the Prime Minister, JS Speaker Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, formally inaugurated the 'Renewable Solar Power On-Grid Rooftop' initiative (*New Age*, [25 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Foreign loan disbursement, payment almost unchanged:** The disbursement of and interest payments on foreign loans remained almost static in the 10 months (July-April) of the outgoing 2025–26 financial year. The disbursement of foreign loans dropped by 17 per cent during July 2025–April 2026, according to a monthly update released by the Economic Relations Division on Sunday. In the first nine months of FY26, foreign loan disbursement declined by 19 per cent due to a lower-than-expected implementation rate of the annual development programme. In the first 10 months of the ongoing 2025–26 financial year, ministries and divisions implemented only 41.41 per cent of the revised ADP allocation of Tk 2,08,935 crore. ADP expenditure from local sources stood at Tk 1,28,000 crore in the 10 months. During the same period, ADP expenditure from foreign sources was Tk 72,000 crore, compared with Tk 81,000 crore in the corresponding period of FY25. A large portion of foreign loans is linked to ADP projects (*New Age*, [25 May 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **“No deal with US or any country without ensuring national interest”**: Amid speculation over a likely defense deal with the United States, Bangladesh on Saturday said any deal—whether with the US or any other country—will only be signed when the government and relevant agencies determine that the interests of the country and its people are protected. **“Decisions regarding defense deals will not just come from the MoFA. There are relevant agencies where discussions take place and decisions are made. I can’t tell you now from this (MoFA) ministry at what stage this remains,”** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when a reporter drew her attention to a defense deal with the US. A section of media reported that Bangladesh and the US have agreed to reinforce defense cooperation, with both countries advancing negotiations on two long-discussed foundational agreements—the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) and the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) (*Dhaka Tribune*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UAE eyes investment in Bangladesh’s cybersecurity, ICT and emerging sectors**: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expressed strong interest in expanding investment in Bangladesh’s cybersecurity, information and communication technology (ICT), and other emerging sectors. The interest came during a bilateral meeting between Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and the UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulla Ali Khaseif AlHmoudi at the Bangladesh Secretariat here on Saturday. According to a ministry press release, the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, security, skilled manpower export, and legal assistance. **The meeting discussed broader collaboration between the two countries, including manpower export, human trafficking prevention, and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It also placed significant emphasis on the export of skilled Bangladeshi manpower, particularly professional drivers and gardeners, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** (*BSS News*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home Minister seeks continued ICRC support on Rohingya crisis, prison reforms**: Bangladesh has sought continued cooperation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in addressing the ongoing Rohingya crisis, alongside strengthening humanitarian and institutional support in the country’s prison and law enforcement sectors. The issue came up during a courtesy call by the Head of delegation of the ICRC in Bangladesh, Nicolas Fleury, on Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed at his minister’s office at the Bangladesh Secretariat this afternoon. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of issues of mutual interest, including healthcare and medical facilities for prisoners, modernization of the country’s Jail Code, capacity-building training for police and prison officials, and the Rohingya humanitarian situation, according to a press release.** The Home Minister thanked the ICRC for its humanitarian and medical support to Rohingya refugees and said Bangladesh remains committed to keeping the crisis in the focus of the international community. He also requested the organization to continue its support in dealing with the protracted humanitarian challenge. In response, the ICRC delegation reaffirmed its interest in continuing humanitarian cooperation with Bangladesh (*BSS News*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **“India keen to deepen multifaceted engagement with Bangladesh”**: Outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma on Sunday reaffirmed India’s willingness to deepen multifaceted engagement with Bangladesh for the mutual benefit and shared prosperity of the peoples of both countries. **He paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, and**

they briefly discussed various potential areas of cooperation driven by the development priorities of the two countries. The Prime Minister thanked High Commissioner Pranay Verma for his contributions to bilateral relations and conveyed best wishes for his next assignment, said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The meeting was held in the afternoon at the Prime Minister's Office at the Cabinet Division in the Bangladesh Secretariat, said a release issued by the PM's Press Wing. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman was also present at the meeting (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [24 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **“We need a new, future-oriented agenda for our engagement”:** Indian outgoing High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, has laid emphasis on a new, future-oriented agenda for engagement between India and Bangladesh. The Indian diplomat made the remark in a farewell note on Sunday. Pranay Verma said, "We stayed in Dhaka for nearly four years — longer than the usual three-year tenure. We saw multiple transitions during this time. Each very different from the other. Each with a new set of interlocutors. Each with its own prism for looking at relations with India. It could be challenging at times. But when I look back, it was an enriching and rewarding experience." Pranay Verma mentioned, "Ours is also a relationship of significant interdependencies and interlinkages. A prosperous Bangladesh is in India's interest, as much as a prosperous India is in the interest of Bangladesh." "I am convinced that it is this reality of our societal, cultural and emotional connections, and it is this logic of interdependence and mutual benefit that will continue guiding and taking forward our relations," he noted (*Prothom Alo*, [24 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ADB to give \$1.4b to Bangladesh for four project:** The Asian Development Bank will provide Bangladesh with \$1.4 billion in financing and assistance for four major projects aimed at strengthening economic management, social protection and infrastructure development in the country. The financing agreement was signed today between Bangladesh's economic relations division under the ministry of finance and the ADB at a bilateral signing ceremony held at a hotel in the capital. Under the agreement, the \$1.4 billion support will be channelled into four projects: the Strengthening Economic Management and Governance Programme, Subprogram 2, the Second Strengthening Social Resilience Programme, Subprogram 2, the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Project, and the Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project. Speaking at the event, finance minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the ADB's swift and timely economic response and financing would play a crucial role in implementing the country's development plans amid the adverse global situation stemming from the recent conflict in the Middle East. 'The ADB's prompt support among multilateral development partners is highly commendable,' he said, emphasizing that such cooperation would help Bangladesh sustain economic stability and continue its development trajectory (*New Age*, [25 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh sends goodwill food assistance to Kuwait amid crisis:** Bangladesh yesterday (24 May) formally handed over a goodwill consignment of food supplies to Kuwait as a gesture of solidarity, with 240 tonnes of essential items set to arrive in phases from 25 May amid regional supply disruptions. The symbolic handover ceremony was held at Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where prime minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser and Special Envoy Humayun Kabir handed over the consignment to Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his ongoing visit to the Gulf state. The assistance comes as Kuwait faces mounting pressure on supply chains due to the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the evolving regional situation in West Asia, said a foreign ministry's press release last evening. Officials said the food supplies from Bangladesh are expected to help strengthen

Kuwait's strategic food reserves and support emergency needs during the ongoing uncertainty. During the ceremony, Kabir also conveyed a letter from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, extending wishes for the peace, security and well-being of the Kuwaiti people and reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to deepening bilateral ties (*TBS*, [25 May 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **India to repatriate some deportees from Bangladesh following a court directive:** India's central government has informed the Supreme Court (SC) about its decision to repatriate some people it pushed into Bangladesh last year to verify their claim of Indian citizenship. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the central government, informed the SC bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant on Friday that the repatriation process would take eight to ten days, according to *The Telegraph*. "The government will bring them back and verify their nationality status. Further steps will be taken based on the findings," the report quoted Mehta telling the apex court. He also informed the court that this decision was made considering the unique circumstances of the case and should not be treated as a precedent (*bdnews24.com*, [22 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB clarifies report on 'push-in' of 9 Bangladeshi thru Sylhet border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh on Friday issued a clarification regarding a report published in *New Age* on May 21 about the alleged 'push-in' of nine Bangladeshi nationals from India into Bangladesh. **The BGB in a statement said that the India's Border Security Force was not involved in sending back the nine Bangladeshi nationals, including women and children, into Bangladesh territory. The BGB claimed that the individuals had previously entered India illegally at different times and later returned to Bangladesh through the Pratappur border at Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet on May 20 with the assistance of human traffickers operating in both countries. A patrol team from the BGB Pratappur border outpost detained the nine individuals immediately after they entered Bangladeshi territory, said the BGB statement** (*New Age*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB again foils BSF attempt to install poles:** The Indian Border Security Force's bid to install poles failed again on Friday evening at Tin Bigha corridor at Dahagram border point under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat after the Border Guard Bangladesh strongly protested against the attempt. Earlier on Friday morning, the BSF also failed to install poles within the 150 yards of the no-man's land at Kalshirmukh border under Kuchlibari union of the upazila in violation of international laws. Despite strong protest from the BGB, the Indian border force tried to construct a pole with barbed wire fence at the zero line of Dahagram border point, triggering a tense situation as both border forces faced off with weapons, according to local people and BGB officials. BGB-51 Battalion commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Naziur Rahman said that the BSF finally backtracked on its attempt due to the strong protest from the BGB. **Around 35 Indian nationals were gathered to do the construction work under the guard of 70–80 armed BSF personnel from the force's West Bengal 174th Battalion's Bhim Camp, said BGB officials. The emergency situation prompted a telephone conversation between the battalion commander level of the BGB and BSF.** 'The BGB will not accept any construction by the BSF on the zero line violating the international border law. When the BSF illegally set up bamboo poles on the border, they were forced to stop the work due to the strong resistance from the BGB,' said BGB-51 Battalion commanding officer Naziur Rahman (*New Age*, [24 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BGB strengthens patrols at Tin Bigha Corridor border after BSF pillar installation attempt:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has strengthened patrols along the Tin Bigha Corridor border in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila after the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) attempted to install bamboo pillars in violation of international border laws, an effort that was later suspended following objections from BGB. A flag meeting at the battalion commander level has been called to discuss the incident and determine further steps. BGB said patrols have been reinforced in Dahagram, Panbari and Angorpota areas. The pillar installation work has now been suspended, although survey measurement activities by the Indian side continued for some time. Following Friday's incident, additional forces were deployed on both sides of the border. **Battalion commanders of BGB and BSF later held discussions via telecommunication. After the talks, BSF suspended its activities. BGB subsequently returned to normal positions. In a press release, Rangpur BGB Battalion said a flag meeting at the battalion commander level has been proposed to discuss the matter in detail and decide further actions. The border situation is currently reported to be normal** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [23 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB, BSF hold flag meet after border tensions:** A flag meeting was held between the border forces of Bangladesh and India at the battalion commander level following the tension over the Indian force's attempt to build a barbed wire fence on the zero line at the Dahagram Tin Bigha Corridor border in Lalmonirhat. **At the meeting, both sides agreed that before doing any work in the border area in the future formal discussions between the two forces would be held and permission from higher authorities would be taken, the BGB press briefing was told.** Lieutenant Colonel Naziur Rahman told the press briefing that the BSF personnel claimed that the 3-foot-tall bamboo poles were erected within 50 yards of the zero line for the purpose of land acquisition inside India. **The BSF officers told the flag meeting that the BGB members taking firing position was not desirable, according to the press briefing. In response, the BGB invoked the Indira-Mujib Border Agreement of 1974, saying that no structure of any kind could be built within 150 yards of the border and that the BSF activities prompted the Bangladesh border personnel to take a preventive stance.** The two sides also agreed that formal discussions between the two forces would be held and permission from higher authorities would be taken before starting any future work in the border area (*New Age*, [25 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **3 Bangladeshis killed in landmine explosion at Ghumdhum border in Naikhongchhari:** Three Bangladeshis have been killed in a landmine explosion near the Myanmar border in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari. The incident occurred on Sunday afternoon. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), police, and locals have recovered the bodies. Babul Kanti Chakma, a former member of Ghumdhum Union, mentioned that people near the border, including in Balukiyapara, cultivate fruit orchards and other crops, maintaining a zero line. This cultivation is their sole livelihood. Last year, two people also went missing while working in the orchard, and they remain unaccounted for. Additionally, a woman lost both her legs to a landmine explosion while foraging for vegetables in the forest, leading to a life of hardship. **The previous disappearances and today's fatalities have left the border residents terrified, according to Babul Kanti. Naikhongchhari Police chief Mozammel Haque said, "Separatists reside in the region on the other side of the frontier. "They have planted landmines along the border. Three local men had gone to work there and died in an explosion"** (*bdnews24.com*, [24 May 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [24 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Criminals attack joint force camp in Chattogram's Jungle Salimpur, says RAB:** Law-enforcing agencies have reported an exchange of gunfire (that lasted for two hours) with armed criminals in Jungle Salimpur, a longstanding “fortified stronghold” of criminal groups in Chattogram's Sitakunda Upazila. Jungle Salimpur has historically operated almost like a state within a state, where outsiders dared not enter without explicit permission from illegal land grabbers. In 2022, the then Awami League government drafted plans to reclaim the Khas or government-owned fallow land to build a central jail, a sports village, a cricket stadium, an iconic mosque, and an eco-park. But repeated eviction attempts ran into resistance from those entrenched there. On Jan 19, a RAB team entered the area in several microbuses for an operation. Later, on Mar 9, the local administration carried out another major drive with 3,183 members of different law-enforcing agencies. The operation included 487 Army personnel, 122 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members and 371 RAB officers. Three helicopters, 15 armoured personnel carriers (APCs), a dog squad, and 12 drones were deployed. Newly appointed Police Superintendent Masud Alam said on May 17 the government was planning to build a police training academy on the site. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed is scheduled to visit Jungle Salimpur on May 31 (*bdnews24.com*, [25 May 2026](#)).

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