

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

07 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Bill tabled to replace RAB with SRB, Opposition raises red flags:** A bill has reached parliament proposing to disband Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and replace it with a new police unit called Special Response Battalion (SRB). Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmad introduced the draft law in parliament on Thursday, after which it was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry for examination, with instructions to report back within four working days. Opposition leaders challenged the motion, arguing that transferring elite force personnel directly into the SRB creates the impression of reviving the controversial agency under a different brand. Passing the proposed Special Response Battalion Bill 2026 will repeal provisions added to the Armed Police Battalions Ordinance in 2003 that governed the elite force, while transferring all assets, liabilities, contracts, and personnel to the SRB (bdnews24.com, [03 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ACC probes 73 Bangladeshis over Dubai properties:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is investigating the assets of 73 Bangladeshis suspected of acquiring properties in Dubai with allegedly laundered money, including former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, former Premier Bank chairman HBM Iqbal and former Padma Bank chairman Chowdhury Nafis Sarafat. As part of the investigation, the ACC is preparing to send a Mutual Legal Assistance Request (MLAR) to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), seeking information and documents on the properties and related financial transactions. ACC sources said the individuals under investigation allegedly own flats and houses in Dubai Marina and Palm Jumeirah, two of Dubai's most affluent areas. Some of them have also reportedly obtained the UAE's Golden Visa ([Daily Sun](#), [04 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat-led alliance begins long march, vows to continue movement:** Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman has said their movement will continue until the rights of the people are established, describing the Dhaka-Chattogram long march as a programme in support of the country's 180 million people. The long march began from Shapla Chattar in Dhaka at around 8:30am today, after an inaugural rally at 7:00am. The Jamaat-led 11-party alliance is holding the programme with demands including implementation of the referendum verdict, trial of the 2024 July massacre, an end to shortages of electricity, fuel, gas and fertiliser, curbing price hikes of essentials, ending extortion and corruption, improving law and order, and stopping narrow partisanisation. At the programme, Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam said the long march belonged to the people. "If the government obstructs the long march, we will reach Chattogram overcoming all obstacles, and the 11-party alliance's six-point demand will turn into a single-point demand," he said ([The Daily Star](#), [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **'No practical difference' between current govt and Baksal regime, 11-party alliance says:** Leaders of the 11-party alliance on Saturday accused the BNP-led government of undermining democracy, saying there is "no practical difference" between the current administration and the Baksal regime as partisan individuals are allegedly being appointed to key public offices. The

remarks came at a large rally at Chattogram's historic Laldighi Maidan, marking the conclusion of the alliance's long march. Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman accused the government of violating its election pledges by appointing party loyalists as administrators across state institutions (*The Daily Star*, [05 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **'We are all Bangladeshis':** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said no group or community in Bangladesh should be identified as a "minority", stressing that all citizens are entitled to equal rights and security. "Our first and foremost identity should be that we are all Bangladeshis," he said while inaugurating the central Janmashtami procession at the Dhakeshwari National Temple. The event was organised by Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad at the temple grounds. Salahuddin said the government was committed to building an inclusive Bangladesh where all citizens are treated equally. Criticising past political practices, the minister said followers of the Sanatan faith had at times been portrayed as a "vote bank" for a particular political party. He said the people of Bangladesh had disproved that notion. He also called for the term "communal harmony" to be replaced with "religious and social harmony, coexistence and peace" (*The Daily Star*, [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP leaders question timing of Jamaat-led long march:** BNP leaders of Chattogram have raised serious questions regarding the necessity, public involvement, and substantial fuel expenditures of Dhaka-Chattogram long march, led by Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman's 11-party alliance. The march was organised on Saturday to press home a six-point charter of demands, including protests against the price hikes of gas, electricity, and essential commodities. The programme has concluded with a public rally at Laldighi Maidan in Chattogram. Criticising the move, Chattogram City BNP Joint Convener MA Aziz said the political situation in the country is not yet ripe for conducting a long march. He argued that organising such a programme, which consumes massive quantities of oil and gas amidst an ongoing fuel crisis, lacks justification. Meanwhile, former Joint Convenor of Chattogram North District BNP Nurul Amin opined that it is unrealistic to expect a six-month-old government to resolve all the deep-seated complexities in the electricity and gas sectors inherited from the previous administration. Nevertheless, both leaders clarified BNP's stance on the democratic rights of opposition parties. Pointing out that BNP did not obstruct the opposition parties' rallies in Mirsharai, Amin maintained that everyone has the right to hold political programmes (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB says SRB risks becoming RAB under new name:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has warned that the proposed Special Response Battalion (SRB) could become little more than a rebranded Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) unless fundamental reforms are made to its structure, personnel, powers and accountability mechanisms. In a statement on Sunday, TIB expressed concern over the Special Response Battalion Bill, 2026, saying several provisions could give the proposed force broad and ambiguous powers while failing to provide adequate safeguards against abuse. TIB said the bill allows scope for searches and arrests without warrants based on suspicion, provides inadequate safeguards over the use of firearms and force, and creates an internal complaints mechanism that could involve conflicts of interest. It also raised concerns over the possible transfer of RAB personnel to the SRB without proper vetting and the inclusion of members of the armed forces on deputation. TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said abolishing RAB was a long-overdue policy decision, but simply changing the force's name would not amount to institutional reform (*Dhaka Tribune*, [06 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **10 more JS bodies formed with BNP MPs at the helm:** Ten more parliamentary standing committees of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad were formed yesterday, with opposition MPs again excluded from chairing the bodies despite their demand for 26 percent of the chairmanships. The ruling party has set a condition for allowing opposition lawmakers to head parliamentary standing committees: they must first agree to participate in the special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendment. Under the Rules of Procedure, all parliamentary standing committees must be formed by the third session of a parliament. There are 50 standing committees in total, including 39 related to different ministries, while the remaining ones are parliament-related. With the formation of 10 committees yesterday, a total of 36 standing committees have now been formed in the 13th parliament, including 30 ministry-related committees. So far, only one opposition lawmaker has been made chairman of a standing committee -- the Committee on Public Accounts. No opposition MP has been appointed chairman of any ministry-related standing committee (*The Daily Star*, [06 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Dissimilar energy solution timelines cause confusions, mislead buyers:** Dissimilar statements by ministers on when the energy crisis of Bangladesh will be addressed are confusing businesses that have already been grappling with severe shortages of gas and electricity. Hundreds of factories across the country's industrial areas, including Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Savar, Gazipur, Chattogram, Habiganj, Mymensingh, and Khulna, have either remained shut or substantially reduced production hours because of inadequate gas supply, while households have also been long suffering from the crisis. The crisis has been aggravated by several factors, with a number of power plants remaining offline due to technical faults, while damage to two floating storage and regasification units disrupted LNG supply. At the same time, the electricity supplied by India's Adani power plant fell below 900 MW from around 1,200 MW past month due to disruptions in coal transportation by rail in India. Bangladesh's import of 40MW hydropower from Nepal has also been affected after power plants were damaged by severe flash floods past week. Highlighting the limitations of over-reliance on gas for power generation, state minister for power and energy Aninda Islam Amit said on Wednesday gas-fired power plants had a combined capacity of about 12,000 MW and required 1,900 million cubic feet of gas a day. However, domestic production and imported LNG together allow only 2,300-2,700 million cubic feet to be supplied daily. This fosters risks of disruptions to industrial and residential gas supplies, he told the Jatiya Sangsad on September 2. Several power plants are currently offline, with one 616MW unit of the Payra Power Plant staying shut due to technical faults while another unit of the Matarbari Power Plant was closed for maintenance. In addition, technical faults in two FSRUs have been disrupting LNG supply, putting a crippling pressure on the energy system. While ministers have attributed much of the current crisis to the flawed energy policy from the previous Awami League government and the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, businesses and experts say the conflicting statements by ministers have become particularly noticeable over the past few weeks. Finance and planning minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has given the longest timeframe for a solution. 'The electricity and gas problem can't be solved in six months. No solution is possible within a year either. It will take at least two years,' he said at a luncheon organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Dhaka on August 16. Subsequently, state minister for planning Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki said the government might need one and a half to two years to overcome the existing energy crisis and make the fuel and power sector suitable for sustainable productivity. Power and energy state minister Aninda Islam Amit, meanwhile, has predicted a much shorter timeframe. In reply to a

supplementary question from opposition lawmaker Nurul Islam Bulbul in parliament on September 2, Amit hoped that the country's power situation would improve noticeably within the next 15 days. Meanwhile prime minister's adviser Zahed Ur Rahman had struck an optimistic note a day earlier, saying load-shedding would decline significantly soon. Business leaders and governance experts say while the crisis is severely affecting people and businesses, dissimilar timelines predicted by ministers have created confusion and uncertainties (*New Age*, [03 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **IDB signs \$1bn deal to modernise, expand Eastern Refinery:** The government has signed a \$1 billion agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to modernise and expand Eastern Refinery, the only state-owned oil refinery in Bangladesh. The agreement was signed at the Secretariat on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and IDB Group Chairman Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, according to the Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Mostafa Zulfiqar Hasan (Shiplu). The agreement was signed on behalf of the Bangladesh government by Md Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, additional secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance and on behalf of IDB Group by Director General (Country Programs) Anasse Aisami. Stating that the Eastern Refinery will develop an additional 3 million metric tonnes of oil refining capacity per year under this project, Deputy Press Secretary Shiplu said that if the project is implemented, it will be possible to meet about 45 to 50 percent of the country's demand for petroleum products. The project is planned for completion by November 2030 (*bdnews24.com*, [03 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **UK offers 2bn pounds financing support for Bangladesh project:** UK Export Finance (UKEF) has highlighted up to 2 billion pounds in financing capacity for eligible Bangladeshi buyers to undertake projects involving British goods and services across key development sectors. UKEF, the UK government's export credit agency, is engaging with government officials, financial institutions and business leaders in Bangladesh this week to explore financing opportunities, according to a British High Commission press release. With an available country capacity of between 1 billion and 2 billion, UKEF can help eligible Bangladeshi buyers access competitive financing for projects in transport, agriculture, healthcare, airports, manufacturing, renewable energy and infrastructure. A UK delegation is visiting Bangladesh from September 2 to 4 to discuss potential projects where British expertise, technology and financing could contribute to the country's development ambitions (*BSS News*, [03 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ctg connectivity boost in Dec as 3 mega projects near finish:** Three long-delayed mega infrastructure projects in Chattogram are expected to be fully opened to traffic in December, promising to improve connectivity, ease congestion and reduce travel time and costs across the port city and surrounding areas. The 15.2-kilometre Wasim Akram Elevated Expressway, 8.55km Kalurghat-Chaktai Road-cum-Embankment and a modern junction at the mouth of the Karnaphuli Tunnel have achieved 95%, 93% and 95% progress respectively. The projects involve a combined estimated cost of around Tk7,490 crore. Once operational, the projects are expected to facilitate trade and commerce centred on the country's premier seaport, improve passenger movement and ease pressure on the city centre and major roads (*Daily Sun*, [04 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique apologises for ongoing energy crisis:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman on Saturday apologised to people suffering from the ongoing electricity and energy crisis, including factory owners, saying his government had inherited a fragile economy and several other problems. 'I

would like to apologise on behalf of the party to all those who are suffering from the electricity and energy crisis, including many people and owners of many factories,' he said. The prime minister made the remarks while addressing a discussion meeting organised to mark the 48th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party as the chief guest at the auditorium of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Farmgate, Dhaka. Tarique said the BNP government had inherited not only a fragile economy but also fragile healthcare, education and communication systems, along with many other problems (*New Age*, [05 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Economy cannot function by shutting down companies: Finance Minister in Parliament:** Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has stated that if a company is closed down, its impact on the nation's economy must be calculated. Economy does not run on emotion; it must operate on the foundation of law. The finance minister made these remarks today, Sunday, during the Question Hour at the start of the parliamentary sitting chaired by Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal, responding to a supplementary question from NCP (National Citizen Party) member of parliament Abdul Hannan Masud regarding the decision to issue new loans to various entities owned by the S. Alam Group instead of putting them up for auction. In his supplementary question, Hannan Masud stated that Bangladesh now ranks as a global leader in default loans. Bangladesh Bank granted permission to SS Power—an entity owned by S. Alam Group, one of the top loan-defaulting conglomerates—to open an LC worth \$31,97,561. Currently, total loans held under various entities owned by the S. Alam Group exceeded Tk 225,000 crore. He asked the minister whether the government, by extending special loans rather than auctioning off or nationalising these defaulting entities, is effectively encouraging loan defaulters and whether this would disincentivise foreign lenders in various sectors. In response, the finance minister stated that there are established principles for managing the economy and financial sector, noting that the identity of an individual is separate from the identity of an institution (*Prothom Alo*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh signs \$3.65bn in WB financing agreements for 16 projects :** The government signed financing agreements with the World Bank for 16 projects worth a combined \$3,654.75 million in the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, finance minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday. Of the amount, \$2,844.50 million was committed for nine projects in FY2024-25, comprising \$2,830 million in loans and \$14.5 million in grants. In FY2025-26, financing agreements were signed for seven projects worth \$810.25 million, including \$791 million in loans and \$29.25 million in grants. The projects cover infrastructure development as well as agriculture, education, health, power, social protection, water resources management, communications, poverty reduction and financial sector reforms, among other areas, the minister said. He made the disclosure in reply to a question from Rehana Akter Ranu, a member of parliament from reserved women's seat-304, during the question-answer session of the third session of Jatiya Sangsd. Deputy speaker Kayser Kamal was in the chair (*New Age*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh moves to break BPC monopoly on fuel market:** The government is moving to open up Bangladesh's petroleum market to private companies, allowing them to import, distribute and market fuel alongside the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). The policy shift is aimed at ensuring an uninterrupted supply of petroleum products, particularly during periods of crisis, while increasing private investment and strengthening the country's fuel-storage and distribution infrastructure. Sources said the government has already assigned the BPC to formulate a policy framework under which private companies would be allowed to

import petroleum products and subsequently distribute and sell them at the retail level (*Daily Sun*, [06 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PDB seeks more fuel oil for power generation:** Amid the gas shortage, the government is looking to increase its reliance on furnace-oil-fired power plants to make up for the shortfall in electricity generation. It has planned to generate an average of around 4,000 megawatts of electricity a day from these plants in September. To facilitate this, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has sought 204,100 tonnes of furnace oil from the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). The oil has been requested on an urgent basis for 53 public and private power plants. Together, these plants have a generation capacity of 5,538 megawatts (*Prothom Alo*, [07 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **PM's adviser, Chinese envoy discuss strengthening defence ties:** Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen today paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam at his office at the Armed Forces Division (AFD) in Dhaka Cantonment. During the meeting, they discussed ways to further strengthen and accelerate existing military and defence cooperation between Bangladesh and China, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate press release this evening.. The discussions covered advanced professional training for AFD members of the two countries, exchanges in military education and enhancement of technological capabilities. They expressed hope that increased exchanges of experience and training cooperation to address emerging military challenges would further deepen bilateral relations. The Chinese ambassador reaffirmed China's continued support for modernising Bangladesh's defence sector. Both sides expressed their commitment to taking bilateral defence cooperation to a new height for mutual benefit (*BSS News*, [03 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **No updates on PM Tarique Rahman's visit to India: New Delhi:** New Delhi says it has "no specific updates" on whether Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will travel to the country to attend the BRICS summit. Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the remark at the ministry's weekly briefing on Friday. Asked by a reporter whether there had been any communication from Bangladesh on the matter, he said: "Regarding Bangladesh's participation in the BRICS Summit, I have no specific updates to share at this moment." The spokesperson was also mum on several recent media interviews by Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India after she was ousted from power in a student-led mass uprising. "As for the media interviews featuring former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, I have no comments to make on those reports," Jaiswal said (*bdnews24.com*, [04 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Despite challenges, Dhaka willing to engage with Delhi:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Saturday said Bangladesh wants engagement and a good working relationship with India despite existing challenges, stressing that the door to dialogue will always remain open. "There might be thousands of problems and challenges with India, but the door of dialogue and discussion will always remain open. And that should be kept," he told reporters. The state minister made the remarks during an exchange of views with leaders of the Electronic Media Journalists Association (EMJA) in Sylhet. Kobir said foreign, economic and security policies are intertwined for most countries around the world, not just Bangladesh. Talking about the challenges with India, the state minister said there were concerns over people who fled

Bangladesh after killing people and are now staying in India. The state minister, who has met Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi twice so far, said India must understand the situation. "I met him (the envoy) twice. He is trying, but he gets stuck somewhere," he said. Kobir also emphasized the need to stop former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from using platforms in India, saying it was irrelevant whether they were private or public. Regarding Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's possible visit to India, Kobir said the possibility of such a visit before the upcoming UN General Assembly session was very slim (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dhaka, Delhi eye strengthening cultural engagement:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Sunday met Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury and both sides highlighted the importance of strengthening cultural engagement between the two countries. The discussion highlighted the deep-rooted cultural connections between the peoples of the two countries. They discussed potential cooperation and exchanges in the fields of classical music, folk art, heritage conservation, institutional linkages, and joint cultural programmes and conferences, especially as part of Nazrul Borsho celebrations, all aimed at promoting people-to-people ties. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Ali Nawaz Mahmud Khayyam was also present (*Dhaka Tribune*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Trump may meet Tarique Rahman during UN session, says Humaiun Kobir:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir says there is a possibility of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman meeting US President Donald Trump during the UN General Assembly session. He said, "The prime minister will go to the UN with a message of progress for the new Bangladesh. There is a possibility of a meeting with US President Donald Trump there." In response to a question about buying Boeing aircraft from the US, the state minister said: "No one is forcing us to buy Boeing. Boeing is being bought from America because there is demand. More will be bought if necessary." Humaiun believes that Bangladesh's strategic relations with the United States in particular are creating positive prospects for the country's future (*bdnews24.com*, [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM to champion 'Bangladesh First' agenda at UNGA:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will advance Bangladesh's national interests, economic potential and development opportunities globally under the government's "Bangladesh First" foreign policy during the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said today. "This year's session is an extremely important one for Bangladesh. It marks a new journey, a new possibility and a new aspiration," she said. She was addressing a discussion titled "Upcoming UNGA and Branding of Bangladesh" as the chief guest at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. The Centre for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (Centre for NRB), a non-profit research organisation for expatriate Bangladeshis, organised the event. Shama said the prime minister would attend the UNGA for the first time since the establishment of the new democratic government. Guided by the government's "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, Tarique Rahman would present Bangladesh to the international community as a democratic, confident, responsible and promising nation, she added. The high-level segment of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly is scheduled to begin in New York on September 21 (*BSS News*, [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Indian Express column points to MEA lobby against India-Bangladesh rapprochement:** A powerful lobby within India's Ministry of External Affairs may have played a role in thwarting efforts to improve strained ties between India and Bangladesh, according to a column published

by The Indian Express. In the column titled 'Inside Track: Outsiders Unwelcome', Indian Express contributing editor Coomi Kapoor wrote that diplomatic insiders in both New Delhi and Dhaka believed the MEA lobby had worked against efforts to bring about a rapprochement between the two neighbours. 'Diplomatic insiders in both Delhi and Bangladesh see a powerful lobby in the external affairs ministry playing a part in thwarting efforts to bring about a rapprochement in Indo-Bangladesh ties,' she wrote in the column published on Sunday. Kapoor suggested that the MEA may have been unhappy with Indian prime minister Narendra Modi's appointment of politician Dinesh Trivedi, a non-Indian Foreign Service officer, as India's high commissioner to Bangladesh. Trivedi's efforts to bridge the growing gap between the two countries, including persuading Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to agree to dates for a visit to India, were 'not appreciated by all', Kapoor wrote. She said that after the proposed dates for Tarique's visit were leaked, the MEA 'acted as a spoiler' (*New Age*, [06 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh resolves 48 of 61 non-tariff barriers with EU:** Bangladesh has resolved 48 of the 61 non-tariff barriers identified in trade with the European Union, while efforts continue to resolve the remaining 13, Khandakar Abdul Muktadir said on Sunday. He also said Bangladesh would soon begin negotiations for a free trade agreement with the EU, its largest export market. He made the remarks after a meeting with representatives of the EU delegation in Bangladesh at the Secretariat in Dhaka. The minister said Bangladesh had formally sought the EU's support for its proposal to defer its graduation from the least developed country category by another three years. A decision on the proposal is expected at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly this month. 'So far, we have resolved 48 non-tariff barriers with the EU, and we explained the progress to the ambassadors of the EU countries at today's meeting,' he said. Among the barriers resolved were issues related to renewing licences for foreign logistics companies, doubling the limit for importing samples, and smart traceability, he said (*New Age*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Boeing-Airbus competition: EU envoy seeks level playing field:** The European Union wants a level playing field in Bangladesh's public procurement so that European companies can compete on commercial merit with companies from any country, EU ambassador and head of delegation to Bangladesh Michael Miller said on Sunday. 'What we request is a level playing field in all directions,' Miller told reporters after a meeting between the EU and Bangladesh at the commerce ministry. He said public procurement decisions should be taken on the basis of commercial merit so that economic operators from different countries could compete on an equal footing and the government could secure the best value for taxpayers' money. 'In our view, Airbus has an incredibly competitive offer. It should be taken very seriously, and we look forward to the very swift concluding of negotiations between Airbus and Biman,' he said. Miller was responding to questions about the competition between US aircraft manufacturer Boeing and European aircraft maker Airbus over aircraft purchases by Bangladesh's national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines (*New Age*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaion Kobir lauds Japan's efforts for durable Rohingya solution: State** Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir on Sunday appreciated Japan's efforts toward achieving a durable solution through the safe, voluntary, sustainable, and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas to Rakhine State in Myanmar. He also appreciated the Nippon Foundation and Japan's humanitarian assistance for the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. The state minister said Bangladesh remains firmly committed to working with the international community to resolve this prolonged humanitarian and regional challenge. He made the remarks when Honorary Chair of the Nippon Foundation of Japan Yohei Sasakawa paid a courtesy call on him at his office (*Dhaka Tribune*, [06 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Vietnam outline strategic economic targets:** Bangladesh and Vietnam have reviewed major bilateral achievements between the two countries, outlined strategic economic targets, and coordinated on high-level visits and regional cooperation frameworks. Bangladesh Ambassador to Vietnam Md Lutfor Rahman paid a farewell call on the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Tô Lâm at his office recently to mark the completion of his tenure in Ha Noi. The meeting was marked by profound warmth and a shared commitment to elevating the longstanding friendship and multifaceted partnership between Bangladesh and Vietnam. They reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Vietnam, with particular emphasis on increasing bilateral trade to \$2 billion, strengthening economic relations and streamlining tourism cooperation, and exploring new areas of partnership (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 September 2026](#)).

Security

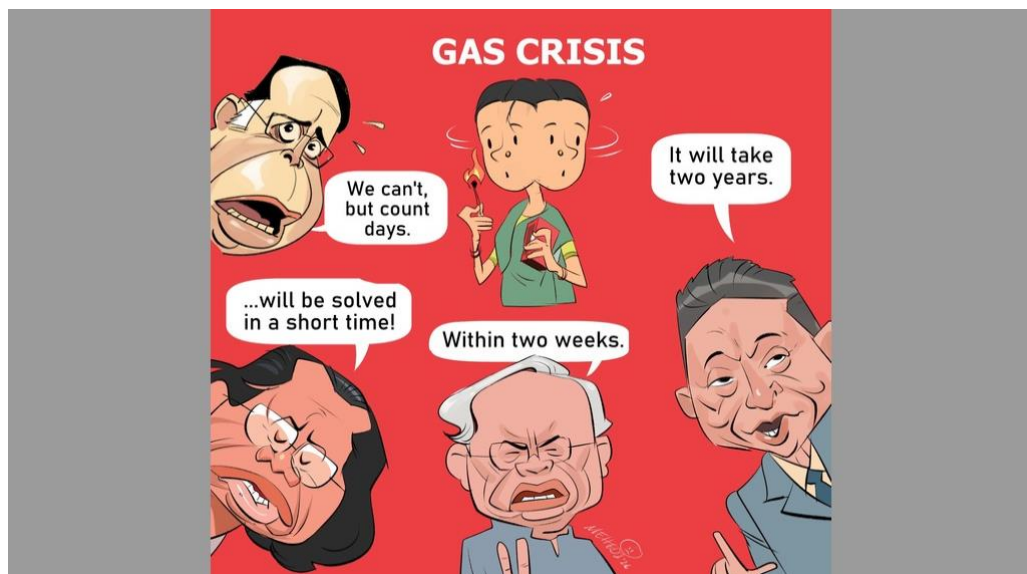
- ◆ **8 Bangladeshis arrested in Indonesia on illegal entry charges:** The Indonesian Navy has arrested 16 people, including eight Bangladeshis, on charges of illegally entering the country. They were arrested on Monday in the western district of Dumai, according to a report by Indonesian media outlet The Jakarta Post. Quoting naval officer Agung N Kusumaji, the report said the group was caught while entering Indonesia's Riau province from Malaysia. The eight other people arrested were Indonesian nationals. They were allegedly attempting to enter Indonesia illegally aboard a twin-engine speedboat. They were detained while arriving at Purnama Beach. Col Kusumaji, head of the Dumai Naval Base, said they received intelligence about the attempted illegal entry on Sunday evening. "After receiving the information, naval personnel were instructed to conduct surveillance across the waters and coastline of Purnama," he said (*bdnews24.com*, [04 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh Navy chief Admiral Khondkar Misbah departs for Saudi Arabia:** Bangladesh Navy Chief Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim has left for Saudi Arabia on an official visit. He departed for Saudi Arabia on Saturday morning, the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said in a media statement. During the visit, the Navy chief will pay courtesy calls on the chief of general staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, the chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and the commander of the Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition. The meetings will cover various issues of mutual bilateral interest, according to the ISPR. "During the bilateral meetings, discussions will be held on the existing mutually friendly relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia and different areas of cooperation between the two navies," the statement said. While in Saudi Arabia, Admiral Misbah will visit military and naval installations and exchange views on professional relations, training and other issues between the two countries' navies. The ISPR expressed hope that the visit would further strengthen the existing mutual cooperation and fraternal friendly relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia (*bdnews24.com*, [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Farmer injured in BSF firing along Feni border:** A Bangladeshi farmer was injured during firing allegedly by India's Border Security Force (BSF) while working on a field along the Feni border in Chhagalnaiya on Friday. The injured farmer was identified as Mosharraf, 45, son of late Md Mostafa of Miar Bari in Joynagar area of Chhagalnaiya upazila. He is undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH). CMCH police outpost In-Charge Nurul Alam

Ashek told the Daily Sun that Mosharraf was working on the field when a bullet fired by the BSF suddenly struck the left side of his back (*Daily Sun*, [05 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BGB deploys advanced drones, thermal devices along borders to strengthen surveillance:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has significantly expanded its technological capabilities along the country's borders by deploying a fleet of advanced drones, anti-drone systems and thermal surveillance devices as part of the Home Ministry's 180-day action plan to strengthen border security and combat cross-border crimes. The technology-driven border security initiative is among the major achievements highlighted in the overall implementation of the Home Ministry's 180-day action plan, which covered the period up to 16 August, 2026, in line with the BNP's electoral pledges. Under the initiative, the BGB has added five medium-range drones, 50 short-range (TI) drones, 82 surveillance drones and 10 handheld anti-drone systems to its fleet using its own funds. The force has also installed 21 night-vision cameras and thermal devices along the Myanmar border and 145 such devices along the Indian border, substantially enhancing round-the-clock surveillance capabilities in vulnerable border areas, according to a Home Ministry report. The initiative comes as the government seeks to modernise law enforcement and security agencies through greater use of surveillance technology, intelligence-based operations and digital monitoring (*Daily Sun*, [05 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **300 Chinese people set up bases in Cox's Bazar to conduct cybercrimes:** Around 250 to 300 Chinese nationals had set up bases in Cox's Bazar to carry out online criminal activities, according to police. They reportedly rented several resorts around the Marine Drive road and used them as bases for different online crimes. Recently, Cox's Bazar district police arrested six Chinese nationals in a raid. Police filed a case against them with Ramu Police Station on charges of online fraud. At the time of their arrest, police seized 1,938 iPhones, laptops, computers and a large number of other electronic devices from them. Other members of the group reportedly fled. Police said their investigation following the arrests uncovered information about the group's activities. The group was allegedly involved in different crimes, including online fraud, money embezzlement, online gambling, casino operations, fake trading websites and hacking. A senior intelligence officer of the police, seeking anonymity, said the group initially tried to establish bases in the hill areas of Chattogram after law enforcement agencies launched drives against similar fraud groups in and around Dhaka. 'But as law enforcement activities were stronger there, they chose Cox's Bazar as a safer place,' he added (*New Age*, [06 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB, villagers thwart attempt to push 60–70 people into Bangladesh:** The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) attempted to push 60 to 70 men and women into Bangladesh through the Daudpur border in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur. However, the attempt was thwarted by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local villagers. Tensions are prevailing along the border following the incident. The incident took place at the Daudpur border, under the jurisdiction of the Joypurhat Battalion (BGB 20), at around 10:00 pm on Sunday. According to local sources, the men and women were scattered in the Nichha Gobindapur area inside India, 20 to 30 yards from border pillars 289/51S and 289/56S. Moinul Islam, a resident of South Daudpur village and a member of the local Union Parishad, confirmed the matter to Prothom Alo. He said the BSF had attempted to push several men and women into Bangladesh through the Daudpur border. After learning about the matter, the BGB, with the help of villagers, thwarted the attempt. Since then, BGB personnel, village police, Ansar members and villagers have remained on alert along the border, he added. Daudpur BGB BOP camp commander Naik Subedar Mahabubur Rahman said the BSF had been unable to send even one person into Bangladesh.

due to the BGB's efforts. Villagers also assisted the BGB. Faced with their resistance, the people coming from India towards Bangladesh were unable to proceed further, he said (*Prothom Alo*, [07 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Armed groups in Rohingya camps pose serious internal security threat:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmad said on Sunday that the growing activities of armed groups inside Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are emerging as a serious threat to Bangladesh's internal security, raising concerns over violence, criminal networks and the safety of both refugees and host communities. "Bangladesh has been providing shelter, food, land, healthcare and essential protection for basic living needs to more than 1.5 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds for nine years. However, over time, criminal activities, arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking, gender-based violence, and the activities of armed groups have increased in the camps, posing a serious challenge to Bangladesh's internal security," he said, addressing a discussion as chief guest in the capital (*Daily Sun*, [07 September 2026](#)).



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