

# DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

03 June 2026

## Takeaways

### Politics

- ◆ **Govt announces major legal reforms, heightened border security measures:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Tuesday said the government outlined a series of strategic initiatives with focus on modernising national laws, securing international borders, and intensifying the crackdown on domestic criminal activity. "A new law is being drafted to replace the antiquated 1867 Gambling Act, with plans to present it in the upcoming parliamentary session," he said. **Addressing concerns regarding border security, Salahuddin confirmed that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is on high alert against any illegal "push in" or "pushback" activities. He mentioned that the repatriation of any individual must follow a formal process, including National ID verification coordinated through the Foreign Ministry.** The minister reaffirmed a zero-tolerance policy toward terrorists, specifically mentioning ongoing efforts to eliminate hideouts in Jungle Salimpur (*Daily Sun*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nasiruddin Patwari announced program to protest the 'push-ins' by force at the border:** Recently, Nasiruddin Patwari, the chief coordinator of the National Citizens Party (NCP), has announced a program to visit at the border in protest against allegations of forced entry or 'push-ins' from India. On Tuesday (June 2) afternoon, he announced this program in a post on his social media Facebook account. In the post, he stated that the main purpose of this visit is to observe border security, Bangladesh's sovereignty, and the local real situation. In the Facebook post, Nasiruddin Patwari wrote: **'InshaAllah, tomorrow (Wednesday, June 3), I will visit the Benapole border in Jessore. In the context of recent allegations of forced entry (push-ins) from India, I will try to become familiar with the local situation on the ground. On this occasion, I will exchange views with local villagers, political figures, journalists, teachers, and representatives of civil society.'** He further said that any border-related issues should be resolved while maintaining respect for Bangladesh's sovereignty, border security, international law, and diplomatic norms—this is our expectation (*Jugantor*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat says "India's 'push-in' is unacceptable without resolving through diplomatic channels":** Jamaat-e-Islami has strongly condemned and protested the Indian decision to push back several women, men, and children into Bangladesh at the Benapole border in Jessore. The party said that India's 'push-in' policy is unacceptable instead of resolving the issue through diplomatic channels. **Jamaat Secretary General Golam Powar said, 'The Indian policy of illegally pushing citizens into Bangladesh under Bangladeshi identity at the border is highly condemnable. Instead of identifying the citizens and resolving the issues through diplomatic channels, India's 'push-in' policy is unacceptable, which has made the border unstable, insecure, and worrisome. I strongly condemn and protest such a policy of the BSF and the Indian authorities.'** He said said, 'On the night of May 31, the attempt by the BSF to push in at the Sadipur paddy field border area north of the Benapole international checkpoint failed due to the strict stance of the BGB. Currently, 8 to 10 Indian citizens, including women and children, are stranded on the no-man's land of the India-Bangladesh border. **I urge the Indian authorities to immediately take back the citizens and ensure that such actions are not taken**

in the future.' He also said, 'I thank the Border Guard Bangladesh for playing a responsible role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and border security.' We condemn the failure to protest the Indian army's 'push-in' attempts through diplomatic channels and also criticize the weak foreign policy of the current government of Bangladesh. At the same time, we call for the strict enforcement of the law to prevent any kind of border crimes in the future and to ensure the safety of citizens. We urge the government to take internal and diplomatic measures in the future to resolve such problems (*Kaler Kantha*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Mamata claims Amit Shah called her to suppress Hadi murder arrests:** Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has claimed that she knows everything about a 'major murder' in Bangladesh and alleged that the Indian government was involved in it. She further claimed that Indian Home Minister Amit Shah personally called her and asked her to suppress the news after the suspects in the murder case were arrested in West Bengal. Sharif Osman bin Hadi, convener of Inqilab Mancha, was shot in Dhaka on December 12 last year and died from his injuries on December 18. The suspects in the murder case were later arrested in West Bengal, India. Mamata Banerjee made the remarks on Tuesday (June 2) while staging a sit-in protest at Y-Channel in Kolkata's Dharmatala, about a month after the Trinamool Congress lost power in the West Bengal Assembly election. Her comments appeared to refer to this killing (*JagoNews24*, [03 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khurshid Alam's appointment as Islami Bank chairman valid despite wife's loan default:** Following widespread discussions and criticism on social media regarding whether the newly appointed chairman of Islami Bank, Md Khurshid Alam, is a loan defaulter, Bangladesh Bank has issued a clarification. The central bank stated that Khurshid Alam is not a defaulter himself; rather, an institution owned by his wife has defaulted on a loan. It clarified that his wife's status as a defaulter does not legally prevent Khurshid Alam from holding the chairman's position. Speaking to journalists in response to a query, Tuesday, Arif Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank, said. Regarding the resurgence of past allegations against Khurshid Alam, the spokesperson told reporters that incorrect information had been presented against him at that time. As a result, the disciplinary action previously taken against him was deemed inappropriate. This led to his subsequent promotions to the roles of executive director and deputy governor (*Prothom Alo*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Islami Bank customers continue protest for board removal:** A group of protesters continued their demonstration in front of Islami Bank Bangladesh for a second consecutive day on Tuesday and placed a **seven-point demand, including the resignation of the new chairman Md Khurshid Alam and the reinstatement of former managing director Md Omar Faruk**. Members of the Islami Bank Conscious Customers Forum announced the demands at a press briefing in front of the bank's headquarters in Dilkusha, Motijheel on Tuesday, while continuing a sit-in programme. The protest followed a day of unrest on Monday when police dispersed demonstrators protesting against Khurshid Alam's appointment (*New Age*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CPJ urges Bangladesh prime minister to break 'cycle' of journalist repression:** The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has urged Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to break what it called Bangladesh's "cycle of partisan persecution" of journalists and take immediate steps to protect press freedom. **The New York-based organisation made the call in a statement marking the BNP government's first 100 days in office, saying Tarique should begin fulfilling his election pledge to safeguard media freedom.** CPJ said Bangladesh has

had three governments in less than two years: Sheikh Hasina's Awami League administration, which was ousted in August 2024; the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus; and, since February 2026, the BNP government. "Through each transition, journalists have been detained, prosecuted, surveilled, attacked, and vilified — often for their perceived alignment with whichever government had just fallen," the statement said (*bdnews24.com*, [03 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **National Editors' Council launched:** A new organisation of newspaper editors, National Editors Council, was launched on Tuesday with Jajaidin editor Shafik Rehman as convener and Amar Desh editor Mahmudur Rahman as joint convener. The announcement came at a meeting held at the Amar Desh office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, according to a press release. The other members of the 13-member committee are Salah Uddin Mohammad Babar of Naya Diganta, Hasan Hafiz of Kaler Kantho, Abdul Hai Sikder of Jugantor, Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel of Protidiner Bangladesh, Azam Mir Shahidul Ahsan of Dainik Sangram, Mokarram Hossain of The New Nation, Shafiqul Alam of Waadaa, Shahidul Islam of Manobkantha, Shantanu Islam Sumit of Lokosomaj, Osman Ghani Mansur of The Daily People's View and Muktabis Un Noor of Jalalabad. The meeting decided to formulate the organisation's constitution, arrange training programmes to enhance journalists' professional skills, and organise a national convention of editors of national and regional daily newspapers as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Editors' Council, formed in 2013 to promote press freedom, professional journalism, and a stronger editorial institution, has actively been functioning through elected committees comprising editors of leading newspapers in the country (*New Age*, [03 June 2026](#)).

## Economy

- ◆ **Bangladesh cuts LPG price by Tk 55 for June:** Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has reduced the price of privately marketed liquefied petroleum gas by Tk 55 for the month of June. As a result, the retail price of a 12kg cylinder will now be Tk 1,885. BEREC said that the June LPG price was determined based on Saudi Aramco's contract prices of \$760 per tonne for propane and \$820 per tonne for butane, leading to an average contract price of \$799 per tonne for the standard 35:65 propane-butane mix. **The BEREC also factored in shipping costs, trader premiums of \$200 per tonne, and an exchange rate of Tk 122.81 per US dollar when setting the new rates.** Under the revised pricing structure, private LPG will now be sold at Tk 157.06 per kilogram. Additionally, the BEREC has adjusted the price of auto gas to Tk 86.93 per litre. The retail price for LPG at the reticulated stage, which includes VAT, has been set at Tk 153.31 per kilogram for privately operated systems. For LPG supplied through private-sector gas networks, the price is fixed at Tk 340.7 per cubic metre. This latest price adjustment follows two significant increases in April, when the price of a 12kg cylinder was raised by Tk 387 on April 2 and by an additional Tk 212 on April 19, resulting in a total increase of Tk 599 within just 17 days (*New Age*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Defaulted loans surge by Tk 31,488cr in 3 months:** Defaulted loans in Bangladesh's banking sector increased by Tk 31,488 crore within three months at the end of March 2026, mainly due to poor recovery and interest servicing. Data from Bangladesh Bank showed that non-performing loans increased to Tk 5,88,704 crore in March from Tk 5,57,216 crore in December 2025. Bangladesh Bank spokesperson and executive director Arief Hossain Khan told New

Age that the increase was largely due to the accumulation of unpaid interest on existing defaulted loans amid slow recovery efforts. **As banks continue to charge interest on classified loans, the outstanding default amount increases, he said. Central bank officials said that sluggish credit growth also contributed to the rise.** Private sector credit growth fell to a record low of 4.72 per cent, reducing fresh loan disbursements and increasing the share of bad loans in the overall loan portfolio. They also said that Bangladesh Bank inspections identified a significant volume of loans that should have been classified earlier. Those loans were subsequently recognised as non-performing, pushing up the NPL figure. Defaulted loans now account for 32.26 per cent of total outstanding loans, one of the highest ratios in the world (*New Age*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Info minister directs timely completion of development projects:** Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon, MP on Tuesday directed all concerned to ensure quality implementation and timely completion of ongoing development projects under the ministry. He issued the instruction while presiding over a review meeting on the latest progress of projects included in the Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) for the fiscal year 2025-26 held at the ministry conference room (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US proposes new tariffs on Bangladesh, 59 others over forced labour concerns:** The United States has proposed additional tariffs on imports from 60 countries, including Bangladesh, after concluding that their efforts to curb trade in goods produced with forced labour are inadequate and restrict US commerce. The proposal was announced on Tuesday by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) following Section 301 investigations launched earlier this year into forced labour enforcement among major US trading partners. **The USTR identified 54 economies, including Bangladesh, India, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and Thailand, as failing to impose and effectively enforce bans on the importation of goods produced with forced labour.** Another six economies, including Canada, Mexico and Pakistan, were cited for failing to effectively enforce existing prohibitions. Under the proposed framework, countries with partial forced labour import bans or reciprocal trade arrangements with the US would face an additional 10 percent tariff. Countries without such arrangements could face a higher 12.5 percent duty on exports to the United States, according to the proposal (*The Daily Star*, [03 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistani goods face doubled transit times:** Bangladeshi businesses are facing delays and higher costs as Pakistani goods now reach the country through alternative routes, nearly doubling delivery times since the suspension of direct maritime trade, industry sources said. **Although a historic direct shipping link between Bangladesh and Pakistan launched in November 2024, the route has been inactive for six months amid geopolitical tensions and disruptions in global shipping networks.** Cargo from Karachi, which previously reached Chattogram in around 12 days under the direct service, now takes 20 to 25 days via Colombo, Sri Lanka, with transport costs rising 15 to 20 per cent, according to the Bangladesh representative of Dubai-based Feeder Lines DMCC – Regency Lines Limited Senior Executive Director Anis Ud Dowlah. **“Cargo movement has not stopped, but shipments are now being routed through alternative ports,” he said. No decision has been made regarding the resumption of direct services.** The disruption has hit Bangladesh’s ready-made garment (RMG) sector, which relies heavily on Pakistani raw materials. National Board of Revenue (NBR) data show about 70 per cent of imports from Pakistan consist of raw materials for garments and finished leather products (*Times of Bangladesh*, [03 June 2026](#)).

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh wins UN General Assembly presidency:** Bangladesh has won the election for the President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), securing 99 votes in the poll. His opponent in the election, Andreas S Kakouris of Cyprus, received 91 votes. Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was the country's candidate in the election. **He will serve as the President of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly for the next one year.** With this victory, a Bangladeshi representative will occupy the presidency of the UN General Assembly for the second time. **Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday congratulated Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on his election as the President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).** “Many congratulations to our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khalilur Rahman, on his election as the President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly,” the premier wrote on his X handle (former Twitter) tonight. This achievement reflects Bangladesh's increasing contribution and credibility on the global stage, Tarique Rahman wrote. “We believe he (Foreign Minister) will proudly represent Bangladesh and forge connectivity, dialogue, and cooperation in addressing multilateral, shared challenges. We wish him every success in this new responsibility,” the Prime Minister said. (*Prothom Alo*, [02 June 2026](#); [03 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Global leaders congratulate Khalilur Rahman on UNGA presidency:** The [United States](#), [China](#) and the [Maldives](#) have congratulated Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on his election as president of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), describing the victory as a reflection of the international community's confidence in Bangladesh. Moreover, congratulations are poured in from [India](#), [Pakistan](#), [UK](#), [OIC](#), [Africa Union](#) (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Delegation from Prime Minister's Office heads to China for training:** A delegation from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has left for China for training under a bilateral cooperation initiative. The programme is scheduled to run in Kunming in Yunnan province. **The 15-strong team departed from Shahjalal International Airport aboard a China Eastern Airlines flight around 2pm on Tuesday. The Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman, who is part of the delegation, said the training is being organised with support from the Chinese government and the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, and will continue until Jun 8.** The delegation includes senior officials from the PMO, including the director general of the NGO Affairs Bureau, private secretaries to the prime minister, directors, protocol and assignment officers, and research officials. Other members include officials attached to the prime minister's advisor's office and administrative wings. At a reception event in the capital on Monday, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said high-level contacts and cooperation between the two countries have strengthened in recent times. He said the training programme will play an important role in enhancing bilateral relations and exchanging administrative experience (*bdnews24.com*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Meeting between DU and China's FIO to strengthen ocean research:** **A meeting was held between the University of Dhaka and China's First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) under the Ministry of Natural Resources to strengthen ocean research in Bangladesh.** The meeting was attended by the university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor Dr. Mo: Humayun Kabir, Director of the International Center for Ocean Governance (ICOG) Dr. K. M. Azam Chowdhury, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of China's

Ministry of Natural Resources Antao Wang, Senior Scientist of the First Institute of Oceanography Professor Dr. Fangli Qiao, Director of the International Cooperation Department of the First Institute of Oceanography Yafeng Yang, Professor Changshui Jia, Professor Dr. Shiju Wang, and Professor Dr. Xin Shan. During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding between China's Ministry of Natural Resources and the relevant ministries of Bangladesh for the implementation of the CIDCA project concerning early warning and forecasting systems for marine disasters in Bangladesh (*Naya Diganta*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Prime Minister's first overseas visit to be Malaysia:** The first invitation for an overseas visit received by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman came from India. Shortly after the February election, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent him a letter inviting him to visit New Delhi. An invitation was also extended by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Subsequently, Chinese Premier Li Qiang sent an invitation for an official visit to Beijing. In the end, however, Tarique Rahman has chosen Malaysia—rather than India or China—for his first foreign trip as head of government. Preparations have begun for the prime minister's two-day state visit to Kuala Lumpur on 21 and 22 June, a senior government official confirmed to Prothom Alo. He said that Tarique Rahman will undertake the visit at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. **According to the sources, the government exercised particular caution in selecting the destination for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first overseas visit, given the realities of regional geopolitics and the strategic competition between India and China. For that reason, choosing a third country rather than either New Delhi or Beijing gained prominence in government deliberations.** After receiving correspondence from the Chinese Embassy proposing a visit between 23 and 26 June, policymakers within the government discussed whether the prime minister's first state visit should be to China or elsewhere. At that stage, Malaysia emerged as a preferred third-country option. **Shortly after Tarique Rahman assumed office in February, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had telephoned to congratulate him and extended an invitation to visit Malaysia. Diplomatic observers note that the destination of a prime minister's first state visit is not merely a matter of protocol; it also serves as a symbolic indication of the new government's foreign policy priorities. Viewed from that perspective, the decision to choose Malaysia instead of India or China may be interpreted as an effort to maintain balance amid regional competition.** Against this backdrop, and with a view to avoiding criticism both politically and in the public sphere amid the geopolitical rivalry between two of Asia's most influential powers, the government opted to prioritise Malaysia. Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur said that just before the Eid holidays, on 24 May, the Bangladesh High Commission formally initiated discussions with Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding a possible visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The Malaysian side responded positively (*Prothom Alo*, [03 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **US Ambassador meets JS Speaker:** Ambassador of the United States to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen paid a courtesy call on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, at his JS Bhaban office in the capital. During the meeting, Hafiz Uddin said the journey of relations between Bangladesh and the United States had advanced since the country's Liberation War in 1971. He recalled the contribution of former US diplomat Archer Kent Blood in support of Bangladesh during the Liberation War and said the two countries were passing an important milestone in their friendly bilateral ties, said a press release here. "The latest parliamentary election in Bangladesh had been held in a free and fair manner," the speaker said, adding that the people of Bangladesh had always struggled against

authoritarianism. He stressed that Bangladesh could achieve genuine prosperity only through democracy. **The two sides underscored the importance of duty-free access for Bangladeshi products to the US market. They also exchanged views on increasing foreign direct investment cooperation, strengthening people-to-people contacts, observing Democracy Day through parliamentary caucus forums, US assistance in recovering laundered money from Bangladesh, and easing public suffering caused by the ongoing energy issue through oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh** (*BSS News*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **UN committee backs Bangladesh's request for extension of LDC graduation period:** The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has expressed a positive position regarding Bangladesh's request to extend its preparatory period for graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category until November 24, 2029. **CDP Chair Professor José Antonio Ocampo informed the Government of Bangladesh that, based on the Committee's assessment, it would be appropriate for the United Nations General Assembly to approve an extension of Bangladesh's preparatory period for LDC graduation. However, he emphasized that Bangladesh would need to make significant progress in implementing key domestic reforms to address its existing structural vulnerabilities during this extended period.** It may be recalled that on February 18, 2026, the Government of Bangladesh formally requested the CDP to extend the preparatory period for its graduation from the LDC category by three years, until November 24, 2029. Subsequently, on April 6, 2026, the Prime Minister wrote to the UN Secretary-General seeking his personal support on the matter. In its assessment, the CDP noted that Bangladesh has exceeded the graduation thresholds by a significant margin under all three LDC graduation criteria and faces a very low risk of falling below these thresholds in the near to medium term, said a press release (*BSS News*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **JS Speaker, Spanish Ambassador discuss bilateral ties, investment:** Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Gabriel Sistiaga paid a courtesy call on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, at his office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. During the meeting, the Speaker said bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Spain are excellent and friendly, noting that the European Union is Bangladesh's second-largest export destination. He said the Spanish government could make a significant contribution to Bangladesh's economic growth by increasing foreign investment in the country. The Speaker also said the latest parliamentary election in Bangladesh was held in a free, participatory and fair manner. He added that election observer teams from the European Union and several other countries contributed to strengthening democratic progress by recognising the credibility of the election, said a press release. **During the meeting, both sides underscored the need for increased European Union investment in Bangladesh in the post-middle-income transition period. They also exchanged views on people-to-people contacts, readymade garment exports, LNG and the ongoing energy crisis** (*BSS News*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Turkey's Foreign Minister Fidan is coming to Dhaka:** On Thursday, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is arriving in Dhaka for a three-day official visit. This will be the first visit of a Turkish foreign minister to Bangladesh under the new government, which has created the possibility of further deepening the diplomatic relations between the two countries. During the visit, he will have a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. In addition, the Foreign Minister is scheduled to meet with Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid, and officials from various levels of the government. On June 6, the final day of the visit, Turkey's Foreign Minister will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Bangladesh and Turkey have bilateral cooperation in various sectors. However, Turkey wishes to increase cooperation with Bangladesh in the defense sector. The issue of defense is expected to receive emphasis during Hakan Fidan's visit to Dhaka. It is noteworthy that in April this year, Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman visited Turkey. At that time, he invited the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit Bangladesh (*Naya Diganta*, [03 June 2026](#)).

## Security

- ◆ **India ramps up push-in bids after BJP win in WB:** India keeps making fresh bids to push people into Bangladesh unlawfully after India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's landslide election victory in the West Bengal state in early May. The Border Guard Bangladesh recently foiled several Indian push-in attempts while the Indian Border Security Force has reportedly gathered many people along the border to force them into Bangladesh as its nationals without verification. **Besides push-ins, other hostile incidents -- including the rise in border killing by the BSF, installing poles within 150 yards in the no-man's-land, tensions between Bangladeshis and the BSF -- have risen following the BJP election victory in West Bengal.** According to New Age statistics, 2,463 people were pushed into Bangladesh by Indian authorities, mostly the BSF, from May 7, 2025 to May 8, 2026. Of them, at least 223 were Rohingyas, including 50 registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in India. **But BGB headquarters data reveal that India pushed 2,344 people, including 126 Indian nationals, into Bangladesh between May 7, 2025 and January 26, 2026. BGB officials, however, claimed that no push-in incident took place from India after January 26 this year.** Despite repeated pledges by the neighbouring country to bring the number of border killings down to nil, the killing of Bangladeshis by the BSF and Indian citizens along the border in 2025 marked the highest point in the past five years (*New Age*, [02 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Border tension rises again over alleged push-ins from India; BGB takes firm stance:** Allegations of Bengali-speaking individuals being pushed into Bangladesh without following recognized international border management procedures are not new. **However, fresh allegations against India's BSF over illegal push-in practices have resurfaced over the past month. BGB has said it will not accept anyone without proper verification and formal procedures through designated checkpoints. As a result, women, men and children have remained stranded at several border zero lines in recent incidents.** Lieutenant Colonel Golam Mohammad Saiful Alam Khan, commander of the Jessore 49 BGB Battalion, told Bangla Tribune that the 10 individuals brought to the border through BSF channels were still at the India-Bangladesh border zero line. He said a formal letter had been sent to the BSF to resolve the matter, but no response had been received from the Indian side as of Monday evening. **Throughout May, allegations surfaced from several border areas over the pushing of Bangla-speaking people into Bangladesh after being labelled as "illegal immigrants" or**

**“Bangladeshi infiltrators.”** However, neither BGB nor any relevant government agency has provided consolidated data on how many people were allegedly pushed in or attempts were made to do so during the month. In response to growing allegations of push-ins, BGB has strengthened patrols and surveillance along border areas. Additional personnel have been deployed, intelligence activities intensified, and border communities engaged in monitoring efforts. BGB headquarters Deputy Director General (DDG) and force spokesperson Colonel Abu Hasnat Mohammad Mahmud Azam told Bangla Tribune: “BGB will not accept anyone pushed into the country illegally through the border. If any individual claims Bangladeshi citizenship, necessary steps will be taken after identity verification through designated checkpoints in accordance with international rules and procedures.” Human rights activists and border analysts say pushing individuals across borders without verifying citizenship contradicts international human rights principles and established repatriation procedures. They warn that such practices risk creating humanitarian pressure in border areas while also straining diplomatic relations between the two countries (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **India’s push-in attempts risk derailing thawing ties (Editorial):** Recent developments along India’s border with Bangladesh have become a critical issue with the potential to escalate into a diplomatic crisis. The latest statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed that “the BGB has firmly resisted three to four push-in attempts” confirms reports of a surge in efforts by Indian border authorities to push so-called illegal migrants into Bangladesh. Such actions are not only unacceptable but also violate international laws and protocols governing cross-border movement. Since the Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) recent electoral successes in the state legislative elections in West Bengal and Assam, anti-migrant rhetoric has taken on a more aggressive tone. In West Bengal, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced a policy of “detect, delete, and deport” to deal with alleged “illegal infiltrators” and called for the establishment of so-called “holding centres” across districts. Reports suggest that attempts to deport undocumented individuals have intensified in line with this campaign. **Even more concerning are reports indicating that some individuals whose names have been removed from voter rolls on various grounds fear detention in these centres. As a result, some are reportedly attempting to cross into Bangladesh illegally. Whether through forced push-ins or individuals fleeing across borders without valid travel documents, such actions violate established procedures governing migration and border management. These practices also pose risks to our national security.** In this context, State Minister Shama Obaed’s assertion that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will continue to resist push-in attempts is both justified and appropriate. She is also correct in emphasising that Bangladesh cannot accept any individual without proper verification of nationality, particularly given past instances in which India’s Supreme Court found that the Border Security Force (BSF) had wrongfully pushed Indian nationals into Bangladesh. **It is also worth noting that New Delhi’s complaints regarding delays in the nationality verification process often overlook practical constraints such as limited consular access, legal requirements, and discrepancies in identity records. These factors can significantly slow the process and should not be interpreted as unwillingness on Bangladesh’s part to cooperate. The developments unfolding along the border appear inconsistent with New Delhi’s recent efforts to improve relations with the new government of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman after bilateral ties suffered considerably following the fall of Sheikh Hasina. It is therefore incumbent upon India’s central government and BJP leadership to ensure that state-level authorities refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and adhere to established international norms in addressing undocumented migration. Failure to do so risks transforming an already sensitive issue into a full-blown diplomatic crisis** (*The Daily Star*, [02 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **30 Bangladeshis trapped in Russia-Ukraine war to be brought back:** The government has initiated steps to bring back 30 Bangladeshi migrants who were allegedly forced to fight for Russia in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and punished three recruiting agencies over fraudulent recruitment. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment announced the measures, according to a press release on Monday night. **Expatriates' welfare minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury said that the licences of three recruiting agencies involved in the crime had been cancelled and their security deposits forfeited. The agencies are RS International (RL-1424), Jabal-E-Noor International Ltd (RL-2405) and TS Overseas Ltd (RL-1755). Officials said that the agencies lured migrants with promises of high-paying jobs in Russia but fraudulently recruited them to serve as hired soldiers fighting for Russia in the Ukraine war. Several Bangladeshi migrants had already reportedly been killed and injured after being recruited under false pretences to join the conflict, officials said (New Age, [02 June 2026](#)).**

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