

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

12 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Country's improvement impossible unless it is free from India's control:** The senior deputy leader of Islami Andolan Bangladesh Maulana Mufti Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim said that as long as we cannot get free from India's control and cannot openly identify India as the enemy, real development in this country is impossible. He also strangle criticised the present political situation of Bangladesh. Speaking about post-election coalition formation and future plans, he said, 'We had announced a platform or a box in favor of Islam and invited everyone. We will unite with those who come with us for the national interest of the country and for the sake of Islam. But if no one joins, we will try to move forward alone if necessary.' When asked whether there is any possibility of compromise or forming a coalition with the current government, he rejected it. **Regarding foreign policy and border tensions, Chormonai said that currently the country's border situation is extremely tense. It has been proven through voting at the United Nations who our enemies are and who our friends are. Yet those whom we considered friends have stood against us** (*Jugantor*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India's push is against international law:** At the central executive meeting of the Khelafat Majlis, leaders expressed deep concern, saying that over the past month, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has been illegally crossing into Bangladesh. There are various procedures and steps to send back any Bangladeshi who is illegally staying in India or committing a crime, such as arresting them and returning them through prisoner exchange agreements or resolving the issue after verifying citizenship through bilateral diplomatic channels. But India has bypassed these legal methods and engaged in attempts to illegally cross into the Bangladesh border. **This behavior is not that of a good neighbor. We are deeply concerned about India's misconduct. As an independent and sovereign state, Bangladesh can never accept a one-sided arrangement like push-in. If India claims to be a responsible democratic country in this region, it must respect the existing prisoner exchange agreement with Bangladesh both legally and morally. Forcing someone into Bangladesh just because they speak Bengali or based on their religious identity is in no way acceptable. Push-in is not only inhumane but also against international law. In this situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh needs to take a stronger diplomatic stance.** Along with strongly protesting to India's central government against push-in attempt, they should urge for proper implementation of the border agreements. This should not be limited to sending formal letters; if necessary, the matter should be raised in international forums. We commend the Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) for taking the utmost measures to handle the push-in situation and call for this vigilance to continue (*Amar Desh*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Santu Larma says Jumma people 'deceived' over CHT Accord:** Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, better known as Santu Larma, president of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), said the BNP government in the early 1980s settled about 500,000 outsiders in the hill region. "We have not seen any role of this BNP government behind the signing of the agreement [CHT Peace Accord]," Larma, also chairman of the Parbatya Chattogram Regional Council, told the Chittagong Hill Tracts Headman Network Conference at the

Rangamati District Council hall room on Thursday (June 11). "We signed the accord on December 2, 1997, under an Awami League government. Many years have passed but we have not seen any possibility of implementing this agreement [CHT Peace Accord]. We have been deceived. The Awami League government at that time deceived our Jumma people," Larma added (*The Daily Star*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Jamaat holds protest rally, terms proposed budget 'anti-people, loot-friendly':** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami staged a protest rally in the capital immediately after the presentation of the proposed national budget for the 2026-27 fiscal, **describing it as "anti-people but loot-friendly," and expressing their dissatisfaction with the additional tax burdens it imposes on citizens.** Speaking at a rally before the procession, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General and former MP AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad alleged that the government had presented the budget to sustain party loyalists at the expense of ordinary people. "The government has imposed a burden of taxes on the people while presenting a budget aimed at maintaining party workers," he said. Referring to the proposed Tk 9.38 trillion (9.38 lakh crore) budget, the largest in Bangladesh's history, Azad claimed it failed to reflect the aspirations of the July Uprising and instead followed the conventional pattern of previous budgets. He described the budget as heavily dependent on loans and taxation, arguing that it would place an additional burden on citizens while increasing the country's debt liabilities. Azad alleged that the size of the budget had been expanded to facilitate corruption and misuse of development funds by ruling party activists (*Prothom Alo*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP describes proposed budget as 'ambitious, fiscally unrealistic':** The National Citizen Party (NCP) today, Thursday dismissed the government's proposed Tk 9.38 trillion (9.38 lakh crore) budget for fiscal year 2026-27 as **overly ambitious and detached from economic reality, warning that the actual deficit could be nearly double the official figure.** Reacting to the budget placed before parliament by Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, NCP's Shadow Budget Committee chief and joint convener Atik Mujahid said the stated deficit of around Tk 2.5 trillion (2.5 lakh crore) masked a far graver fiscal picture. "The actual deficit could approach Tk 4.5 trillion (4.5 lakh crore)," Mujahid said, adding that the revenue collection target of Tk 6.95 trillion (6.95 lakh crore), equivalent to 10.2 per cent of GDP, was simply unattainable under present economic conditions. "I believe the revenue shortfall alone could exceed Tk 2 trillion (2 lakh crore)." While acknowledging that the proposed outlay is the largest in Bangladesh's history, NCP argued it may equally go down as the country's biggest deficit budget in real terms (*Prothom Alo*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Opposition cries foul over BNP's 'shadow governance' strategy:** A BNP decision to assign its women lawmakers responsibility for overseeing development activities in 79 opposition-held constituencies has triggered a fresh political controversy, with critics alleging the move could create a parallel political structure in areas represented by rival parties. The issue surfaced in parliament on Wednesday after opposition lawmakers questioned why constituencies represented by elected MPs from Jamaat-e-Islami, the National Citizens Party (NCP) and other parties had been placed under the supervision of BNP women MPs. The controversy stems from a decision taken at a recent BNP parliamentary party meeting, where 36 women MPs were assigned responsibility for monitoring development activities, coordinating with local administrations and maintaining political engagement in opposition-held constituencies across the country. **Defending the move, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman told parliament that no MP has exclusive ownership over any constituency under the Constitution and that lawmakers are free to participate in development-related activities**

through party and government structures. However, the decision has sparked concern among opposition parties, which argue that assigning ruling-party representatives to constituencies already represented by elected lawmakers undermines democratic norms and weakens the authority of local MPs. **Political analysts say the move goes beyond development oversight** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt forms district bodies to review political cases' withdrawal:** The government has formed district-level committees to recommend the withdrawal of the cases deemed to have been filed for political harassment. The information was disclosed in a revised notification recently issued by the law-1 wing of the home ministry. **Senior secretary Manjur Morshed Chowdhury signed the notification. According to the notification, political cases lodged between January 2009 and August 5, 2024, will be considered under the initiative. It said the committees were formed following approval from the cabinet division** (*New Age*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB seeks asset disclosure of public servants for new pay scale:** Transparency International Bangladesh on Thursday demanded mandatory asset declarations for public servants as a condition for receiving benefits under the proposed new pay scale. TIB in a statement sent to media also cautiously welcomed the government's decision not to include any provision for legalising undisclosed money in the proposed national budget for the 2026–27 financial year. Referring to the government's proposal to introduce a new pay structure for public employees, Iftekharuzzaman said that the phased implementation reflected the government's fiscal constraints and the need to balance financial realities with employee welfare. TIB considered the proposed salary increase justified despite the government's financial limitations and the 11-year gap since the last pay scale revision, he said. However, he stressed that annual declarations of income and assets by government officials and employees, including those of their dependent family members, should be made mandatory as a condition for eligibility under the new pay scale (*New Age*, [12 June 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Tk 60,000 cr stimulus package to boost Investment & Employment:** The government has undertaken a series of new initiatives aimed at creating a more investment-friendly environment, accelerating industrialization, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and expanding of employment opportunities across the country. **Presenting the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2026–27 in the Jatiya Sangsad, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury outlined that the government is establishing new industrial sites in Patuakhali and Jashore, which are expected to create employment opportunities for approximately 250,000 people. In addition, work has begun on setting up of new economic zones in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Chandpur and Kushtia. The minister also revealed that Bangladesh Bank has announced a Tk 60,000 crore “Stimulus Package-2026” to facilitate credit flow to the private sector and support economic expansion. In his budget speech, he said that a unified digital platform named “BanglaBiz” has been launched to simplify the business operations and regulatory processes. A comprehensive investment roadmap has also been published to attract the FDI in 19 high-potential sectors. He noted that initiatives have been taken to conclude Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with promising partner countries to further strengthen export growth and investment cooperation** (*BSS News*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Taka 1062.5 cr proposed for Krishak Card:** Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has proposed an initial allocation of Taka 1062.5 crore for Krishak Card programme in the coming FY 2026–27. **“In the 2026–27 fiscal year, 42.5 lakh cards will be distributed across 100 upazilas, with plans to gradually provide 'Krishak Cards' to all farmers in the country,”** he said while placing the national budget in Jatiya Sangsad. Through this card, the finance minister said, landless, marginal, and small farmers will receive an annual one-time cash assistance of Taka 2,500, along with an additional 10 types of multifaceted benefits with this card as per our electoral commitments.” To bring about a fundamental transformation in the agricultural sector and deliver services to the doorsteps of marginalized communities, the government has formally launched the Krishak Card Program, he said (*BSS News*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **New pay scale from July 1:** The government has announced the phased implementation of a new pay structure for public sector employees starting from 1 July 2026, aimed at adjusting salaries in line with rising living costs and strengthening merit-based governance. While placing the proposed national budget of Tk 9.38 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2026–27 in the Jatiya Sangsad, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the government is committed to building a meritocratic Bangladesh, where merit, integrity, competence, experience, and professional qualifications will serve as the key criteria for all appointments, transfers, and promotions in the public service (*BSS News*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt aims at Tk 1,12,000cr bank borrowing:** The government has planned borrowing Tk 1,12,000 crore from the banking sector to finance a Tk 2,43,000 crore budget deficit for the upcoming 2026-27 fiscal year. Finance minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury made the announcement in parliament on Thursday while unveiling the national budget for FY27. **To bridge the fiscal gap, the government will source Tk 1,27,000 crore domestically and secure the remaining Tk 1,16,000 crore from external channels. The banking sector will supply the bulk of domestic financing.** The proposed Tk 1,12,000 crore bank-borrowing target is a Tk 6,000 crore lower than the Tk 1,18,000 crore revised target of the 2025-26 fiscal year. Amir Khosru explained that sharp currency depreciation against foreign denominations has inflated principal and interest repayments on external loans, driving up public spending (*New Age*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Power and energy allocation rises to 1.85% of FY26–27 budget:** The government has proposed an increased allocation for the power and energy sector in the upcoming 2026–27 fiscal year, accounting for 1.85% of the total national budget of Tk 9,38,000 crore. A total of Tk 17,345 crore has been proposed for the sector, which is Tk 393 crore lower than the revised allocation of Tk 16,952 crore in the current fiscal year. **Under the proposal, the Power Division will receive Tk 14,996 crore, including Tk 57 crore for operating expenditure and Tk 14,939 crore for development spending. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division has been allocated Tk 2,349 crore, with Tk 95 crore for operating costs and Tk 2,254 crore for development expenditure.** The revised allocation for the division in the current fiscal year was Tk 1,366 crore, marking a 2.32% increase in the new proposal (*Dhaka Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, China sign deal for 9th friendship bridge in Patuakhali:** Bangladesh and China have signed an agreement to construct the “9th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge” in Patuakhali. The implementation agreement was signed on Thursday at the Roads Transport and Highways

Division conference room, according to the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges. **The ministry said the initiative has been taken to upgrade transport links in the southern region and make regional economic activities more dynamic.** The bridge will be built over the Lohalia River, downstream from the Boga Ferry Terminal at the 14-km point of the Lebukhali–Bauphal–Galachipa–Amragachia District Highway (Z-8806) in Patuakhali. **The project will have a total length of about 2.62km, including a 1.348-km main bridge and 1.272km of approach roads. China will provide grant funding for construction of the bridge and approach roads, while the Bangladesh government will bear the cost of land acquisition, utility relocation and other related expenses** (*bdnews.com*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM's China visit likely at end of June after Malaysia trip, deputy speaker says:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to visit China later this month as his second foreign trip since forming the government, Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal has said. Speaking at the 7th China-South Asia Cooperation Forum in Yunnan province's Kunming, on Thursday, **the deputy speaker said the prime minister had chosen China for his second overseas visit, which would take Bangladesh-China ties to new heights and advance the two countries' comprehensive strategic cooperation.** Foreign ministry officials said the prime minister will first travel to Kuala Lumpur on Jun 21-22 as his first foreign trip as head of government. The China visit is expected to follow shortly after, Kamal said (*bdnews24.com*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, US hold high-level talks in Washington on energy cooperation:** A high-level bilateral meeting between Bangladesh and the United States was held in Washington DC on June 10, **aiming to strengthen long-term cooperation in the energy sector, address global supply chain challenges, and expand technological partnerships.** The Bangladesh delegation was led by State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit, while the US side was headed by US Department of Energy Under Secretary of Energy Kyle Hausvet, according to a press release issued on Thursday. **Both sides discussed opportunities for enhanced collaboration in ensuring stable energy supply chains and promoting sustainable energy development in the face of global market volatility.** A Bangladesh delegation led by the state minister for power, energy, and mineral resources is currently visiting the United States to explore further potential cooperation in the energy sector, officials said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home Minister meets EU delegation, emphasizes security sector reforms:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed held a courtesy meeting with a high-level European Union (EU) delegation led by Henrik Nielsen, Director for International Affairs and Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission, at his office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan here. **The meeting focused on a range of issues of mutual interests, ministry sources said. Issues of law and order, security sector reforms, prevention of irregular migration, strengthening the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the upcoming visit of the EU Commissioner for Home Affairs to Bangladesh were discussed.** Nielsen urged Bangladesh to adopt more effective measures to promote regular migration channels and curb illegal migration and migrant smuggling. He also reaffirmed the EU's support for Bangladesh's ongoing security sector reforms (*BSS News*, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **First ODA loan under Japan's POWER Asia initiative:** The Government of Bangladesh and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement for the "Emergency support loan for **enhancing economic resilience and stable energy supply**", **marking a significant step toward strengthening the country's economic stability and energy security amid evolving global and regional challenges,** reports a press release. **Under the**

agreement, JICA will provide a Development Policy Loan of JPY 50 billion (approximately Tk 3,800 crore) to support Bangladesh in building its economic and energy resilience in the face of evolving regional and international challenges. The program is structured on two strategic pillars: Strengthening energy resilience and enhancing economic management and governance. Under the first pillar on energy resilience, the program supports policy actions on energy diversification and energy efficiency, contributing to stable power and energy supply by ensuring the sustainability of high-efficiency power generation facilities, strengthening grid system planning, and promoting energy conservation. In parallel, as a second pillar, the program also supports policy actions under the economic management and governance framework, which will be co-financed in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The initiative is expected to contribute to maintaining macroeconomic stability, enhancing the resilience of the energy sector, and improving the overall economic structure of the country (*Prothom Alo*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **“All problems can be solved through love and sincerity”:** India’s newly appointed High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, said, “We not only share a border, we also share common dreams. We share the same sky, the same air, and in many ways the same challenges. Therefore, there is little room for us to lose our way. **All problems can be resolved through love and mutual sincerity.**” Trivedi made the remarks on Thursday in Kolkata while responding to journalists’ questions. After visiting Netaji Bhavan, reporters asked him about his priorities regarding Bangladesh. He is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on Friday to assume his responsibilities as India’s High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Speaking about his priorities as High Commissioner, Dinesh Trivedi said, “**My sole priority is the relationship between the people of Bangladesh and India. We are all brothers and sisters. As I have said before, what unites us is not merely a shared border but shared dreams. And those dreams are common to both of us.** We share the same sky, the same air, the same pain. Therefore, there is little room for us to go astray. All that is needed is love and mutual sincerity. Then every problem can be resolved.” Indian High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi has expressed optimism that both Bangladesh and India can emerge as the strongest democracy and one of the strongest world powers together, stressing that they will achieve the goal. “We wish the people of India and Bangladesh that - together - both of us can emerge to be the strongest democracy and one of the strongest world powers together. And that is what we are going to do. And I have no doubt about it that we’ll achieve that,” said the veteran politician in Kolkata on Thursday, reports UNB (*Prothom Alo*, [11 June 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Elderly man stranded in Jamalpur no-man’s land identified:** The identity of the elderly man stranded in no-man’s land along the Bangladesh-India border in Ramrampur of Jamalpur’s Bakshiganj has been confirmed. According to Bakshiganj Police chief Md Makbul Hossain, family members contacted Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after the man’s photograph was widely circulated in media outlets and on social media, enabling authorities to verify his identity. The man has been identified as Shashti Chandra Barman, 68, of Chandlai village in Godagari Upazila, Rajshahi. The police officer said after being stranded for nearly 24 hours in the no-man’s land in front of International Border Pillar No. 1082, Shashti Chandra was rescued by the BGB on Thursday morning. He is currently at Bakshiganj Police Station. Following the completion of legal procedures, he will be handed over to his family. Earlier,

on Wednesday morning, India's Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly attempted to push the elderly man into Bangladesh through the Ramrampur border (*bdnews24.com*, [11 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tension rises along Naogaon border amid alleged push-ins:** Residents living along the Naogaon border with India are increasingly worried over recurring security tensions, including allegations of 'push-in' attempts, harassment by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), and recent concerns linked to poisoning incidents. People in the border villages say their daily lives remain uncertain and fearful due to repeated incidents along the barbed-wire frontier. In response, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has stepped up patrols and security measures to stabilize the situation. Naogaon shares nine border points with India, including the Hapania and Karmudanga borders in Sapahar upazila, the Nitpur border in Porsha upazila, and several others in Dhamoirhat upazila such as Kalupara, Chakilam, Chakchandi, Bastabor, Shimultali and Talandar. Among these, Hapania, Karmudanga and Nitpur are frequently reported as sensitive areas due to past incidents of alleged killings, harassment of farmers, and border tensions. **On June 5, BSF personnel reportedly attempted to push 17 individuals into Bangladesh through the Karmudanga border area. However, the attempt was foiled following close surveillance by BGB forces, who later sent the individuals back** (Dhaka Tribune, [11 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB-BSF DG-level talks end without joint statement:** The 57th four-day director general-level talks between the Border Guard Bangladesh and the Indian Border Security Force **ended on Thursday in New Delhi without issuing a joint statement on the day**. Push-ins and border killings widely discussed in the DG level meeting. The BGB foiled at least 39 pushing attempts by the BSF in the past few days. **New Age Correspondent in Kusthia reported quoting the BGB-58 Battalion commanding officer Lieutenant colonel Md Rafiqul Alam said that the Indian BSF tried to push several people through Maheshpur border point in Jhenaidah district along India on Thursday morning.** Dhaka discussed major issues, including constructing barbed wire fence within 150 yards of the no-man's land and resolving the ongoing development projects, installing optical fibre through the Tin-Bigha corridor—Dahagram-Patgram area, preventing human trafficking, arms and other smuggling, illegal flying of drones and helicopters in Bangladesh territory and the dispute over the demarcation of Muhurichar near Parshuram in Feni and Belonia in India's South Tripura. (*New Age*, [12 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **VDP, Ansar to shore up BGB as 'push-in' threat looms on Mymensingh-Sherpur border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has stepped up strict monitoring to prevent "push-ins" along frontier points in Mymensingh and Sherpur. **Authorities have moved to bring in support from the Village Defence Party (VDP) and Ansar members to strengthen surveillance and response capacity.** The initiative covers the Haluaghat and Dhobaura Upazilas in Mymensingh, along with Nalitabari in Sherpur. The decision came during a meeting held on Wednesday afternoon at the Dhobaura Upazila Parishad conference room aimed at strengthening border security and preventing push-ins, said Mymensingh-39 BGB Battalion Commander Lt Col Nurul Azim Bayzid on Thursday. The meeting discussed illegal infiltration attempts and the overall security situation along the border, officials said (*bdnews24.com*, [11 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]