

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

09 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **TIB report on law and order based on newspaper clippings, not investigation:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Monday dismissed the recent report by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on the country's law-and-order situation, saying it was based on newspaper clippings rather than independent investigations and did not reflect official crime statistics. "TIB prepares its reports based on newspaper clippings. It does not conduct investigations or verify every incident before making statements. TIB is not a government agency. For the actual picture, one should rely on crime statistics maintained by the police and the Ministry of Home Affairs," he said. While talking to reporters at the secretariat, the minister said TIB's assessment should not be considered the definitive picture of law and order in the country (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM for innovative, sustainable production methods to remaining competitive in global market:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman stressed adopting innovative and sustainable production methods for survival in competitive global market, saying consumers are now far more aware than before. "Consumers are now far more aware than before. They consider not only the quality of products but also the ethics of production, social responsibility, and environmental impact. Therefore, adopting innovative and sustainable production methods is essential for survival in the competitive international marketplace," he said in a message on the eve of the World Accreditation Day 2026. About the day, the Prime Minister said, "The World Accreditation Day reminds us every year of the importance of safety, quality, and trust in the products and services we use in our daily lives" (*BSS News*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt to amend cyber security act to check misinformation:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Monday said the government has taken initiative to amend the cyber security act (CSA) aiming to check rumor, misinformation and spreading of misleading contents through using defaming and artificial intelligence (AI). "It is necessary to revise the CSA act as the existing act does not cover the arbitrariness of the contents which are being spreading on the social media by assassinating the character of country's important political persons and their family members in the name of freedom of speech," he said. He said the government is working to determine a new definition of 'cyber space' including all the platforms like social media, virtual media and online. The drafting of the new cyber security act has already been started. Under the new act, he said new definition will be included for rumor, misinformation, defamation and confusing contents, saying that new provisions for punishment aiming to prevent and broadcasting of such defaming contents on the social media will be insert in the revised law (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **People's Rights Council announces protest against push-ins and Indian aggression:** Dhaka Metropolitan People's Rights Council has announced a program of protest marches to protest against the forced push-ins by India at the Bangladesh border and aggressive behavior at the border. The party has announced that the protest march will start from in front

of Al-Razi Complex in Paltan, the capital, at 4 pm on Wednesday (June 10). **Abu Hanif, a senior council member and media coordinator of Ganadhikar Parishad, stated that this program has been organized to demand the protection of the country's sovereignty, border security, and national interests.** Recently, incidents of pushback at the border have increased at an alarming rate. The attempt to forcibly introduce people into Bangladesh goes against international law, human rights, and the principles of mutual respect and cooperation with neighboring countries. He further said that the people of the country must take a united stand against any kind of aggressive activities at the border and behaviors that threaten Bangladesh's sovereignty. The People's Rights Council wants to build public opinion on this issue through peaceful and democratic programs (*Jugantor*, [09 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Abidul's post about Push-in went viral:** Student League leader Abidul Islam Khan posted a status on his Facebook **about India's push-in incident** at the border. The status, given on Monday (8 June) afternoon, has already gone viral. His post is given below verbatim. "A silent revolution has happened at the border. You know that in the past few days, regular push-in attempts have been taking place at the border. Between last Wednesday and Saturday, the BGB thwarted 21 push-in attempts by the BSF, in which more than 200 people were attempted to be pushed into Bangladesh. These events are not mere numbers. Behind each incident, there is a separate story. At the Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah, the BSF took 30-35 people in a prison van to the border and tried to carry out a push-in. But the BGB and local villagers together formed an immediate resistance, and the BSF was forced to put the people back in the van and take them away." In Lalmonirhat's Aditmari, Hatibandha, and Patgram, attempts were made to push 30 people across the border at night. With the help of local residents, the BGB strengthened border surveillance and foiled all these attempts. In Panchagarh, the BSF left a group of 10 people, including women and children, at the zero line and moved away. The BGB prevented their entry, and the BSF also did not take them back, resulting in these people being stuck under the open sky for more than 36 hours in sun and rain at the zero line. Today, the BSF was also forced to bring them back. **The most important issue that is not being widely discussed in the media is the character of this resistance. Alongside the BGB, the general people of the area are playing the most crucial role in this resistance. Local residents have been actively involved in this defense; the BGB is conducting joint patrols with villagers and gathering intelligence on border activities from them. The BGB has also regained its old strength and morale.** At the Netrokona border, the BGB is patrolling all night using megaphones, searchlights, and whistles. Joint patrols are ongoing in various border areas, including Panchagarh, involving Union Parishad chairmen, members, and notable citizens. **The villagers are voluntarily keeping night watches on the border out of a sense of civic duty. There is no chance to underestimate this. Such displays of courage in the history of the past government's weakness on Bangladesh's borders give us renewed strength.** Currently, the BGB has deployed a large number of soldiers on the borders of 26 districts, with patrols running 24 hours in four shifts. India diplomatically claims that these are lawful expulsions of illegal intruders, but pushing people into prison vans at night with the lights turned off on the border without any proper verification process cannot be called a legal procedure. What is happening on the border at this moment is not just a matter of security. It is a matter of sovereignty. And the soldiers of the BGB are answering that question, with the ordinary people of this country standing by them and keeping night watches on the border (*Jugantor*, 08 June 2026).

Economy

- ◆ **Saif Powertec eyes re-entry as consortium it heads proposes NCT operations:** A consortium of three domestic companies, led by Saif Powertec Limited, has proposed to operate the much-discussed New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) at Chittagong Port for 15 years. The development was made public on Monday, despite the proposal being sent to the shipping ministry on Apr 29. The government, however, on Thursday directed the Chittagong Port Authority to continue discussions with Dubai-based DP World on the lease of the NCT. The consortium comprises Cosmos Enterprises and Everest Port Services Limited (*bdnews24.com*, [08 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chinese economic zone project finally set for approval:** The proposal to establish a Chinese Economic Zone in Bangladesh was first discussed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Dhaka in 2016, when the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding. However, the initiative remained stalled for years due to various complications. **Nearly a decade later, the Tk 40 billion-project is finally set to move forward and could receive approval ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's forthcoming visit to China.** Sources said the project will be placed before the fourth meeting of the National Economic Council under the new government on Tuesday. According to the Planning Commission, the economic zone will be developed on approximately 783 acres of land in Anwara, Chattogram, under a government-to-government (G2G) arrangement. The zone is expected to generate employment for around 100,000 people and attract investments worth approximately US\$500 million. The project is scheduled to begin in January 2027 and be completed by 2031, with an implementation period of five years. The total estimated cost is Tk 41.89 billion (4189 crore), of which Tk 17.22 billion will come from the government, while the remaining Tk 24.67 billion will be financed through Chinese assistance. (*Prothom Alo*, [09 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh's trade deficit rose by \$ 8 billion in 5 years:** Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir on Monday told parliament that the country's trade deficit increased by nearly US \$8 billion over the five fiscal years, reaching US \$24.16 billion in FY25 from \$16.24 billion in FY21 for what he described as wrong policies of the previous governments. "The country's trade deficit has widened due to wrong policies pursued by the previous governments," he said, replying to a starred question from ruling party lawmaker Jashim Uddin Ahmed (Chittagong-14). The commerce minister said the global energy crisis, hike in prices due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the dollar crisis and international market conditions have also played an important role in the rise of the trade deficit (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh advises India to follow diplomatic process:** The government has pushed back against reported attempts to send people across the border from India, calling for adherence to agreed "diplomatic norms". **The way people are being pushed out of India is "absolutely unacceptable" and both countries should follow "diplomatic procedures" to return any illegal immigrants, if any, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said on Monday. Shama said Bangladesh expects New Delhi to address the issue through diplomatic channels and established mechanisms.** She added that Dhaka expects India's stated willingness to adjust to Bangladesh's evolving circumstances to be reflected in practical

steps on the ground. On Monday, Shama said any repatriation of undocumented migrants or prisoners should follow diplomatic procedures, which is essential for “improving bilateral relations”. “If they do it through this push-in, it will definitely not be good for us,” she said. Shama said the BGB was firmly resisting such attempts, saying: “we are not allowing push-ins in any way” (*bdnews24.com*, [08 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dhaka, Moscow discuss trade, energy, investment cooperation:** Bangladesh and Russia on Monday discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in energy, trade and investment, while reviewing the current status and future prospects of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, during which the two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues, a senior official told UNB. The foreign minister is on a three-day visit to Russia at the invitation of his Russian counterpart. Following the bilateral talks, the two foreign ministers addressed a joint media briefing. This marks Dr Khalilur’s first visit to Russia in his current capacity. Ahead of the visit, Russia described the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant as the flagship project of bilateral cooperation, saying it is expected to generate up to 10 percent of Bangladesh’s total electricity once fully operational (*Dhaka Tribunal*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka seeks duty-free, quota-free access for Bangladeshi products in Russia:** Dhaka has sought duty-free, quota-free access for Bangladeshi products in the Russian market. Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman made the request during an official bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Monday, said a press release received in Dhaka. The two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and their wider engagement and cooperation in the regional and international forums including the United Nations. Delegates present at the meeting from the Bangladesh side were Humaiun Kobir and Nazrul Islam. Khalilur Rahma is currently visiting Moscow at the invitation of his Russian counterpart. He further requested Russia to support Bangladesh for concluding an FTA between Bangladesh and Eurasia Economic Commission (EEC). Currently, EEC has five members namely Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Khalilur Rahman sought Russian support for Bangladesh to be an official member of BRICS and SCO to which Russian Foreign Minister replied positively (*Prothom Alo*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks 100,000 workers in Russian job market:** Bangladesh and Russia are working to substantially expand manpower cooperation, with Dhaka proposing an increase in the number of Bangladeshi workers in Russia from the current nearly 10,000 to 100,000 within the next year. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman made the proposal during his ongoing three-day official visit to Russia, according to a foreign ministry press release here this morning. **The Russian authorities agreed to work expeditiously on the proposal, and both sides are expected to complete the necessary formalities soon, it added.** The proposed tenfold increase in Bangladeshi manpower exports emerged as a key outcome of the discussions between the two countries (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks to repatriate nationals stranded in Russia:** Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has requested his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov to facilitate the repatriation of Bangladeshis who are stranded in Russia. The request was made during a meeting between the two foreign ministers in Moscow on Monday, according to the foreign ministry. **Lavrov has assured his government’s full consideration of the matter, the ministry said in a statement.** Reports have emerged that some Bangladeshi youths were sent to Russia under the promise of

work and were later forced to take part in Russia's military campaign in Ukraine (bdnews24.com, 08 June 2026).

- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks Spain's support at UNGA:** State Minister for Foreign affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Monday sought Spain's support at the United Nations general Assembly (UNGA) on Bangladesh's LDC graduation. **Both sides underscored the importance of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) to enhance bilateral trade.** The issues were discussed when Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Gabriel María Sistiaga Ochoa de Chinchetru paid a courtesy call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) has recommended that Bangladesh's Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation be postponed until November 24, 2029. The two sides exchanged views on regional and global issues, underscoring the importance of peace, stability, and enhanced international cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the mutually beneficial partnership, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, supply chain, railway, sports, culture, education and skills development, migration, people-to-people exchange, and peace and security. Both sides also discussed about holding bilateral consultations and conducting high-level visits to add momentum to the bilateral relations (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 June 2026](https://www.dhakatribune.com)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh's labour market in Mauritius set to reopen soon:** Bangladesh's labour market in Mauritius is set to reopen after remaining closed for a long period, as the two countries have reached a policy-level agreement to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) soon. The decision was made during a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh's Minister for Labour and Employment and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ariful Haque Chowdhury and Mauritius' Minister of Labour, Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem, on the sidelines of the 114th International Labour Conference in Geneva on Monday. The meeting focused on the current situation of Bangladeshi workers in Mauritius, the reopening of the previously closed labour market and future areas of bilateral cooperation. Both the sides agreed to expedite the signing of a MoU governing the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers for employment in Mauritius. Highlighting the capabilities of Bangladesh's skilled workforce, the minister said that, in addition to the workers for the textile sector, Bangladesh is prepared to send doctors, engineers, nurses, accountants and other skilled professionals to Mauritius. At the conclusion of the meeting, he formally invited the Mauritian labour minister to visit Bangladesh (*Prothom Alo*, [09 June 2026](https://www.prothomalo.com)).
- ◆ **What message did the Turkish foreign minister leave behind?:** In that meeting, three frameworks were announced to elevate bilateral relations to the next level. These include: annual '2+2 dialogues' involving the Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries; upgrading the annual foreign ministry-level meetings to the ministerial level; and forming a consultative committee under the foreign ministry to further strengthen political, economic, and strategic cooperation. At present, major and emerging global powers regularly hold annual '2+2 dialogues' with key partners, bringing together foreign and defence ministers. These meetings address not only bilateral and international relations but also crucial defence and security issues. Turkey currently holds regular meetings under this framework with four countries—the United States, Japan, the Netherlands and India. Bangladesh has now become the fifth country to join that list. Turkey also holds '2+2 dialogues' with Ukraine and Indonesia, though on a less regular basis. **According to diplomatic observers, the three new institutional**

frameworks announced during Hakan Fidan's visit indicate that Ankara no longer wishes to confine its relationship with Dhaka to trade and development cooperation alone. Instead, Ankara is seeking to place bilateral ties on a more institutionalised and long-term footing by incorporating security, defence and strategic cooperation. The move also reflects Turkey's growing strategic interest in Bangladesh. Turkey has begun to view Bangladesh not merely as a bilateral partner but as a strategic one. The '2+2 dialogue' framework is generally introduced with countries where security and defence cooperation has reached a significant level. Bringing foreign and defence ministers together under a single framework signals an intention to elevate the relationship beyond trade and development cooperation to include security and geopolitical dimensions. Turkey seeks to establish a long-term and institutionalised relationship with Bangladesh. Relationships that depend heavily on individuals or particular governments often weaken with political change. By introducing annual foreign minister-level meetings and establishing an advisory committee, Turkey is signalling its interest in placing the relationship on a regular, structured and enduring footing (Prothom Alo, [09 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Chinese ambassador calls on Education Minister:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a courtesy call on Education Minister Dr. A.N.M. Ehsanul Hoque Milon at the ministry office. Prime Minister's Education Adviser Dr. Mahdi Amin was present during the meeting. Welcoming the ambassador, the minister expressed gratitude to China for its continued cooperation with Bangladesh in education and other sectors. **"There remains significant scope for expanding bilateral cooperation in Chinese language education, teacher training, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and several other areas," he said.** During the meeting, both sides expressed optimism that the longstanding relations and cooperation between Bangladesh and China would continue to grow in the coming years (BSS News, [08 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **India's BSF pulls back 10 people after 72-hour border standoff at Panchagarh zero line:** The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has **taken back 10 people, including men, men and children, after nearly 72 hours of tension at the Boro Bari border in Panchagarh Sadar Upazila.** The standoff at the South Pradhanpara border in Haribhasa Union has now ended, according to Lt Col Sirajul Islam, commanding officer of Nilphamari 56 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion. On Sunday night, the BSF reportedly contacted the BGB and expressed its willingness to take the group back. **The BGB agreed and pressed the BSF to remove them from the border area, Sirajul said.** He added that the BGB had maintained from the outset that any form of push-in was unacceptable (bdnews24.com, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **After 48-hour standoff, India takes back 11 people from Thakurgaon border:** The Indian Border Security Force has **taken back 11 people, including a sixth-grade student and her pregnant mother, after they remained stranded for nearly 48 hours at the zero line along the Mashalgaon border in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon.** The group comprised three men, four women and four children. **Among them were sixth-grader Rozina Akhter, her nine-month-pregnant mother and her younger brother, who has a disability.** The group had been staying at the zero line in difficult conditions after an alleged attempt by the BSF to push them into Bangladesh through an area near border pillar 349/7-S under the Mashalgaon Border Outpost in the early hours of June 6. During preliminary questioning, the individuals told BGB

members that they had been living in Dum Dum area of West Bengal. **They alleged that Indian law enforcement agencies detained them on May 26 and held them at a designated location along with hundreds of others. Later, they were divided into smaller groups and taken to different points along the border.** Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Al Moin Hasan said the BGB has strengthened surveillance and intensified patrols in the area to prevent any unauthorised cross-border movement. 'The BGB remains alert to prevent any form of illegal infiltration and push-ins along the border,' he said (*New Age*, [08 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **India claims deporting 5,000 to Bangladesh:** India's West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari has claimed that the Indian authorities have deported nearly 5,000 Bangladeshi citizens since prime minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party swept to power in West Bengal last month. Suvendu's remark came amid Bangladesh's repeated call for following due process instead of pushing people into Bangladesh illegally. 'We have started the work of deporting Bangladeshi infiltrators who do not fall under the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Act,' Adhikari said, disclosing that the government had 'established holding centres in all districts of the state' in May. 'From these centres, 4,800 Bangladeshi infiltrators have already been deported so far...Another 836 people are currently in the holding centres... We are making arrangements to deport the 836 soon,' Adhikari said. **Meanwhile, Bangladesh state minister for foreign affairs Shama Obaed Islam said that the foreign ministry had already sent 12 to 13 diplomatic communications to New Delhi regarding recent incidents of push-in attempt. Referring to recent repatriation efforts, the state minister said that Bangladesh had recently brought back 34 citizens from Chennai through the existing legal process** (*New Age*, [08 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Families spend days in sun, rain without food:** Scenes of people passing days in no-man's-land of the Bangladesh-Indian border over the past few days reveal a looming humanitarian crisis fuelled by relentless push-in attempts by the Indian Border Security Force. In the early hours of Monday, the BSF took back 10 individuals from the zero line near Panchagarh along India after leaving them there for about 70 hours, without any food and shelter. Similar incidents repeated across the border, stretching from Bangladesh's north to southwest, as the BSF looked for a chance to push the people into Bangladesh. **The BSF arbitrarily identified them as Bangladeshi citizens, without the support of any documents and bypassed the law of their own country that requires verification of identities of individuals before deportation. Different media reports and international human rights bodies said that Indian Muslims were being deported to Bangladesh through push-ins illegally. BGB officials said that it identified India pushed 126 Indian people into Bangladesh since May 7, 2025 and the BGB pushed them back to India. Bangladesh had taken clear stance that it would not allow anyone to push into Bangladesh and India had to follow the legal channel with national identity verification** (*New Age*, [09 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Defence Adviser calls for space technologies for security, development:** Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam called for launching Bangladesh's own satellite and maximizing the use of space research and remote sensing technologies to strengthen national security, defence capabilities and disaster management. **During a visit to the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) at Agargaon here, he directed the authorities concerned to take necessary initiatives for launching a national satellite and enhancing SPARRSO's role in border surveillance, strategic mapping and geospatial intelligence. The Defence Adviser said the**

SPARRSO-generated satellite data and research outputs should be made more accessible for the operational and research activities of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force, according to a press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate this afternoon. Highlighting the importance of technological advancement, he emphasized the incorporation of advanced satellite image-processing systems, artificial intelligence (AI) and modern remote sensing technologies to further strengthen SPARRSO's technical capabilities and human resources as well. Referring to Bangladesh's vulnerability to natural disasters, Dr Shamsul Islam instructed the authorities to make more effective use of remote sensing technologies for early warning, monitoring and damage assessment of cyclones, floods and droughts (BSS News, [08 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]