

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

25 June 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ❖ **BNP, Communist Party of China sign MoU:** The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Communist Party of China (CPC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today, marking the first such formal agreement between the two political parties. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser and BNP Joint Secretary General (International Affairs) Humaiun Kobir signed the agreement on behalf BNP, while Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee Liu Haixing on behalf of the Chinese party. Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen were present (The Daily Star, [25 June 2026](#)).
- ❖ **Government weighs bringing online rumours, disinformation under cyber law:** The government is considering bringing action against those spreading rumours and disinformation on social media under the Cyber Security Act, Telecoms Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam has said. Speaking in parliament on Wednesday, Anam said the government was reviewing the issue for inclusion in the law. Mahbub said the government had already taken different legal, technological and institutional measures to prevent disinformation, rumours and misleading content spread through fake social media accounts. The minister also said authorities were strengthening the technological capabilities of law-enforcing agencies to identify fake accounts, investigate cybercrime and track those involved in disinformation campaigns (*bdnews24.com*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ❖ **Govt to prioritize welfare of ethnic minorities:** LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has expressed optimism that the government will give the highest priority to the welfare of ethnic minority groups and minority communities, as well as to the protection of their rights. He made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Sitakunda Shrine Committee at his office in the Secretariat on Wednesday. Prime Minister's Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Ethnic Affairs Special Assistant and Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Welfare Front Bijon Kanti Sarkar was also present on the occasion. The minister said that a particular group has always tried to portray the BNP as being against people of other faiths. However, historically, the BNP has consistently worked to protect the rights of followers of all religions, he added. "We will ensure equal opportunities and facilities for people of all faiths and involve everyone in the country's development," he said (Dhaka Tribune, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ❖ **Speedy enactment of anti-discrimination law demanded:** Rights activists on Wednesday called for the urgent enactment of a comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Act, upholding the constitutional principles of equality, dignity and justice to ensure effective protection of the marginalised communities facing discrimination. They made the call at a national dialogue jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement, and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust at Hotel Sarina in

the city. Representatives from marginalised communities shared first-hand experiences of discrimination and exclusion at the event, urging the government to prioritise the enactment of a robust and enforceable Anti-Discrimination Act. Speakers said that such a law would be able to ensure equal protection, bring effective remedies and equal opportunities for all citizens, enabling society to become more inclusive and equitable (*New Age*, [25 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BNP brands mass exit of Jamaat-backed law officers a ‘political stunt’:** The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has described the simultaneous resignation of 18 Jamaat-e-Islami-backed law officers from the Attorney General's Office as a “political stunt”. It also called on the attorney general to examine whether the officials carried out any acts of sabotage against state interests while serving in their posts over the past four months (*bdnews24.com*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat expels 4 over attack on journalists in Dhanmondi:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka Metropolitan South has expelled four individuals following an incident involving journalists in Dhaka’s Dhanmondi area. The decision was taken on Wednesday based on the recommendations of a four-member inquiry committee formed to investigate the matter. The expelled individuals are Shafiqul Islam, Khairul Alam Russel, Abul Kalam and Mamun Hossain. In a statement, signed by Abdus Sattar Suman, assistant publicity secretary of Jamaat’s Dhaka Metropolitan South, the party said an anti-fascist protest rally was held on Tuesday in Dhanmondi under its Dhaka Metropolitan South Dhanmondi zone initiative. The statement said an “unfortunate and regrettable incident” involving journalists occurred after the rally, during speeches. Following the incident, leaders of Jamaat’s Dhaka Metropolitan South visited injured journalist Mahfuzur Rahman Shishir at his residence and inquired about his condition, while both central and metropolitan units expressed regret over the incident in separate statements (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Writ petition challenges ICT Act, calls tribunal a tool for ‘judicial killings’:** A Supreme Court lawyer has filed a writ petition challenging the legality of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Act, describing the law as unconstitutional and seeking its annulment. The petition also characterises the tribunal as an instrument of “judicial killings”. The secretary of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has been made a respondent in the case. Advocate Mohsen Rashid said the writ petition is pending before a High Court bench of Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury and Justice Md Ziaul Haque (*bdnews24.com*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Voter list being sold on Facebook for Tk 30-250: Dismislab investigation:** The final voter list of the 13th parliamentary election is being sold on Facebook for prices ranging between Tk 30 to Tk 250. The voter database reportedly contains personal information such as voters’ names, voter numbers, parents’ names, dates of birth, occupations and permanent addresses. These findings emerged from an investigation by Dismislab, a fact-checking initiative of Digitally Right. The 13th parliamentary election was held on 12 February, 2026. Ahead of the elections, the election commission (EC) had published the final voter list on 18 November, 2025. The list was distributed to nominated candidates for electoral purposes. According to the investigation, that same database is now being sold through social media (Prothom Alo, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP as an alternative: How far has it come, has its centrist line survived?** The National Citizen Party (NCP), born out of the leadership of the July mass uprising, had sought to

establish itself as an “alternative” and “centrist” political force. However, a mere one year and four months after its inception, the party now finds itself as a partner in the Jamaat-e-Islami-led opposition alliance. Although its parliamentary presence has been secured, this very alliance has raised fresh questions regarding the NCP’s claims to distinctiveness and moderation. **Even the NCP leaders themselves do not deny that the party secured its place in parliament owing to its alliance with Jamaat. Nevertheless, questions have emerged within the political arena: has the party weakened its independent stance in exchange for this parliamentary presence? Will the NCP ultimately be able to rise as a distinct alternative outside the conventional parties, or will it end up overshadowed beneath the mantle of Jamaat?** As alliance partners, the NCP is also conspicuously toeing the same line as Jamaat on various issues. Consequently, the question of how far the party’s declared moderation is a realistic political stance, and how far it is merely a political narrative, has intensified (*Prothom Alo*, [24 June 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **PM invites Chinese companies to expand value chains into Bangladesh:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Thursday invited Chinese companies to extend their manufacturing value chains into Bangladesh, assuring investors of sweeping reforms, faster approvals and stronger institutional support as his government wants to position the country as a major destination for foreign investment. Addressing the Bangladesh Investment Forum in Beijing, the prime minister also announced that Bangladesh will soon establish its first Investment Office in China to provide direct support for prospective Chinese investors and facilitate faster investment decision. **Speaking before Chinese business leaders, industrialists and institutional investors, Tarique Rahman described Bangladesh and China as partners whose relationship has evolved from diplomacy to development, from development to trade, and now towards deeper industrial cooperation.** He said Bangladesh is undergoing a "monumental economic and governance transformation" and is ready to become a trusted and competitive hub for Chinese businesses looking to expand globally. "Bangladesh is open for business, ready for the future, and keen to work with China, one of our longstanding and trusted friends," the prime minister told the audience (*Dhaka Tribune*, [25 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BD to seek diplomatic support for delay in LDC graduation:** The government will begin lobbying foreign diplomats in Dhaka next month to build support for its request to defer Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by three years, as the issue moves towards consideration at the UNGA. Officials said Bangladesh's fate regarding the proposed deferment is likely to be decided at the UNGA session in September this year. Although Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate to developing-country status in November 2026, Dhaka has sought an additional three years to prepare for the transition amid a series of domestic and external challenges (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [25 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Finance Minister rolls out 3R strategy to address economic shocks:** Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury has unveiled a three-pronged economic resilience strategy aimed at shielding Bangladesh from global economic turbulence and the fallout of continuing instability in the Middle East, while broadening the domestic tax base to strengthen public finances. **In written responses submitted to Parliament on Wednesday, the minister outlined what he described as a "Three-R Strategy" — Recovery and Stabilisation, Restoration, and**

Reconstruction for Acceleration — designed to safeguard macroeconomic stability, diversify exports and enhance the economy's competitiveness. The announcement comes as policymakers grapple with a series of external challenges, including volatile energy prices, uncertainty in global trade and concerns that prolonged conflict in the Middle East could disrupt overseas employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers and weaken remittance inflows, a key source of foreign exchange. To reduce those risks, the government is pursuing new labour agreements with Russia, Portugal, Romania, Brazil, Greece, Serbia and North Macedonia, while also seeking to reopen labour markets in Malaysia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [24 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt approves Tk 1,356cr LNG purchase, multiple development projects:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) on Wednesday approved procurement proposals involving consultancy services, infrastructure development, port operations, youth skills development and LNG imports, with contracts worth several thousand crore Taka. The approval came at the committee's 28th meeting of this year with Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. The committee approved the purchase of two LNG cargoes through the international Request for Quotation (RFQ) process. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division proposed the procurement of LNG cargoes worth approximately Tk 1,356 crore. One LNG cargo will be supplied by Aramco Trading Singapore Pte Ltd, while the other will be supplied by Gunvor Singapore Pte Ltd (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 June 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Dhaka rejects Delhi's explanation over Adviser Zahed's airport incident:** Bangladesh has termed India's explanation regarding the Delhi airport incident involving Prime Minister's Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman as unsatisfactory, describing the episode as 'unfortunate and regrettable.' **Responding to questions on the remarks made by the spokesperson of India's Ministry of External Affairs, Bangladesh Foreign Ministry's spokesperson today told BSS that the explanation provided by the Indian side over the incident was not satisfactory.** The spokesperson said the Indian authorities had been duly informed through diplomatic channels in advance that Zahed Ur Rahman would lead the Bangladesh delegation at a meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). "Despite this, the incident that occurred at Delhi airport involving him was unfortunate and regrettable," said the spokesperson (*Prothom Alo*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique likely to meet Chinese Premier Li today; 15 deals expected:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang today at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, where the two countries are expected to sign at least 15 MoUs and agreements. **Notable among the deals are those related to the Chinese Economic Zone, the expansion and modernisation of Mongla Port, and green energy. They are also likely to discuss the Teesta River Management Project and Bangladesh's joining of China's Global Development Initiative (GDI), according to foreign ministry officials.** On his first visit to China since assuming office in February, Tarique Rahman will also attend the Bangladesh Investment Forum today and call on Chinese investors to invest, arguing that the country now enjoys stability and a conducive business environment (*The Daily Star*, [25 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh educator delegation joins 'Chinese Bridge' programme in Yunnan:** A nine-member Bangladesh educator delegation has participated in "Chinese Bridge" programme in Yunnan University in China. The five-day programme began on June 23, organised by the School of International Education, Yunnan University, and jointly sponsored by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) under the Chinese Ministry of Education and Yunnan University. The Bangladesh delegation included: University Grant Commission Chairman Prof Dr Mamun Ahmed, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr ABM Obaidul Islam, Thakurgaon University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Israfil, North South University Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Independent University, Bangladesh Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Tamim, Chittagong Independent University Vice-Chancellor Prof MM Nurul Absar, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shamsad Mortuza, International Mother Language Institute Director Prof Dr Mohammad Ashaduzzaman and Dhaka Cantonment Girls' Public School and College Principal Colonel Md Mamun Azad Salehin. **The purpose of this programme is to further strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the Yunnan University and educational institutions in Bangladesh** (*BSS News*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh and Kazakhstan to open permanent diplomatic missions:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Kazakhstan Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov on Wednesday agreed to establish permanent diplomatic missions in Dhaka and Astana to strengthen bilateral relations. The agreement came during a courtesy meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Summer Davos in China. During the meeting, Tarique stressed the importance of further deepening Bangladesh-Kazakhstan ties. **The two prime ministers also emphasized the need for regular engagements to boost political, business, and people-to-people connectivity. Bektenov expressed optimism about expanding trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The leaders discussed potential collaboration in skilled workforce migration from Bangladesh to Kazakhstan, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, technology, agribusiness, and food processing.** Bektenov also sought Bangladesh's support for Kazakhstan's proposal to establish a specialized United Nations agency on water diplomacy. Tarique reaffirmed Bangladesh's backing for the initiative (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Australia eye stronger parliamentary cooperation, partnerships:** Bangladesh and Australia have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral relations, with a focus on strengthening parliamentary cooperation and expanding collaboration in education, agriculture and trade. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia F. M. Borhan Uddin paid a courtesy call on Australian House of Representatives Speaker Milton Dick at his office in Parliament House recently, where they discussed issues of mutual interest, according to a message received here. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed opportunities for enhanced cooperation in a number of sectors, including education, agriculture and trade, reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing mutually beneficial partnerships. They also expressed keen interest in strengthening cooperation between the parliamentary groups of Bangladesh and Australia to promote the exchange of best democratic practices and institutional experiences.** The meeting reflected the growing momentum in Bangladesh-Australia relations and underscored the importance both countries attach to expanding cooperation across diverse sectors for mutual benefit (*BSS News*, [24 June 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Humanitarian aid deal for Rohingya, host communities signed:** An agreement worth 16 million Australian dollars (approximately BDT 137 crore) was signed today between the Australian Government and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve the living standards of Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. The agreement was signed at the conference room of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Bangladesh Secretariat in the presence of Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed. Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle and UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh Rana Flowers signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. The home minister hoped that such assistance from the international community, including Australia, would continue until the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar is achieved. Under the agreement, UNICEF will utilize the 16 million dollar fund to implement vital projects across education, nutrition, child protection, and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sectors for both the displaced Rohingya and the local host communities. This newly signed agreement is part of Australia's larger 370 million Australian Dollar (BDT 3,162 crore) humanitarian assistance package announced for the Rohingyas living both in Myanmar as well as Bangladesh and host communities in Bangladesh spanning the 2026-2028 period (*BSS News*, [24 June 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **'BSF tries to push' nine into Bangladesh at Naogaon, BGB holds the line:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has thwarted an "attempt by India's Border Security Force" (BSF) to push nine people, including women and children, through the Sapahar border in Naogaon. The group remains at the zero line and in the no-man's land after being prevented from crossing, the BGB said on Wednesday morning. The BSF personnel from the Elenpur Camp of the 29 Battalion attempted to push the group through Border Pillar 244/MP near the Adalatla Border Outpost (BOP) around 4am, it added. Among them are three men, three women and three children (*bdnews24.com*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BSF 'pushes-in' four of a family through Dinajpur border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has detained four members of a family after they were allegedly pushed into Bangladesh through the Dinajpur border by the Indian border force. Dinajpur-29 BGB Battalion Commander Arifuzzaman said they detained the four people around 6am on Wednesday in Sadar Upazila's Bontara Salki Duapara border. **Local public representatives claim that India's Border Security Force (BSF) turned off the lights at the border before "pushing them through" it.** The detainees are Akubbar Mollah, his wife Jahanara Begum, their son Borhan Mollah and Jahanara's brother Ramzan Mollah. They are originally from Narail's Kalia Municipality, according to Dinajpur Sadar Upazila's Shankarpur Union Council member Pankaj Basak, who cited the detainees' national identity cards. **BGB commander Arifuzzaman said they were interrogating the detainees and that legal action will be taken after getting the details** (*bdnews24.com*, [24 June 2026](#)).
- ◆ **2 UPDF members killed in Khagrachari:** Two members of a Chittagong Hill Tracts-based organisation, the United People's Democratic Front, were killed in separate incidents in Ramgarh and Dighinala upazilas of Khagrachari on Wednesday. The Ramgarh victim is Bobin Tripura, 32, and the Dighinala victim is Sujan Chakma, 48. The UPDF in a statement

said that both Bobin and Sujan were their members. The police, however, said that they were not aware of the political identity of the deceased people. **The Inter Services Public Relation Directorate, in a press release on Wednesday, said that an operation was conducted in the Hazachara area of Ramgarh upazila. One member of an armed organisation was killed during an exchange of fire, the release said. It said that they later seized one AK-47 rifle, one magazine, one pipe gun, and 27 rounds of ammunition from the spot.** The UPDF, in its statement, claimed that security forces, who had already taken positions in the Hazachora area, attacked UPDF activists and killed Bobin on the spot. Monsanu Marma has been missing since the incident, the statement said (*New Age*, [25 June 2026](#)).

❖ **Another landmine explosion at Ghumdhum border leaves man severely injured:** A landmine exploded once again along the Ghumdhum border in Naikhongchari upazila of Bandarban, seriously injuring a man. The incident occurred at around 3:30 pm on Wednesday. Mozammel Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Naikhongchhari police station, said, “The explosion occurred approximately 400 metres inside Bangladeshi territory from the zero line, west of Border Pillar No. 41 in Reju Amtali. Local residents rescued the injured Shafi and took him to the MSF hospital in Kutupalong.” **Earlier, on 24 May, a landmine explosion in the Ghumdhum border area killed three people** (*Prothom Alo*, [25 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]