

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

02 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **CHT minister Dipen Dewan quits on health grounds:** Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs minister Dipen Dewan on Monday resigned from his post on health grounds. He submitted his resignation letter to the prime minister, citing prolonged physical illness and difficulties in carrying out official duties. He was appointed minister on February 17 and resigned after serving for three and a half months in office. President Mohammed Shahabuddin has accepted the resignation of Dipen Dewan from his post as Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs. The resignation letter of CHT Affairs Minister Dipen Dewan has been accepted by the President, said a gazette issued by the Cabinet Division following the order of the Head of State. The resignation became effective from the date of its acceptance by the President, it added (*New Age*, [01 June 2026](#); *BSS News* [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CHT Affairs Minister Dipen Dewan resigns amid speculation of major cabinet reshuffle:** The sudden resignation of the first full minister from Rangamati, just three and a half months into the tenure, has triggered widespread political speculation. **At the same time, government sources indicate that a major reshuffle and possible expansion of the Tarique Rahman-led cabinet is likely during or after the budget session.** Sources say that after the BNP government was formed in February, the Prime Minister had announced that the performance of all ministers and state ministers would be reviewed after six months. He had also given a clear indication that any negligence or lack of seriousness in duties could result in removal from the cabinet. As Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman had also instructed that all ministries must remain completely free from corruption. He reportedly made it clear that he would personally monitor each minister's work plan, integrity, and pace of work, alongside issuing detailed directives to the cabinet. **According to relevant sources, although health issues may be one factor, there are underlying tensions over ministerial authority and the restructuring of the Rangamati Hill District Council. Additionally, recent disputes over the formation of the Chhatra Dal committee and growing distance from local leaders may have contributed to the situation.** It is worth noting that during the 2001–2006 BNP government tenure, Moni Swapan Dewan, the first deputy minister from Rangamati, also resigned in 2006. Thus, in both BNP administrations, ministers from Rangamati have resigned. **Local BNP leaders said they had not anticipated Dipen Dewan's resignation. They believe he may have resigned due to issues related to running the ministry, controlling Rangamati politics, and the process of appointing administrators to the district councils in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. However, no comment from Dipen Dewan was available.** At least six leaders associated with BNP politics in the CHT told Prothom Alo that although there had been disagreements among MPs from the hill constituencies on various issues in the past, the situation was different this time. Since all three MPs belong to the same party, cordial relations existed among them. They said that after becoming minister, Dipen Dewan began working to improve the situation through discussions with public representatives and civil society. **Local sources say that BNP politics had been divided over party nominations in this election, although the divisions remained hidden during the election period. They have now started to reappear openly. One side**

consists of Dipen Dewan's followers, while the other consists of followers of district BNP president Dipon Talukder. Dipon Talukder rejected the suggestion of party conflict. BNP leader Saiful Islam Bhutto further said, "Dipen Dewan is not physically ill. I have travelled with him in remote areas for a long time and have never seen him weak or sick. Some BNP leaders are trying to create instability in the Chittagong Hill Tracts by misleading the prime minister with false information" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 June 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [01 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Protest held in Rangamati over Dipen Dewan's resignation:** A protest was held in Rangamati this afternoon, demanding that Dipen Dewan withdraw his resignation as minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. District BNP Vice President Saiful Islam Bhutto attempted to disperse the protesters but was unsuccessful. During the blockade, Ali Akbar Suman, former general secretary of the district Chhatra Dal, said, "Dipen Dewan is physically and mentally sound. Our CHT minister has become a victim of political conspiracy. A group has conspired against him." He also urged Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to reconsider the resignation, saying that removing a leader like Dipen Dewan from the hill region could weaken the BNP's position there in the future. Zia Parishad's Rangamati district President Manas Mukur Chakma, Mahila Dal president Nur Jahan Parul, and leaders and activists from other BNP-affiliated organisations joined the programme and raised slogans (*The Daily Star*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **'Over 100' leaders-activists of banned Chhatra League stages flash procession in Chattogram:** Leaders and activists of the banned organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), have staged a flash procession in the GEC intersection area of Chattogram city. Several videos of the procession started making round on social media platform Facebook today, Monday. It has been learned that leaders and activists of the BCL's Omargani MES College unit brought out the procession this morning. Videos circulating on social media show Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders and activists marching towards the GEC intersection from the opposite side of Nasirabad Government High School. During the procession, they chanted slogans including "Joy Bangla" and "Sheikh Hasina will return." Witnesses said more than a hundred BCL leaders and activists took part in the procession. A banner carried by participants read "MES College unit Chhatra League." When asked, Panchlaish police station officer-in-charge (OC) Zahidul Islam told Prothom Alo, "We did not find anyone when we went to the spot. However, the videos are being reviewed. Those involved will be identified and arrested." Meanwhile, at around 8:00 am today, leaders and activists of the banned Chhatra League also staged a procession in the Chatari Chowmuhani area on the PAB Road in Anwara upazila of the port city. A one-minute-and-30-second video of that procession has also spread on social media (*Prothom Alo*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Uproar over the statement 'Every BNP in Chapainawabganj district BNP is a secret Jamaat member':** Harunur Rashid, the administrator of Chapainawabganj District Council, said that all those currently in Chapainawabganj District BNP are secret Jamaat members. He further alleged that in the thirteenth national parliamentary elections, none of them voted in favour of the BNP. His statement has sparked intense anger, condemnation, and protest within the district BNP. Harunur Rashid said, I would request the BNP Chairperson to conduct an internal investigation and take necessary action. He claimed that some leaders and activists at the district and upazila levels blocked roads and carried out torch processions in Shibganj. He also mentioned that rail blockages and torch processions were conducted demanding the change of candidates for Nachole, Gomastapur, and Bholahat constituencies.

He further said, I challenge and state that not a single person responsible in Chapainawabganj voted in favor of BNP. Referring to BNP's Rajshahi divisional organizational secretary Advocate Shahin Shawkat, he said that he came from Rajshahi and, as the chief guest, sat on the stage giving a speech. Yet, he did not see any member of the Chhatra Dal on their stage. At this time, among the Chhatra Dal leaders and activists present, slogans of 'fake fake' were heard in support of his speech (*Jugantor*, [01 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **'I became an MP through power too': Jamaat MP's speech goes viral: "I removed the OC from his chair within two hours... moved an army major from here within two hours. Some people say I became an MP through votes. I say I did not become an MP through votes alone; I also became an MP through power. So, do not come here showing power. In return, five lakh people will show their power."** Shafiqul Islam Masud, Jamaat-e-Islami MP of Patuakhali-2 (Bauphal) constituency made the comments during a programme held in front of the Suryamoni Union Parishad office in Patuakhali's Bauphal on Saturday afternoon, while speaking as chief guest. **A video of his speech later went viral on social media, triggering widespread reactions** (*The Daily Star*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Protest continues for 2nd day demanding resignation of Islami Bank chairman:** The "Shocheton Grahok Forum" has staged a protest for the second consecutive day demanding the cancellation of the appointment and resignation of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC Chairman Md Khurshid Alam. **Speakers at the rally alleged that the government and Bangladesh Bank were attempting to bring Islami Bank back under the control of a "looting group". They also criticised recent statements made by the Bangladesh Bank and demanded transparent and accountable management of the bank.** Additional police were deployed in the area surrounding the bank's head office, with water cannons and armoured vehicles kept on standby as precautionary measures. On Monday, a human chain and protest program were also held at the same venue over the same demand. Protesters alleged that police used water cannons, tear gas, sound grenades and baton charges to disperse them, leaving several people injured, although law enforcement provided a different account. Meanwhile, due to the unrest, the scheduled board meeting of Islami Bank could not be held physically on Monday. It was later conducted virtually at night, chaired by Khurshid Alam, with five directors participating (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh will not accept border 'push-ins' from India, says State Minister Shama:** Bangladesh will continue to resist any attempt to push people across the border from India under the label of "infiltrators", State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has said. She said Dhaka hopes India's expressed willingness to adapt to Bangladesh's evolving circumstances will be matched by actions on the ground. On Monday, she said: **"Since West Bengal elections and the new government's arrival, every time we have spoken with India, they have spoken positively that they will not conduct push-ins, and they have responded positively regarding other complexities we are facing with them, including visas and other matters. "Regarding the paradigm shift we are hearing about and how they will decide what their foreign policy towards Bangladesh will be, we hope that decision will be positive."** Shama said, **"And if it is not positive, we will certainly speak with them at the political and diplomatic levels, and try to resolve it through dialogue. "But under no circumstances will we accept that they will conduct push-ins."** She pointed out that border management and

different issues, including push-ins, will be discussed at the meeting between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF) in Delhi next week. "We hope that the BGB will maintain a very firm stance. They will present the government's stance and a peaceful situation will prevail at our border" (*bdnews24.com*, [01 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh optimistic over Khalilur Rahman's bid for UN General Assembly presidency: Bangladesh has expressed optimism over the election of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman as president of the United Nations General Assembly.** On Monday, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said Bangladesh is a "very strong contender". "...we are in a very good position in this election. Our foreign minister has extensive experience and a long career at the United Nations. "So we are very hopeful that Bangladesh will win, and I think many new doors will open for Bangladesh, for the people of Bangladesh. It will be a moment of pride for Bangladesh." Voting will begin at 8pm Bangladesh time on Tuesday, at the United Nations headquarters in New York (*bdnews24.com*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Time opportune to elevate Dhaka-Colombo ties":** Sri Lanka has said the time is opportune to elevate its relations with Bangladesh to a higher level, underscoring the importance of arranging a state-level visit between the two friendly countries in the near future. The observation was made by Sri Lanka's Acting Foreign Minister Arun Hemachandra during a farewell call by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Andalib Elias in Colombo, according to a press release received here. During the meeting, Hemachandra highly appreciated the Bangladeshi envoy's contribution to strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure in Colombo. Expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved in cooperation between the two countries, the Acting Foreign Minister said Dhaka and Colombo should seize the opportunity to further advance their partnership through enhanced political engagement and high-level exchanges. He particularly stressed the need for arranging a state-level visit between the two countries at an early date to open new avenues of cooperation. High Commissioner Elias reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation and expanding engagement with Sri Lanka in areas of mutual interest (*BSS News*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique to make Malaysia first overseas destination:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to undertake his first foreign visits since assuming office in February, with Malaysia expected to be his inaugural overseas destination, followed by an official trip to China later this month. **According to multiple sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, preparations are underway for the prime minister's visit to Kuala Lumpur on 21–22 June. The Malaysia trip is expected to be followed by a visit to Beijing, although the dates have yet to be finalised.** The planned visits to Malaysia and China will be closely watched as early indicators of the foreign policy direction of the Tarique administration and its approach to balancing relations with major regional stakeholders. **Diplomatic observers view the choice of Malaysia as a calculated and pragmatic move amid growing geopolitical competition in Asia. They argue that beginning his foreign engagements with a middle-power country allows Dhaka to pursue a balanced foreign policy while avoiding unnecessary geopolitical sensitivities** (*Times of Bangladesh*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, China enjoying active bilateral cooperation:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen has said that high-level exchanges and cooperation across various fields between Bangladesh and China have been highly active in recent months. He made the remark while attending a pre-departure reception for the training group consisting of senior officials

from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Monday. During the event, Yao said that the upcoming training programme in China for the senior officials from the PMO represents a further continuation and deepening of a positive momentum. Ambassador Yao encouraged the Bangladeshi officials to gain a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the practices and experiences of Chinese modernisation through exchanges of ideas and field visits, and to draw useful inspiration by relating what they see and learn in China to Bangladesh's own development needs and realities. Md Ismail Zabihullah, adviser to the prime minister, expressed appreciation to the Chinese Embassy for providing the valuable opportunity for training in China, saying that Bangladesh stands ready to further deepen cooperation with China, strengthen exchanges on governance experience, and promote the Bangladesh-China Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership to a new level (*Daily Sun*, [01 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BSF attempts to 'push in' 13, including women and children, through Jashore border:** India's Border Security Force (BSF) has attempted to push 13 people, including women and children, into Bangladesh through the Sadipur border in Sharsha upazila of Jashore. However, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said the group was unable to enter the country due to heightened vigilance along the frontier. **The 13 individuals are currently stranded in the no-man's-land between Bangladesh and India. Neither country has allowed them to cross the border. As of Monday evening, they were seen remaining under the open sky in the border area.** A flag meeting at deputy commander level between the BGB and BSF was held at the Sadipur border on Monday evening following the incident. Lieutenant Colonel Saiful Alam Khan, commanding officer of the Jashore-49 BGB Battalion, said, "We have informed the BSF that if they are Bangladeshi citizens, they should be sent through the proper state-to-state process, in which case we will accept them. Otherwise, we will not tolerate attempts to push them across the border illegally. We will not allow anyone to cross Bangladesh's zero line unlawfully" (*Prothom Alo*, [01 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB foils BSF attempts to push 100 people into Bangladesh:** Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh on Monday foiled several attempts by India's Border Security Force to push more than 100 people into Bangladesh through the Benapole border. The BSF personnel gathered the people, including men, women and children, on the Indian side of the border opposite Benapole Land Port in Jashore district, said 49 BGB commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Saiful Islam Khan. **The BGB official said that at least 10 of the people had been kept in no man's land after BSF personnel allegedly cut a section of the border fence erected by the Indian authorities.** Saiful Islam said that, after receiving intelligence reports about the BSF's move to gather people near the border, the BGB deployed additional personnel in the area. **As a result, several attempts by the BSF since early Monday to push the people into Bangladesh were thwarted.** 'The BSF members continued their attempts overnight and even during daylight hours on Monday,' he added. Sources in the BGB and local people said that BSF personnel attempted to push the group into Bangladesh through several points along the Benapole border (*New Age*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **57th BGB-BSF Border Conference to begin in New Delhi 8 June:** The 57th Director General-level Border Conference between Bangladesh's border guarding force, the Border Guard

Bangladesh (BGB), and India's Border Security Force (BSF) will commence in New Delhi on 8 June. **The four-day conference is scheduled to continue until 11 June.** The BGB disclosed the information in a press release issued on Monday. According to the statement, a 15-member Bangladeshi delegation, led by BGB Director General Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, will participate in the conference. **In addition to senior BGB officials, the Bangladeshi delegation will include representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Shipping, the Department of Land Records and Surveys, and the Joint Rivers Commission.** The Indian delegation, meanwhile, will be led by the Director General of the BSF. It is expected to comprise senior BSF officials as well as representatives from India's Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, and other relevant government agencies (*Prothom Alo*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **174 more Bangladeshis return home from Libya: A total of 174 Bangladeshi nationals have been repatriated from Libya on Monday.** The repatriation was coordinated by the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). **Most of the returnees had entered Libya with the intention of traveling illegally to Europe via human traffickers. Many had experienced abductions and abuse during their stay.** Officials from the foreign ministry and the IOM welcomed the returnees at the airport and requested them to share their difficult experiences to raise public awareness. Each returnee received travel allowances, food supplies, basic medical care, and temporary shelter from the IOM (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 June 2026](#)).

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