

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

02 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Legal notice seeks verification of foreign citizenship of Bangladesh foreign minister, state minister:** A Supreme Court lawyer has served a legal notice seeking verification of the foreign citizenship and allegiance to foreign states of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir and their constitutional ability to serve in the posts. Lawyer Aslam Mia sent the notice on Tuesday to the chief election commissioner, cabinet secretary, secretary to the President's Office, principal secretary to the prime minister, secretaries of the law and foreign affairs ministries, and relevant officials of the Parliament Secretariat. The authorities have been asked to respond within seven days. Aslam told bdnews24.com that he would file a writ petition in the High Court if no response is received within the stipulated period. He said reports in newspapers and other media had raised questions over the two ministers' foreign citizenship. **If any constitutional disqualification is found, it asks that action be taken under law; if not, the authorities have been asked to explain the legal and constitutional basis for the two appointments.** Aslam said the notice was not intended as a final factual allegation against either minister, but to seek official verification of their citizenship, allegiance and constitutional eligibility (*bdnews24.com*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Adviser Mahdi Amin lists 48 key achievements of BNP over 48 years:** Prime Minister's Adviser and Spokesperson Mahdi Amin has highlighted 48 achievements of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the ruling party, over its 48-year journey. **In a Facebook post on Tuesday evening marking the BNP's 48th founding anniversary, Amin said the party's record of achievements and successes is extensive, and he selected 48 notable milestones based on his personal observations and assessment. Among the achievements he listed are the introduction of "Bangladeshi nationalism," President Ziaur Rahman's 19-point programme, a sovereign and independent foreign policy, restoration of multiparty democracy and press freedom, and stronger engagement with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Muslim world.** Mahdi Amin said the BNP has evolved from the self-reliance philosophy of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia's welfare-oriented governance toward what he described as a future-focused, technology-driven and accountable Bangladesh under Tarique Rahman's leadership (*Daily Sun*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Factional clashes during BNP founding anniversary events leave dozens injured in 3 districts:** Around 89 people were reportedly injured in clashes between rival BNP factions over celebrations marking the party's founding anniversary in three districts. In **Munshiganj**, a clash broke out between two factions of BNP in Sreenagar upazila between the supporters of local lawmaker Sheikh Abdullah and BNP's Central Volunteer Affairs Secretary Mir Sarafat Ali Sapu in front of Jamjam Tower, leaving at least **nine people, including two police personnel, injured**. In **Patuakhali**, around 50 people were reportedly injured, and two business establishments vandalised after two groups of BNP activists clashed. In **Chattogram**, at least 30 BNP activists were injured in a clash between two local factions in Sitakunda upazila during celebrations marking the party's founding anniversary. During the

clash, crude bombs were blasted, triggering panic among residents, and several highway vehicles were also vandalised, said police and local sources (*The Daily Star*, [01 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **TIB seeks annual income, asset disclosure for new pay scale:** Transparency International Bangladesh on Tuesday welcomed the cabinet's approval of the new national pay scale for government employees, stating the move is justified for those who honestly perform their duties. However, the anti-graft watchdog has called for making the implementation of the new pay scale conditional on annual disclosure of income, expenditure and assets by public servants and their dependent family members. **In a statement sent to the media, TIB executive director Iftekharuzzaman reiterated his earlier call for mandatory asset declarations by government employees following the announcement of the new pay structure in the national budget. He said implementing the new pay scale in three phases was reasonable considering the country's financial constraints.** Salaries and allowances, however, should be commensurate with the cost of living to ensure professional excellence and corruption-free public services, he said (*New Age*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP leader, ex-judge, military, police officials among 650 joining Jamaat:** Around 650 people, including a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader, have joined Jamaat-e-Islami, the party says. **The new members include former judges, lawyers, retired military and police officials and businesspeople.** Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman handed flowers and religious books to new members at the party's Dhaka South unit gathering at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh on Tuesday. The party named 23 of the new members in its media statement (*bdnews24.com*, [02 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **US envoy says US technology supports Bangladesh railway connectivity:** US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen has highlighted the role of American technology and engineering in supporting Bangladesh's railway connectivity and infrastructure development during a visit to key railway facilities in the country's north. Christensen visited Bangladesh Railway's Central Locomotive Workshop in Parbatipur, where Bangladeshi technicians maintain US-made locomotives used for passenger and freight transportation across the country, according to a press release issued by the US Embassy in Dhaka today. During the visit, the ambassador toured the workshop and inspected a locomotive manufactured by US company Progress Rail. He also interacted with Bangladeshi railway professionals responsible for maintaining the locomotives and learned about their work in keeping the fleet operational (*BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh is buying Boeing aircraft according to Trump's wishes, says civil aviation minister:** Bangladesh is buying aircraft from US company Boeing according to the wishes of US President Donald Trump, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat has said. He said, **"Trump has asked one thing from our honourable prime minister, that is, 'use our Boeings'. We are doing it; we are buying them. We are buying 14 Boeings, and we will lease more. "Meanwhile, we are also buying from France, England and Germany, where Airbus (aircraft) is manufactured, and we will also buy from them. We will take on more and do it well."** The minister made the remarks at a coordination meeting of the Mymensingh district administration on Monday (*bdnews24.com*, [01 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt offers Tk10.50-incentive for every unit of rooftop solar power supply:** The government has announced a special incentive package for installing rooftop solar power systems with batteries, offering Tk10.50 per unit for surplus electricity supplied to the national grid. **Under the scheme, the maximum generation cost of rooftop solar electricity, including battery costs, has been set at Tk8 per unit. A 20% profit and an 11.25% premium will be added to the cost, bringing the incentive price to Tk10.50 per unit. Consumers who can install such systems at a cost lower than the prescribed amount will be entitled to retain the savings as their dividend, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday.** Under the Net Metering Guideline 2025, consumers who install rooftop solar systems by 28 February 2027, and supply surplus electricity to the national grid after meeting their own demand will receive Tk10.50 per unit for three years, until 28 February 2030 (*Daily Sun*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zahed says Malaysia keen in recruiting 2 lakh Bangladeshi workers within 6 months:** Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr Zahed Ur Rahman today said Malaysia has expressed interest in recruiting around 200,000 workers from Bangladesh within the next six months due to the Bangladesh government's continued diplomatic efforts. **Of them, 10,000 workers will have the opportunity to go completely free of charge following a special request from the Bangladesh government, he said.** Zahed disclosed this at a weekly briefing on the progress of various government activities held at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID) at the Secretariat. He said the first group of workers being sent to Malaysia completely free of charge would travel on a special chartered flight through the government-owned Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL). This would set a new precedent by bringing the cost of migration down to zero, he added. Regarding efforts to break syndicates in the labor market and increase the number of recruiting agencies, the adviser said under a decision by the Malaysian government, 25 recruiting agencies had been approved (*BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Implementing new pay scale may raise inflation a bit, says information advisor:** The new salary structure approved by the government for public sector employees on Monday could lead to a slight increase in inflation, says Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Advisor Zahed Ur Rahman. **He said, "Inflation is very high now, isn't it? It's high. The inflation rate in Bangladesh has been high for a long time. In a country like ours, of course, there should be some inflation. If it's up to 5 percent, up to 6 percent, then it's good or okay. "But for us, it has reached double digits, even crossed it. At the moment, it has decreased a little, at least that's what our data says"** (*bdnews24.com*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Finance Minister stresses value, returns, jobs in government investment projects:** Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury has said every government-funded investment project must prioritise value for money, return on investment, job creation and environmental impact. **"It is not enough to assess only our own work; we must also identify our weaknesses and rectify them by evaluating the work of others... It is not enough to perform well; we must also ensure that our achievements are recognised globally,"** he said. He emphasised that to elevate a university to a world-class standard, it is essential to regularly benchmark its performance against the best institutions globally. He also highlighted the importance of peer reviews of the university's research, management and activities (*BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Humaion Kobir says Delhi seminar ban involving AL figures a 'positive step':** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir considers India's decision to deny permission for a seminar in Delhi involving leaders affiliated with the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned, a 'positive step' in relations between the two countries. On 29 August, permission was denied for an international discussion in Delhi featuring speakers linked to the Awami League. The Delhi Police refused to grant permission to the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of South Asia for the event. **Asked about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India, Humaion Kobir said the prime minister would certainly visit India when the appropriate time and environment emerged. However, no date has yet been set.** The state minister made the remarks while answering journalists' questions on these issues at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. Journalists asked whether the dialogue with India, which had stalled, has now resumed or become active again. In response, the state minister said, "No, not setting a date does not mean that the dialogue has stalled." He said discussions had continued even though no date had been fixed. **Foreign Affairs State Minister Humaion Kobir said Bangladesh would not provide shelter in Dhaka to any terrorist fleeing India. Similarly, he expressed hope that no terrorist fleeing Bangladesh would be given shelter in Delhi or anywhere else in India's sovereign territory** (*Prothom Alo*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi says India-Bangladesh relations based on people-to-people:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi today said the relations between India and Bangladesh are cemented on people-to-people. **"This is a relationship between the people of the two countries. It is the responsibility of both countries to protect the interests of their neighbours and maintain mutual trust,"** he told reporters after a meeting with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at his Secretariat office here. Dinesh Trivedi called on Moyeen Khan, also a standing committee member of BNP, on the occasion of the party's foundation anniversary. About the outcomes of the meeting, he said positive talks were also held on free trade and economic relations between the countries. **Responding to a question, the Indian envoy said the biggest task now is to leave internal politics behind and work together for the welfare and development of the people of the two countries. He said development work will not be possible by being stuck in the past. He said the past cannot be forgotten, yet being stuck in the past is not an option. Replying to a query, the Indian high commissioner said he did not want to talk about internal politics. He said such matters should not be discussed.** "Whatever the people of Bangladesh deem best, will be done. The party that won two-thirds of the seats is in power, and they understand the situation of the country better," he said. 'When we talk about a dream, our responsibility to realise it also increases. We are neighbouring countries, so our responsibility is greater. We always say that we are equal. Nobody is big, nobody is small,' he said. **Asked whether there had been any discussion about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India, Dinesh Trivedi did not comment. At the time, he spoke about the two countries working together** (*BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **LGRD minister for further strengthening Bangladesh-India ties:** Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan expressed hope that Bangladesh-India bilateral ties would be further strengthened and cooperation expanded in areas of mutual interest and for the welfare of the peoples of the two countries. He made the remarks when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on him at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat here. State Minister for Local

Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam was present. Dr Moyeen Khan stressed the importance of further advancing the historic and close ties between the peoples of Bangladesh and India. The Indian envoy congratulated Dr Moyeen Khan on assuming his new responsibility and greeted him on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). **The meeting also discussed expanding trade and economic cooperation, including the prospects of a free trade arrangement.** The minister underscored the need for strengthening people-to-people contacts to take bilateral relations to a new height in the days to come. **The Indian high commissioner expressed his country's interest in capacity building and experience-sharing in the local government sector. He said Bangladeshi officials and representatives could receive training and exchange experiences on local government management through a training institute in Hyderabad, India. Subsequently briefing the reporters, State Minister Mir Shahe Alam said India had expressed interest in utilising Bangladesh's experience in the local government election process and, subject to discussions, sending observers** (*BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shama Obaed says Bangladesh to consider public interest before joining any alliance:** Bangladesh will consider the interests of its people before deciding whether to join any multilateral alliance or pact, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has said. She said any such decision would be assessed in line with the government's "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, with priority given to the benefits it could bring to Bangladesh and its people. "We have not received any formal invitation yet. Let's see. The matter remains open for consideration and will be reviewed. It will take some time," she added. **The State Minister for Foreign Affairs said Bangladesh is assessing the situation surrounding the proposed Mecca Pact before deciding whether to join the alliance.** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir had earlier said Bangladesh viewed the proposed pact positively and was interested in the initiative. On Sunday, Kobir said Bangladesh sees no risk in joining the Mecca Defence Pact and it would not restrict Bangladesh's engagement with other partners (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 September 2026](#); *BSS News*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Trump hopes to meet PM Tarique soon, thanks him for Boeing purchase:** US President Donald Trump has expressed his expectation of meeting Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the "not too distant future" and conveyed his warmest regards and love to the people of Bangladesh. "I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future," Trump said in a letter sent to the Prime Minister today, said Prime Minister's Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Ruman. The US President thanked Tarique Rahman for Bangladesh's decision to purchase Boeing aircraft, saying, **"Boeing will not let you down, and I will not forget."** In the letter, Trump expressed confidence in a bright future for Bangladesh and its people under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's leadership. "Please give my warmest regards and love to the people of Bangladesh. They have been through much but, under your leadership, I feel certain that they, and your Country itself, will have a very bright future," Trump said. Trump also thanked the Prime Minister for his attention to the Boeing aircraft purchase (*Prothom Alo*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaiun Kobir says Bangladesh to purchase additional aircraft according to needs:** Ruling out any pressure from the US side over the purchase of additional Boeing aircraft, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Tuesday said the approach is demand-driven and that Bangladesh needs to expand its aircraft fleet to open new routes, improve passenger services and strengthen its position as an aviation gateway in Asia. "No, not under any pressure but as per the demand of the aviation sector. We will buy additional aircraft

according to our needs," he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when a journalist drew his attention to the purchase of additional Boeing aircraft from the United States. US Special Envoy for South and Central Asia and Ambassador to India Sergio Gor has recently said Bangladesh has committed billions of dollars to buy additional Boeing aircraft from the United States under a new deal between Dhaka and Washington. "Just this week, President Trump and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh (Tarique Rahman) made another incredible deal, with Bangladesh committing to spend billions of dollars to buy more Boeing aircraft, significantly increasing their initial order," Gor said in a post on X on Sunday night. **"Bangladesh, being an important aviation gateway - aviation hub - in Asia, needs to service more routes. For that, we need a bigger fleet,"** State Minister Kobir said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US lifts January immigrant visa pause for Bangladesh, 74 other countries:** The United States has lifted its January pause on issuing immigrant visas to nationals of 75 countries, including Bangladesh, following a court order, *The Economic Times* reports. The US Department of State says the pause is no longer in effect as of Aug 21. The pause took effect on Jan 21 and covered immigrant visa applicants from countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan, the Indian daily reported. The Department of State said the measure was introduced while it reviewed screening and vetting policies, with a focus on ensuring immigrants would be financially self-sufficient and would not become a public charge or unlawfully use welfare in the US. **With the pause lifted, applicants can proceed with the immigrant visa process under the applicable rules** (*bdnews24.com*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **1,000 Rohingya to receive skills training under China-backed program:** A skills development program for 1,000 Rohingya has been launched at Camp 11 in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, with support from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh. National humanitarian development organization Impact Initiative inaugurated the program, titled "Sustainable Opportunities for Livelihoods, Advancement and Resilience (SOLAR)," at the Multipurpose Building of Rohingya Camp 11 on Tuesday. **Under the SOLAR initiative, 325 participants will receive practical, market-oriented technical training in tailoring and dressmaking, block printing and batik, mobile phone servicing, gas burner repair and climate-smart agriculture. Another 675 participants will receive soft-skills training focused on communication, teamwork, problem-solving, workplace behavior and other essential life and employability skills.** The initiative aims to complement humanitarian assistance with skills development and livelihood-focused interventions, helping Rohingya community members build practical capacities and improve their prospects for self-reliance amid prolonged displacement. **With support from the Chinese Embassy and implementation by Impact Initiative, the program is expected to expand skills and livelihood opportunities for Rohingya community members in the camp** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama seeks stronger parliamentary advocacy for Rohingya repatriation:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam sought stronger global parliamentary advocacy to sustain international attention on the Rohingya crisis and facilitate their early, safe and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar. She made the call during a meeting with visiting Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Secretary General Anda Filip at the Foreign Ministry, according to a ministry press release. **Referring to the "untenable situation" arising from the prolonged Rohingya crisis, Shama stressed the need for parliamentarians worldwide to keep the issue high on the international agenda and help create conditions conducive to the return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.** During the meeting, the state minister also briefed Filip on the

government's efforts to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive governance and accountability. The IPU Secretary General welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the government to strengthen democratic institutions (BSS News, [01 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Home minister says Drone technology to boost surveillance at remote borders:** The use of modern drone technology will make border management, security and surveillance, particularly in remote and forested areas, more effective, home minister Salahuddin Ahmed said on Tuesday. **'In remote and forested areas along the border, where it is difficult to ensure security with manpower, modern digital surveillance will be conducted round the clock using drones equipped with night vision and thermal technologies,'** he said. The minister was speaking at a press briefing after inaugurating the Border School of Surveillance and Drone Warfare at the Sylhet Sector Headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh in the morning. **He said thermal technology would enable border forces to monitor activities across the border at night and identify routes used for smuggling drugs and illegal weapons, helping prevent such activities.** Salahuddin said drone technology could also play an important role in natural disasters and humanitarian operations. Recently, BGB members had used drones in rescue operations in remote areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and to deliver relief materials directly to hard-to-reach locations, he said (New Age, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **174 Bangladeshis return from Libyan detention centre:** A total of 174 irregular Bangladeshi migrants, many of whom allegedly endured abduction and torture after being trafficked to Libya, returned home on Tuesday from a detention centre in the North African country. They arrived in Dhaka at 9:47am aboard a special Buraq Air flight after being repatriated from the Tajoura Detention Centre in Libya, according to a Foreign Ministry press release. **The repatriation was jointly facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Embassy in Libya and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in cooperation with the Libyan government and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).** The returnees, who had been detained at the Tajoura facility, had voluntarily expressed their willingness to return to Bangladesh (*Daily Sun*, [01 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **52 pirates, including 4 Sundarbans gang chiefs, surrender:** Fifty-two alleged pirates, including the leaders of four active gangs in the Sundarbans, have formally surrendered to the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), pledging to abandon criminal activities and return to normal life. RAB-6 handed over the surrendered individuals to Mongla and Sharankhola police stations on Tuesday after conducting initial verification. Of them, 29 were handed over to Mongla Police Station and 23 to Sharankhola Police Station, according to a press release. **The surrendered pirates were members of Bara Jahangir Bahini, Anarul Bahini, Dulabhai Bahini and Aftab Bahini. According to RAB, the surrender followed intensified intelligence surveillance and operations aimed at curbing piracy and forest-related crimes in the Sundarbans.** The hostile environment of the forest and the risks associated with a life of crime also prompted members of the groups to abandon criminal activities and seek a return to normal life, it said. The surrender is expected to weaken the organisational capacity and criminal activities of the gangs

and improve security for fishermen, forest workers and others who depend on the Sundarbans for their livelihoods, RAB said (*Daily Sun*, [02 September 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, Research Fellow, CPS]