

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

05 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **“Bengali identity needs neither validation from Kolkata nor Muslim identity from Karachi”:** Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan stated on Thursday that Bengali identity requires no validation from Kolkata, nor does Muslim identity necessitate approval from Rawalpindi or Karachi, emphasising Bangladesh's unique national character. The event, titled ‘Ziaur Rahman’s Independent Non-Aligned Diplomacy in the Current Context’, was organised at the Press Institute Bangladesh to mark the 45th death anniversary of the former president, Ziaur Rahman. Swapan remarked that Bangladesh’s unique national identity helps determine which forces respect the country’s sovereignty and with whom it should cooperate to preserve that identity. Highlighting what he described as Ziaur Rahman’s diplomatic foresight, the minister said the former president had moved Bangladesh away from the one-party political structure that existed before 1975 and opened the way for multiparty democracy, a market-oriented economy, and broader acceptance among international donors and the Muslim world. According to Swapan, the cornerstone of Ziaur Rahman’s foreign policy was building friendships without creating enemies. He said the former president had succeeded in winning praise from Indian leaders while also promoting a multilateral approach to resolving regional issues through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The minister added that Ziaur Rahman’s emphasis on non-alignment and multilateral cooperation continues to serve as an important guide for the current government. He further noted that the strength required to pursue an independent foreign policy had been reinforced by last year’s mass uprising (*New Age*, [05 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Torch rally by Inquilab Mancha demanding justice for Osman Hadi murder:** A torch rally was held in Shahbagh, the capital, demanding a full investigation into the involvement of India in the murder of Shaheed Osman Hadi, identification of the masterminds behind the killing, the swift return of the fugitive accused to the country, and ensuring a speedy trial. People from various classes and professions, students, and leaders and activists of social and cultural organizations participated in it. Participants in the torch rally raised various slogans demanding justice for the murder of martyr Osman Hadi and called for the perpetrators to be brought under the law as soon as possible. At a brief assembly held at the foot of the Raju Sculpture after the rally, Masudur Rahman Adnan, a central member of Inquilab Mancha, said that after coming to power, this government had assured Inquilab Mancha that it was committed to ensuring justice for the murder of Osman Hadi. However, even after three months of starting the activities, no visible progress has been seen on this matter. To end the culture of impunity, it is crucial to ensure a speedy and impartial trial of this murder. He further said that in the past, Indian intelligence agencies have been accused of carrying out murders through covert operations in various countries. Therefore, the matter of Osman Hadi's murder needs to be investigated impartially and according to international standards. Addressing the government, Abdullah Al Jaber said that even though three months have passed since coming to power, there has been no visible progress regarding justice for Osman Hadi's murder. We want to know from the government, concerning the discussions reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about bringing back the absconding suspects from

India, what is the timeline for this? He said that martyr Osman Hadi had called for ensuring justice for his murder in the final days of his life. We believe that the justice for this murder in Bangladesh will be served one day (*Jugantor*, [04 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Jamaat holds protest rally in Dhaka against fuel, power price hikes:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami on Thursday staged a protest rally and demonstration in the capital against repeated increases in fuel and electricity prices, as well as the rising cost of essential commodities. The programme, organised by the party's Dhaka city units, was held at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at around 5 pm. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar urged the government to curb corruption instead of increasing electricity tariffs. He claimed that public dissatisfaction with the government had become evident within three months of its assumption of office and alleged that people were expressing frustration through slogans directed at ministers. Parwar alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its election pledges and accused it of ignoring public opinion on various issues, including constitutional reforms and electricity pricing (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP protests against the increase in electricity and fuel prices:** The National Citizens Party (NCP) Dhaka Metropolitan North branch held a protest rally in the capital against the increase in electricity and fuel prices. The rally took place on Thursday (June 4) night from Banglamotor to Shahbagh Road. Participants in the protest included NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, Dhaka Metropolitan North NCP Convenor Ariful Islam Adib, and National Youth Force President Tariqul Islam, along with leaders and activists from various levels of the party. Speaking at the pre-rally meeting, NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari said that a month after claiming there were no plans to increase prices for two years, the government hiked the prices of electricity and fuel. This government is essentially inconsistent; it says one thing in the morning, another thing at noon, and yet another thing at night. Where will the people go? (*Jugantor*, [05 June 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **PM chairs meeting on Teesta Master Plan implementation:** A meeting on the implementation of the Teesta Master Plan was held Thursday with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Cabinet Division office in the Bangladesh Secretariat Wednesday afternoon, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Jahidul Islam Rony. A video documentary on the current condition of the Teesta River and the Teesta Barrage was screened during the meeting. Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, State Minister Forhad Hossain Azad, Prime Minister's Adviser for Policy and Strategy Dr Zahed Ur Rahman and Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar were present at the meeting, among others (*Prothom Alo*, [05 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Cabinet approves policy to attract investment from Bangladeshis living abroad:** The cabinet today approved the "Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Incentive Scheme Policy, 2026", aimed at encouraging Bangladeshis living abroad to invest in the country. The policy was approved at a cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat tonight and chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, according to a press release issued by the Cabinet Division. The Cabinet Division, however, did not disclose the specific benefits or incentives outlined in the policy. Meanwhile, the cabinet approved the draft of the "Bangladesh Medical University (Amendment) Act, 2026". Once the amendment becomes law, Bangladesh Medical University

will be able to form profit and non-profit companies or acquire shares in other companies. The cabinet also formally congratulated Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on being elected president of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (*The Daily Star*, [04 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **CPD warns US ‘forced labour’ claims may mask trade pressure:** Washington’s growing use of “forced labour” provisions against Bangladesh is emerging as a major threat to the country’s export competitiveness, with economists warning that punitive tariffs could inflict economic damage while doing little to address underlying labour challenges. **Speaking at a briefing on Bangladesh’s economic outlook at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on Thursday, Distinguished Fellow Professor Dr Mustafizur Rahman argued that the United States is increasingly using labour-related concerns as a trade instrument, placing Bangladesh under mounting pressure at a time when its export sector is already facing global uncertainties.** He warned that under the current tariff structure, Bangladeshi products entering the US market could face a combined duty burden of around 44%, significantly eroding the country’s competitive advantage. Mustafizur argued that Washington’s assessment is based largely on its own labour framework and often overlooks the socio-economic realities of developing countries (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB says Dirty money legalisation plan would grant state-backed protection to corruption:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed dismay over reports that the government is considering a provision to allow the legalisation of untaxed money in the proposed 2026-27 budget. **It called the plan unconstitutional, discriminatory, and akin to providing legal protection to corruption under state patronage.** In a statement issued on Thursday, the anti-graft watchdog reacted to media reports suggesting the government is considering an unconditional amnesty to legalise undisclosed funds in the national budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, leaving no room for any authority to raise questions. TIB said providing such a corruption-enabling facility under the pretext of reviving the stagnant real estate sector, increasing industrial investment and accelerating economic growth would be “self-destructive” for the government. The organisation said the move would effectively normalise corruption and irregularities through state patronage. Demanding that such opportunities be permanently abolished, TIB also called for strict criteria to be followed if the government proceeds with a reported plan to facilitate the repatriation of money laundered abroad through a general amnesty (*bdnews24.com*, [04 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Foreign Minister Khalilur to visit Russia on Jun 7-9 for talks:** Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman will embark on an official visit to Russia from Jun 7 to 9 at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. **The Russian ministry said the talks between the two foreign ministers will take place on June 8 and will cover bilateral and international issues.** “A special emphasis will be placed on our interaction at the UN as Khalilur Rahman has been elected President of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly,” the briefing noted (*bdnews24.com*, [04 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Turkish FM arrives in Dhaka on two-day visit:** Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan arrived in Dhaka on a two-day official visit as Bangladesh and Türkiye seek to expand strategic

cooperation and strengthen trade, investment and humanitarian engagement. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam received him upon arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. **During the visit, Dr Rahman and his Turkish counterpart are scheduled to hold bilateral talks on Friday, focusing on a wide range of issues, including trade and investment, security cooperation, regional developments and matters of mutual interest.** Fidan is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and visit Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, underscoring Türkiye's continued support for displaced Rohingyas and humanitarian efforts in Bangladesh (*BSS News*, [05 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **UAE pledges support for Bangladesh's energy sector:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assured Bangladesh of all possible cooperation in the energy sector. The assurance was given today by UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Ali AlHamoudi, during a meeting with Aninda Islam Amit, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. During the meeting, both sides discussed a number of issues of mutual interest. The state minister said the UAE has historically been one of Bangladesh's major and reliable sources of crude oil and petroleum product imports. In particular, the state minister highlighted the UAE's efforts to establish itself as a hub for green hydrogen production and expressed Bangladesh's interest in receiving investment and technical assistance to convert fertilizer factories and heavy steel industries from natural gas-based operations to green hydrogen or green ammonia (*BSS News*, [05 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks foreign investments in D-8 energy forum:** Power, energy and mineral resources minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood has sought foreign investments in the energy sector to ensure energy security of the country. "Bangladesh requires substantial investments in energy infrastructure to support industrial growth, trade competitiveness and economic prosperity," he said while speaking at 'Baku Energy Forum 2026' in Azerbaijan, according to a press release received. He said the government is committed to a 'Bangladesh First' approach where energy security, affordability and sustainability remain central to the country's national development strategy. The minister attended the Ministerial Plenary Session (Segment 1) on International Cooperation for a Resilient and Diversified Energy Future in Baku, Azerbaijan on June 1. Addressing the session, he sought investment in onshore and offshore bidding rounds, land-based LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) terminal, second oil refinery and expansion of renewable energy (*BSS News*, [04 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Swapon seeks Australian support to prevent technological misuse:** Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon has sought Australian cooperation in utilizing their knowledge, experience and technological expertise in forming a strong and independent media commission and in preventing misuse of AI. He sought the support when Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle paid a courtesy call on him at his secretariat office here. Swapon said spread of disinformation and misinformation through artificial intelligence (AI) and various social media platforms has now become a major global and national challenge. The minister informed the Australian envoy about various people-oriented initiatives undertaken by Bangladesh government for public welfare, including the Family Card and Farmer Card programmes, as well as their economic significance (*BSS News*, [04 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khalilur Rahman floats continuing both his roles concurrently:** "Will I leave this (foreign minister's) job? Is that the question? Don't be so hurried. There is precedence," he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while responding to a question. Dr Rahman

noted that Bangladesh last held the prestigious position forty years ago (1986-87), when then Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury was elected President of the 41st General Assembly. “I was his private secretary and we worked with him. He worked in both posts full-time,” Dr Khalilur said. Those who follow foreign affairs have been informally discussing whether Dr Khalilur would step down from his current responsibilities as Bangladesh's Foreign Minister to serve full-time at the UN, or attempt to carry out both roles simultaneously. **The foreign minister, however, made it clear during an informal interactive dialogue at the UN on May 13 that resignation is not the only option** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BSF attempts to push-in 28 people in Chapainawabganj border:** India's Border Security Force (BSF) attempted to push 28 people across the border into Bangladesh through the Bangabari border area of Gomastapur upazila in Chapainawabganj. However, they were unable to enter Bangladeshi territory after being blocked by members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). A flag meeting between the BGB and the BSF was held on Thursday afternoon over the matter. At the meeting held at the Bangabari border, the BSF informed the BGB that it would discuss the issue with its higher authorities and seek a resolution. This information was provided to journalists after the meeting by Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Ariful Islam Masum, commander of BGB's 16 Battalion. **The BGB commander said that earlier, in the early hours of Wednesday, BSF personnel had attempted to push the 28 individuals into Bangladesh. The attempt failed due to resistance from the BGB. Of the 28 people, 12 are men, 10 are women, and 6 are children. They are currently staying in the zero line, or no-man's-land, along the border** (*Prothom Alo*, [04 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB foils push-in of 33 through Lalmonirhat border:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) foiled attempts by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to push 33 people into Bangladesh through three separate border points in Lalmonirhat early Friday. The incidents occurred in the border areas under Hatibandha, Patgram and Aditmari upazilas of the district. According to BGB and local sources, BSF attempted to push in 11 people through the Barakhata BOP area in Hatibandha, 10 more through the Paishattabari BOP area in Patgram, and 12 other people through the Durgapur Dighaltari border area in Aditmari. On information, BGB personnel rushed to the spots and took preventive measures along the border. **With the support of local residents, the paramilitary force successfully blocked the attempted push-ins. The individuals involved were unable to enter Bangladesh and were staying in the no-man's land or zero-line area, sources said** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 June 2026](#)).

Editorial/Opinion

- ◆ **A flawed remark that weakens Dhaka's position (Editorial):** The home minister's remark that deaths resulting from border-related crimes or illegal crossing should not be labelled as 'border killings' unsettlingly echoes the legally and morally flawed Indian narrative that has for long sought to manipulate the definition of border killings while continuing to justify its brutal border management practices. The remark is also regrettably unbecoming

of Bangladesh's home minister. Responding to journalists at the secretariat on June 2, the minister said that 'if a foreign force enters our border or the zero line and carries out a killing, it can only then be termed a border killing.' Such a definition is deeply problematic. Although there is no rigid or universal definition of 'border killing' in either domestic or international law, the term is widely used in political and rights discourse to designate extrajudicial executions or the disproportionate use of lethal force by state border security agencies against civilians, whether they are illegal entrants or smugglers. International rights instruments and covenants, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, make it clear that the use of lethal force against anyone, trespassers or smugglers, constitutes a violation of the right to life. A more comprehensive understanding of 'border killing' is provided by political scientists and scholars of border studies, who define it as the lethal use of force by border guards or military personnel against civilians attempting to cross international boundaries without authorisation. Border killings are also widely regarded as a form of extrajudicial violence because they circumvent established legal and judicial processes. **This definition encompasses the numerous instances of border violence committed by Indian border guards that have claimed the lives of more than 1,250 Bangladeshis since 2000. There have also been many incidents in which India's Border Security Force personnel crossed into the Bangladeshi territory and tortured or killed Bangladeshis, mostly farmers working in fields. At a time when Dhaka should be intensifying its efforts to compel Delhi to comply with the international law, border protocols and bilateral agreements, the home minister's remarks risk downplaying the gravity of the violence perpetrated by Indian border guards over many years. India has consistently sought to justify such violence through the inhumane argument that its Border Security Force is dealing with smugglers and criminals even though the use of lethal force against smugglers or petty offenders remains incompatible with the international law and violates bilateral agreements. The home minister must exercise greater caution and responsibility in commenting on issues of such seriousness. At the same time, Dhaka should work to internationalise the matter by raising it more forcefully in relevant international forums. It should also strongly respond to India's push-in strategy, particularly as reports suggest that such incidents have become increasingly frequent in recent times (New Age, 04 June 2026).**

- ◆ **No reflection to stop deadly weapons despite promise (Opinion):** The Bangladesh-India border is one of the longest and most dangerous in the world. Every year, many Bangladeshi citizens lose their lives along this border. In the past five years, 134 people have been killed here. In the first five months of the current year, eight people have been killed. Most of them died from gunfire by India's border security force, the Border Security Force (BSF). Most recently, on Tuesday night, two Bangladeshis were injured by BSF gunfire in the Kalganj border area of Satkhira. **Bangladesh has long demanded that such deaths or killings at the border be brought down to zero. India has also assured that lethal weapons will not be used at the border. However, the reality of that assurance has never been seen. Although this issue is discussed in every border conference, the killings have not stopped. Human rights organizations describe such incidents as 'extrajudicial killings.'** In such a situation, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed's recent comments have sparked discussions in various circles. In response to journalists' questions at the Secretariat on Tuesday, he said, 'If the forces of another country come to our border or zero line and kill someone, we can call that border killing. But if someone is involved in a crime or enters illegally within our border or their border, they will deal with it according to their own law. Calling this a border killing would not be appropriate.' **Experts say that, according to Bangladeshi, Indian, or**

international law, not all killings that occur on our border may be considered border killings. However, all are extrajudicial killings. More importantly, there cannot be an opportunity to avoid legally defining border killings and protecting human rights. The human rights organization Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) reported in a press release last year that at least 305 Bangladeshis were killed by the BSF at the border over the past ten years. 282 people were injured. Dr. Sahab Enam Khan, a professor in the Department of International Relations at Jahangirnagar University, told Somokal that, according to Indian law, there is no provision for the use of lethal force at the border. But India repeatedly violates this. Legally, not all deaths can be called border killings, but most of them are. And, of course, all deaths at the border are extrajudicial killings, which is a major human rights violation. It can be said that Bangladeshis are falling victim to extrajudicial killings at the hands of the Indian forces at the border. If someone illegally crosses the border and comes to the country, and then is killed, it cannot be called a border killing (*Samakal*, [04 June 2026](#)).

[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by Dr. Ankita Sanyal]