

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

27 May 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **20 BNP youth members are going on China trip:** A delegation of 20 youth from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is visiting the country at the invitation of the Chinese government. This information was revealed from a list recently published by the Chinese embassy. The student leaders who secured a place on the list are Md. Minhajul Islam Bhuiya, Khandakar Enamul Haque, Sharif Uddin, Galib Hasan Pritom, Arafat Billah Khan, Mehedi Hasan Jewel, Shyamal Moula, Zahirul Islam, A B M Ijarul Qavi, Md. Manjurul Alam, Abidul Islam Khan, Sheikh Tanvir Bari Hamim, Abdur Rashid, Ayubur Rahman, Shraboni Akter, Naosheen Nahar, Selima Binte Tarin, Tanzila Hossain, Rabeya Tashin Mou and Jannatul Nowrin Urmi (*Kaler Kantha*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rizvi calls Sheikh Hasina's return to the country as 'political stuntmanship':** Prime Minister's political advisor and BNP's senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi commented that the demand for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to return to the country as her 'political stunt'. He called on Hasina to return to the country and face trial, if she has real courage (*Kaler Kantha*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"NCP will provide security at the border if it comes to power":** Nasiruddin Patwari, the chief coordinator of the National Citizens Party (NCP), said that the people living near Bangladesh's border are unsafe due to Indian aggression. He stated that if the NCP comes to power, it will protect the border. He also mentioned that India is trying to destroy the youth of Bangladesh by carrying out drug terrorism. Nasiruddin Patwari says that excluding voters in West Bengal, India because of religion is an inhumane act. Tagging based on religion and caste is a violation of human rights. Regarding the construction of barbed wire fences at the border of India, he added that, if necessary, the two countries should meet and demarcate the land so that each can work on their respective territory. The government does not have enough initiative regarding the country's borders. I urge the government to take initiatives to further strengthen the BGB (*Amar Desh*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **"Not the interim government, it is BNP has made a trade agreement with the United States":** It is not the interim government, but rather BNP that has signed a trade agreement with the United States, alleged Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiya, spokesperson of the National Citizens' Party (NCP) and former advisor to the interim government. He also claimed that the current Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman facilitated the agreement before the elections to place responsibility on the interim government. Now they (BNP) are saying that we have nothing to do with this agreement, the previous government made it. It's a 'political blame game.' Earlier, in an interview with a private television channel, the interim government's foreign advisor M. Touhid Hossain claimed that he or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not involved in the trade agreement with America. That means he was unaware of it. On this matter, Asif said at a press conference, 'When the former foreign advisor did not know about the

agreement, we can only say that Khalil Sahab (the interim government's National Security Advisor) is now BNP's Foreign Minister, which means the agreement was actually made by Tarique Rahman. If otherwise, then you can review the agreement, cancel it.' Asif also claims that NCP was also not informed about the agreement. He said that the agreement was made three days before the February 9 election. Therefore, it was not possible for me to know anything about the agreement officially. I have confirmed with everyone in the National Citizens Party that no one from the National Citizens Party took any 'concern' regarding the making of this agreement (*Amar Desh*, [26 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Asif Mahmud denies role in interim government's 'kitchen cabinet':** National Citizen Party (NCP) Spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said the interim government had a “kitchen cabinet” but denied being a member of it at the party's central office in Dhaka's Banglamotor. Responding to questions during an emergency press conference on Tuesday evening, the former interim government adviser said **there is still no clarity on how major decisions were taken during the interim government, particularly regarding the trade agreement with the United States.** The remarks come within days of the Yunus government's foreign adviser, Touhid Hossain, disclosing the existence of Yunus's kitchen cabinet that sat regularly and took major decisions (*The Daily Star*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **From promises to reality- How govt's first 100 days have gone:** The BNP-led government has completed 100 days in office, focusing on policy setting, administrative planning, and public welfare initiatives, particularly in social protection. Key measures in the first 100 days include the launch of Family Card and Farmer Card programs, stipends for religious leaders, free uniforms for primary students, and nationwide canal re-excavation and water management initiatives. The government also focused on job creation, SME support, expanded social safety nets, and higher spending on health and education. It has additionally pursued administrative reforms, anti-corruption steps, investment promotion, export expansion, infrastructure development, and efforts to strengthen international economic cooperation. The first 100 days have also been marked by significant challenges, including energy and electricity shortages affecting industry and daily life, pressure in the banking sector from rising non-performing loans and foreign exchange constraints, and persistent inflation driving up essential commodity prices. Public health concerns, including measles outbreaks and child deaths, have further tested the system. Additional issues include law and order concerns, allegations of extortion and land grabbing, instability in higher education institutions, labour unrest, and political pressure both inside and outside parliament, alongside heightened public expectations following the change in government. **According to political analysts, the government has managed to send a positive signal by initiating the implementation of some electoral promises within the first 100 days. However, bringing visible and sustainable change in key sectors such as the economy, law and order, public health, and administrative reform will require further time. As a result, beyond achievements, the government's ability to address these challenges will be the key benchmark for public and political evaluation in the coming months** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP struggles to restore organisational momentum after taking office:** More than three months after forming the government following the national election, BNP is facing an organisational challenge as its field-level activities have yet to return to full pace. Party insiders said many senior and mid-level leaders are now busy with government, parliamentary and administrative responsibilities, and a section of grassroots leaders and activists has become less

active than before, sparking concern within the BNP that organisational activities may slow down further in the coming days. According to party sources, BNP's field activities slowed after the February 12 national election. **After years of movement, the election campaign, and the formation of the government, many leaders and activists have shifted their attention away from regular party work. Some are forming local circles around members of parliament, while others are spending more time on business, contracting, or personal interests, party insiders said.** Besides, the tenure of 10 out of 11 committees of BNP and its affiliated and associate bodies has expired, they said. **Party sources also said that apart from programmes marking different occasions over the last three months, there have been no significant visible activities at the grassroots level. BNP policymakers see this as one of the key risks for the party after assuming office** (*The Daily Star*, [26 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Hasina, Quader, Asaduzzaman, 20 others formally charged with Badda RMG worker's 'murder' during July Uprising:** Police have formally charged in court 23 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in a case over the death of garment worker Shah Alam in Dhaka's Badda during the July Uprising. The chargesheet, which they filed on April 17, also recommended the acquittal of 110 suspects. Apart from Hasina, those named in the chargesheet include former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader, former home minister Md Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former MP Wakil Uddin, and former DMP commissioner Md Habibur Rahman. The list of the suspects also includes Jubo League leader Mujib Mohsin Pias, Awami League leaders MA Qayyum, Haji Md Salam Sikder and Md Habibullah Bhuiyan Happy, and former councillors Jahangir Alam, Md Zakir Hossain Babul and Md Masum Gani alias Masum Gani Taposh (*bdnews24.com*, [26 May 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Bangladesh to import over 5 lakh tonnes of MOP fertiliser from Russia in FY27:** Russia's Prodintorg and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) signed an agreement recently to import more than 5 lakh tonnes of muriate of potash (MOP) fertiliser in FY2026-27. As part of previous arrangements with Prodintorg, BADC has been importing MOP fertiliser from Russia for several years. This is the major agreement in the history of Bangladesh-Russia bilateral intergovernmental cooperation in the field of fertilisers, said the Russian Embassy in Dhaka (*TBS*, [26 May 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Bangladesh arrests Indian national on tourist visa for 'drug peddling':** The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested an Indian national on a tourist visa for allegedly possessing yaba pills during a raid in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj. RAB-11 Operations Officer Captain Rawnak Erfan Khan said they detained 23-year-old Abdullah Hill Baki at Chattogram Road on Monday. Baki, from the Indian state of Tripura, is an "active member of a drug smuggling gang", according to a media statement. **He often visits Bangladesh from India on a tourist visa and stays in Cumilla's Burichang Upazila. Baki has been transporting, supplying and selling drugs in Narayanganj, Dhaka and surrounding districts, RAB said.** A case has been filed against him under the Narcotics Control Act, and he was handed over to Siddhirganj Police (*bdnews24.com*, [26 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **242 persons sued over Jungle Salimpur attack:** Police have filed a case against 242 individuals including 150 to 200 unidentified persons over attacking law enforcers and vandalizing a joint forces camp in Chattogram's Jungle Salimpur. The OC said names of a total of 42 people, including five people arrested from the scene and local criminal leader Mohammad Yasin, have been mentioned in the case. Apart from this, 150 to 200 unidentified people have been named as accused. He said the case has been filed under various sections of the Explosives Act on charges of launching armed attack on police, obstructing government work and damaging government property (*BSS News*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jungle Salimpur became a state within a state; it'll be brought under strict control:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said that criminals in Jungle Salimpur, Chattogram, are trying to maintain their old control of the area. He said that their arrogance and audacity will be dealt with very strictly. **Responding to a question at the briefing about recent attacks on the police and RAB, the Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We are looking very seriously into the attacks on RAB and the police in Jungle Salimpur and other places. We are taking action and that will be visible very soon. We can see that there was no rule of law in the country for the past 17 years. There was an epidemic of criminalisation. We have seen Jungle Salimpur become a state within a state. We have now been able to bring it under the control of the law enforcement agencies."** The minister said that a joint operation had been conducted in Jungle Salimpur. Many weapons were recovered and several listed criminals were arrested. He also said there are plans to build various facilities there, including a police academy, a RAB academy, and a sports complex. Declaring that terrorist hideouts would be eliminated wherever they exist, Salahuddin Ahmed said, "I do not want to reveal the full plan right now. However, the rule of law will be established in the country. Terrorists will not be allowed to have any safe haven" (*Prothom Alo*, [26 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh boosts vigilance over suspected forced crossings from India:** Bangladesh's border guards have intensified patrols and launched public awareness campaigns along parts of the frontier with India because of concerns India has illegally forced people into Bangladesh, officials said. India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which governs the border states of Tripura, West Bengal and Assam, has said it would tackle undocumented migration as a priority. Earlier this month, India's foreign ministry told reporters that India has asked Bangladesh to verify the nationality of more than 2,860 people suspected of being Bangladeshis and of living illegally in the country. India's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday. **The 60th Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh began campaigns on Sunday in border areas of the Brahmanbaria district, using loud speakers to warn residents and urging them to remain alert to attempts to push people across the border.** Dhaka has repeatedly said any repatriation must follow formal bilateral procedures and has warned against unilateral push-ins across the border (*Prothom Alo*, [26 May 2026](#)).

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