

# CLAWS Newsletter



Bangladesh Briefing | Volume I | Issue No. 01

by Anjali Manhas

## **Political Updates**

### **NCP Warns BNP Government Over Political Violence in Bangladesh ([Prothom Alo](#))**

Bangladesh's National Citizen Party (NCP) has sharply escalated tensions with the ruling BNP government after party spokesperson Asif Mahmud warned that the opposition could resort to violence if attacks against its leaders continue. The remarks came following an assault on NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary in Jhenaidah, allegedly carried out by activists linked to Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal. Asif Mahmud accused the BNP government of repression, failure in governance, and worsening law and order, while warning that the current generation could launch a larger political movement if suppression continues. NCP leaders also criticised rising insecurity, political intimidation, and violence against women, signalling growing confrontation between the ruling party and opposition forces in Bangladesh's post-election political landscape.

### **Clashes Among Rohingya Militant Groups Erupt in Bangladesh Refugee Camps ([Global Arakan Network](#))**

Violent clashes broke out on 12 May 2026 among three Rohingya armed groups — the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), and the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) — inside Refugee Camp No. 8 in Bangladesh. According to local sources, the exchange of fire began around 2:00 PM and reportedly resulted in multiple fatalities and serious injuries, although the exact casualty figures remain unconfirmed. Refugees and observers noted that the growing infighting among these organisations reflects deepening fragmentation within Rohingya militant networks operating in the camps. Concerns have also emerged regarding the increasing recruitment and involvement of Rohingya youth in armed violence. In a separate incident on 10 May at the Hakimpara Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar, RSO members allegedly assaulted and attempted to assassinate an ARSA member. The developments highlight worsening insecurity and factional rivalries within the refugee settlements in Bangladesh.

### **Bangladesh Opposition Warns of Possible Refugee Influx from India ([TOI](#))**

Bangladesh opposition MP Akhter Hossen has warned of a possible refugee crisis, alleging that political developments in India, particularly in Assam and West Bengal, could lead to Muslims being pushed into Bangladesh. Speaking in Parliament, he called for national unity amid concerns over border tensions and migration pressures. Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam Nahid claimed that around 4,000 people had already been “pushed in” across the border, warning that a larger crisis could emerge in the coming days.

### **BNP Prepares for Local Elections Amid Fears of Internal Rivalry and Violence ([Prothom Alo](#))**

Bangladesh’s ruling BNP is preparing for upcoming local government elections later this year while facing concerns over internal divisions, “rebel” candidates, and possible election-related violence. With elections set to be held without party symbols, the party leadership fears multiple BNP-backed candidates may contest the same seats, increasing local rivalries and instability. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has reportedly instructed party leaders to maintain unity, ensure peaceful polls, and strengthen grassroots organisational activities ahead of the elections. The government is also signalling a tougher law-and-order stance to prevent violence during the electoral process.

### **Bangladesh Announces \$5 Billion Stimulus Package Amid Economic Slowdown ([Reuters](#))**

Bangladesh’s central bank has announced a 600 billion taka (\$4.9–5 billion) stimulus package to revive struggling industries and support economic recovery as growth slows. The package aims to reopen closed factories, boost exports, generate employment, and support the agriculture sector, with a major focus on the country’s garment industry, which accounts for over 80% of export earnings. Officials stated that the initiative could help create around 250,000 jobs amid rising inflation, high borrowing costs, and weakening global demand.

### **NCP Threatens Escalation After Attack on Party Leader in Bangladesh ([Prothom Alo](#))**

Bangladesh’s National Citizen Party (NCP) has warned of possible retaliation after an attack on its Chief Coordinator, Nasiruddin Patwary, in Jhenaidah. NCP spokesperson Asif Mahmud accused the ruling BNP government of encouraging political violence and warned that if those

responsible were not arrested, the opposition would also “be forced to opt for violence.” He further alleged worsening law and order, rising insecurity, and political suppression under the BNP government. Senior NCP leader Sarjis Alam also condemned the attack, accusing activists linked to Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal of involvement and warning the government against using force to suppress opposition movements

### **Jamaat Demands Bangladesh Summon Indian Envoy Over Alleged Muslim Persecution** [\(TOI\)](#)

Bangladesh’s Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies have demanded that the government summon the Indian envoy over alleged persecution of Muslims in India following the BJP’s electoral victories in Assam and West Bengal. Party leaders accused “anti-Bangladesh” forces of fuelling communal tensions and spreading propaganda, while expressing concerns over the treatment of Muslims across the border. The remarks come amid growing political tensions and debates over migration, citizenship, and communal issues in the region.

### **Bangladesh Summoned Indian Envoy Over Assam CM’s Remarks** [\(TOI\)](#)

Bangladesh summoned the Indian envoy in Dhaka to protest remarks made by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma regarding alleged “push back” operations involving undocumented Bangladeshis. Dhaka expressed concern over the comments, stating that such statements could negatively affect bilateral relations and create tensions along the border. The move came amid growing political debate in Bangladesh over migration, border security, and fears of forced displacement from India.

### **Bangladesh Sought Continued ICRC Support on Rohingya Crisis and Prison Reforms** [\(BSS News\)](#)

Bangladesh sought continued support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in addressing the Rohingya crisis and strengthening prison and law enforcement reforms during a meeting between Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and ICRC Bangladesh delegation head Nicolas Fleury. The discussions focused on humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees, modernization of the Jail Code, healthcare services for prisoners, and capacity-building training for police and prison officials. Bangladesh also reaffirmed its

commitment to International Humanitarian Law and requested sustained international cooperation to manage the prolonged Rohingya humanitarian challenge.

### **Bangladesh Reiterated Rohingya Repatriation as Only Long-Term Solution ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

Bangladesh reaffirmed that the safe and voluntary repatriation of displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar remained the only viable long-term solution to the crisis during a meeting between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam and UN Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khiari in New York. Bangladesh called for continued international support for Rohingya repatriation while also highlighting the government's commitments to democratic governance, institutional reforms, human rights, and sustainable development. The discussions additionally covered Bangladesh's contributions to UN peacekeeping operations and the importance of women's participation in peace and security initiatives.

### **Foreign Affair**

### **Bangladesh and Italy Discussed Expanding Cooperation on Migration and Trade ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

Bangladesh and Italy discussed expanding bilateral cooperation on safe and regular migration management during a meeting between Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir and Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro. The two sides also explored opportunities to strengthen trade, with Italy expressing interest in importing Bangladeshi garments, food products, and leather goods, while encouraging Bangladesh to procure Italian industrial technologies and machinery. Discussions additionally covered cultural exchanges, sports cooperation, and enhancing broader bilateral ties between the two countries.

### **Bangladesh and KOICA Discussed Expanding Development Cooperation ([The Country Today](#))**

Bangladesh Government Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed optimism that cooperation between Bangladesh and the Korea International Cooperation Agency would strengthen further during a meeting with KOICA Country Director Jihoon Kim. The discussions focused on ongoing development projects and future cooperation in poverty

alleviation, climate change adaptation, climate-resilient infrastructure, agricultural expansion, and sustainable rural development.

**Bangladesh Approves Deep-Well Drilling Projects to Boost Domestic Energy Production**  
[\(The Climate Watch\)](#)

Bangladesh approved the drilling of three deep exploration wells — two for gas and one for oil — as part of efforts to increase domestic energy production amid rising fuel demand and global uncertainty. The projects, valued at around 9.45 billion taka, include the Shrikail Deep-1, Mobarakpur Deep-1, and Sylhet-12 wells, with contracts awarded to Chinese energy firms. The government also approved large-scale imports of diesel, fertiliser, and lentils to address economic and supply pressures linked to global geopolitical tensions and domestic demand.

**Bangladesh Foreign Minister Visited China to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation** [\(BSS News\)](#)

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman began a three-day official visit to China to strengthen bilateral cooperation and enhance high-level diplomatic engagement between the two countries. During the visit, he held discussions with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and other senior Chinese leaders on issues related to trade, investment, and regional cooperation. The Bangladeshi delegation also included senior government and investment officials, highlighting Dhaka's focus on expanding economic and strategic ties with Beijing.

**Bangladesh and Pakistan Signed Anti-Narcotics Cooperation Agreement** [\(Dhaka Tribune\)](#)

Bangladesh and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation against narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and drug abuse. The agreement, signed by Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Pakistan Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi in Dhaka, provided for intelligence sharing, joint operations, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives. Both countries also agreed to exchange information on trafficking networks, smuggling routes, and criminal organisations, while enhancing cooperation between Bangladesh's Department of Narcotics Control and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force.

**Bangladesh and Belarus Agreed to Expand Bilateral Cooperation ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

Bangladesh expressed its willingness to work closely with Belarus to further strengthen bilateral relations during a meeting between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam and Belarusian Ambassador Mikhail Kasko. The two sides discussed expanding cooperation in agriculture, defence, textiles, labour migration, IT, pharmaceuticals, and jute sectors. Both countries also emphasised stronger people-to-people ties and agreed to hold more frequent diplomatic consultations to advance cooperation in priority areas.

**Turkiye Expressed Interest in Managing Ground Handling at Dhaka Airport ([Business In Bangladesh](#))**

Turkiye expressed interest in managing ground handling operations at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport through Turkish company Celebi Aviation Holding during talks between Turkish Ambassador Ramis Şen and Bangladesh aviation officials. The discussions also focused on expanding cooperation in the aviation and tourism sectors, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and exploring new areas of collaboration.

**Indonesia Sought Stronger Healthcare Cooperation with Bangladesh ([The Business Standard](#))**

Indonesia expressed interest in strengthening healthcare cooperation with Bangladesh through capacity building, medical training, exchange of expertise, and health tourism initiatives. During a visit to Dhaka, Indonesian Ambassador Listyowati facilitated meetings between leading Indonesian hospitals and Bangladeshi healthcare institutions to expand collaboration in medical services and healthcare development. The visit also included the signing of a cooperation agreement between Indonesia's Siloam Hospitals Group and GD Assist Bangladesh to promote Indonesia as a regional healthcare destination for Bangladeshi patients.

**Russian House Launched Victory Day Film Festival in Dhaka ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

The Russian House in Bangladesh launched a week-long film festival titled "Frames of Memory: From Moscow to Bangladesh" in Dhaka to mark the 81st anniversary of Russia's

Victory Day. The festival aimed to preserve historical memory and promote cultural dialogue through cinema, featuring screenings of acclaimed Soviet and post-war films. Organisers said the event sought to encourage Bangladeshi youth to engage more deeply with world cinema, history, and themes of peace and humanity.

### **Bangladesh and US Signed Strategic Energy Cooperation MoU ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

Bangladesh and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on strategic energy cooperation in Washington DC to strengthen long-term energy security and expand bilateral energy ties. The agreement was signed by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and US Energy Secretary Chris Wright. The MoU aimed to enhance cooperation in oil, gas, geothermal and bioenergy sectors, facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building, and support Bangladesh's access to US LNG, LPG, and other energy products amid global energy security concerns linked to Middle East tensions.

### **Bangladesh Held First Semiconductor Roadshow in South Korea ([United News of Bangladesh](#))**

The Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul and the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association concluded Bangladesh's first-ever semiconductor roadshow in South Korea to strengthen cooperation in semiconductor technology, talent development, and advanced packaging. The two-day event included meetings with Korean semiconductor firms, research institutions, and the Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA), while Bangladeshi officials promoted the country as a future high-tech manufacturing hub. A key outcome of the visit was the signing of a Letter of Intent between KAIST Global Commercialization Center, CREST, and BSIA to support joint research, capacity building, and semiconductor workforce development.

### **Bangladesh and Brazil Moved to Deepen Strategic Partnership ([Jago News 24](#))**

Bangladesh and Brazil expressed strong interest in elevating bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during talks between Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kobir and Brazilian presidential adviser Celso Amorim in Brasília. Both sides discussed expanding cooperation in trade, investment, technology, agriculture, renewable energy, healthcare, education, and defence research, while highlighting the growing importance of Bangladesh and Brazil as influential voices of the Global South. The discussions also focused on increasing

bilateral trade, reducing reliance on intermediaries, and strengthening institutional cooperation through future agreements and diplomatic consultations.

### **New Zealand Expressed Interest in Continuing Trade Preferences for Bangladesh After LDC Graduation ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

New Zealand expressed strong interest in continuing duty-free and preferential market access facilities for Bangladesh even after its graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. The issue was discussed during a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir and New Zealand High Commissioner David Pine. Both sides also explored expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation, including the possibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), while emphasising export diversification, industrialisation, and long-term economic partnership.

### **Bangladesh and UNDP Launched Low-Carbon Urban Development Initiative ([UNDP](#))**

The Bangladesh government and United Nations Development Programme launched a five-year initiative to promote low-carbon urban development and accelerate renewable energy adoption in the country's rapidly growing cities. Supported by a US\$3.7 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project aims to expand energy-efficient infrastructure, rooftop solar power, and waste-to-energy solutions in urban centres including Dhaka and Chittagong. Officials from Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority and UNDP said the initiative would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen energy security, and support Bangladesh's long-term climate and sustainability goals.

## **Bangladesh Defence Updates**

### **Bangladesh to Withdraw Army from Field Duties by June ([Prothom Alo](#))**

Bangladesh decided to withdraw all army personnel from field-level deployment by the end of June, nearly two years after troops were deployed during the 2024 unrest. The decision was taken at a law-and-order meeting chaired by Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, with troop withdrawal set to begin from remote districts on 6 June. The meeting also discussed anti-extortion measures, anti-narcotics operations, border security, and police reforms.

### **Bangladesh Defence Adviser Stressed Importance of Civil-Military Harmony ([Dhaka Tribune](#))**

Bangladesh Prime Minister's Defence Adviser AKM Shamsul Islam said strong civil-military relations are essential for maintaining a democratic and stable state. Speaking at the Deputy Commissioners' Conference, he highlighted the armed forces' role in restoring stability during recent political unrest and outlined the government's focus on defence restructuring, indigenous military capability, and national unity under the principle of "Bangladesh first."

### **Indian Army Chief Discussed Defence Ties and Border Security with Bangladesh Envoy-Designate ([The Economic Times](#))**

Indian Army Chief Upendra Dwivedi held talks with India's High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on strengthening India-Bangladesh defence cooperation, border security, and military-to-military engagement ahead of Trivedi's posting to Dhaka. The discussions reflected ongoing coordination between the two countries on regional security and border management issues.

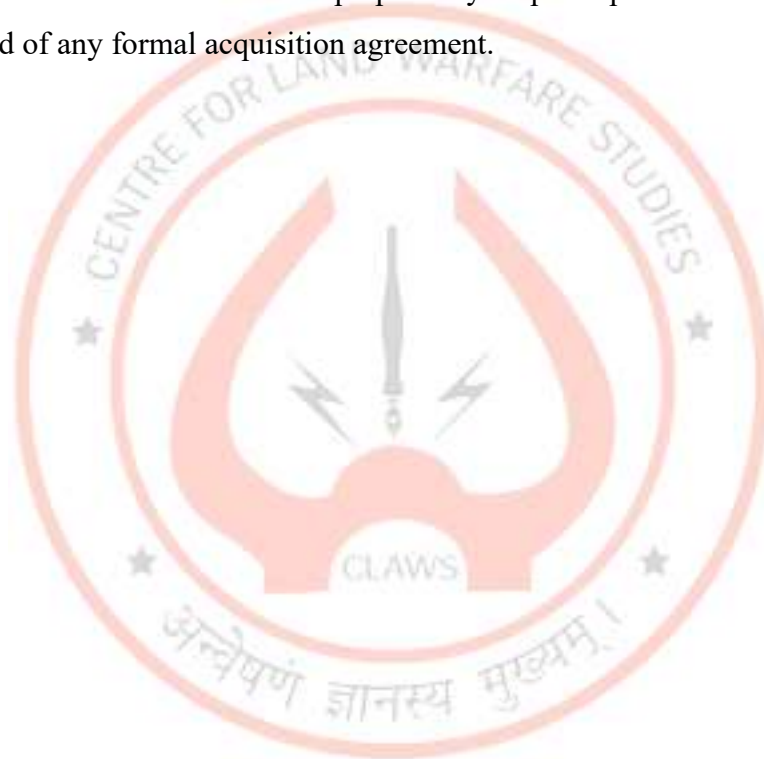
### **Bangladesh Planned \$2.2 Billion Military Modernisation Programme ([BDMILITARY](#))**

Bangladesh reportedly planned a major US\$2.2 billion military modernisation programme for FY2026–27 aimed at strengthening defence capabilities, expanding indigenous defence manufacturing, and upgrading military infrastructure under the broader "Forces Goal 2030" framework. The proposed package included procurement of advanced military hardware for all

three services, with a major focus on air force modernisation, technology transfer, UAV development, and long-term strategic self-reliance amid evolving regional security dynamics.

### **Pakistan Sent JF-17 Block III Simulator to Bangladesh Amid Growing Defence Ties ([The Week](#))**

Pakistan reportedly transferred a fully operational JF-17 Thunder Block III combat simulator to Bangladesh, signalling deepening defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthening speculation over a potential fighter jet deal. Reports suggested Bangladesh could procure between 16 and 48 JF-17 aircraft in phases as part of its air force modernisation efforts. The simulator transfer was viewed as a preparatory step for pilot training and operational integration ahead of any formal acquisition agreement.



## About the Author

Anjali Manhas is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), where she specializes in Defence and Strategic Studies with a focus on South Asian geopolitics. She completed her Master's in Defence and Strategic Studies from Rashtriya Raksha University, where she developed a strong foundation in security, international relations, and strategic analysis. Anjali's current research centers on Bangladesh, examining its security dynamics, regional relationships, and strategic posture in South Asia. Her work aims to contribute to policy development and strategic insights for enhancing regional stability and security. With a keen interest in defence and strategic affairs, Anjali is committed to advancing knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of South Asian security issues.



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