

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

08 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Four more parliamentary committees formed, none chaired by opposition:** Jatiya Sangsad on Monday formed four more parliamentary committees, but none of them has an opposition lawmaker as chairperson, amid an ongoing dispute over the allocation of committee chairmanships. **The four committees are the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Government Assurances, the Standing Committee on the Housing and Public Works Ministry and the Petitions Committee.** Chief whip Nurul Islam Moni moved the proposals for the first three committees, while deputy speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal proposed the formation of the Petitions Committee. **The proposals were passed by voice vote. The parliament has 50 committees — 39 ministry-related standing committees and 11 subject-based committees. With Monday's formation, 40 committees have now been constituted, including 31 ministry-related standing committees and nine subject-based committees. None of the ministry-related standing committees is chaired by an opposition lawmaker, while among the nine subject-based committees formed so far, only the Public Accounts Committee is chaired by an opposition lawmaker.** The latest formations came against the backdrop of a dispute that erupted in parliament on August 30 over committee chairmanships. The opposition had demanded 26 per cent of the chairmanships in line with its strength in the House (*New Age*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Parliamentary committee backs repeal of bank ownership provision:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance has recommended repealing the much-debated Section 18A of the Bank Resolution Act, which allowed former shareholders or owners of banks placed under resolution or merged with other banks to regain ownership or control subject to certain conditions. **The move comes after no individual or institution applied to regain ownership or control of a bank by fulfilling all the requirements set out under the provision since the law came into force.** The recommendation was made in the committee's report on the Bank Resolution (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which was placed before the third session of the 13th National Parliament. Section 18A of the Bank Resolution Act, 2026, provided a mechanism for former owners or shareholders of troubled banks placed under resolution to apply for the restoration of ownership or control. Applicants were required to meet specific conditions, including commitments to restructure the bank's capital and financial liabilities and make prescribed financial payments. **Section 18A drew criticism from the banking sector and civil society groups after the Bank Resolution Act was passed. Critics feared that former owners responsible for a bank's collapse or financial distress could regain control of the institution by meeting the prescribed financial conditions.** Concerns were also raised by several quarters, including the Bangladesh Association of Banks. The proposed amendment would remove from the law the provision allowing former owners to regain ownership or control of banks placed under resolution (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat protests property transfer law, demands repeal:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami on Monday demanded the immediate repeal of a newly passed property transfer law, alleging that its provisions contradict the Quran and Sunnah. At a protest rally organized by the Dhaka

metropolitan unit of Jamaat at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar also called for consultations with prominent Islamic scholars on matters concerning Islamic law. The protesters demanded that the legislation be reviewed by the Islamic Foundation's fatwa board and warned of stronger protests if the government fails to reconsider it. **The amendment to the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, was passed by parliament on Sunday. It allows a donor to continue enjoying gifted property during their lifetime when the transfer is made between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, or between spouses. The amendment also provides that if the recipient dies during the donor's lifetime, the property will pass to the recipient's heirs in accordance with the law.** Parwar alleged that the legislation directly violates the Quran and Sunnah, saying even previous rulers, including the British and military ruler Ayub Khan, had not taken such a step. He claimed opposition leaders and lawmakers had objected to the legislation in parliament, citing Shariah provisions, while some opposition lawmakers staged a walkout in protest. Parwar also said Islamic scholars from different parts of Bangladesh, including the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram, had opposed the law (Dhaka Tribune, [07 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM invites opposition leader to Tk150 lunch:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman invited Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman to lunch costing Tk150. **The invitation came during a general discussion in Parliament on Monday under Rule 68 on “taking effective measures to address disruptions to power generation caused by the severe fuel and gas crisis, prevent factory closures and unemployment, and avert serious disruption to the national economy.”** During the discussion, the opposition leader praised the prime minister's inexpensive lunch. He said, “We are encouraged when we see that the honourable prime minister's lunch costs Tk100 to Tk150. I like it. I cannot even eat at such a low cost. I am saying this quite plainly.” The prime minister then gestured and said, “Come, I'll treat you to lunch.” **In response, the opposition leader said, “You'll treat me? Thank you very much. But I won't eat alone. I want to eat with 180 million people. I want to eat with everyone. Still, thank you for making the offer.”** Shafiqur Rahman also praised the prime minister's lifestyle, describing it as simple and saying he did not lead an ostentatious, “suited-and-booted” life. However, he criticised the conduct of the PM's followers despite praising the prime minister's personal lifestyle (Prothom Alo, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **5 state law officers resign from Bangladesh Attorney General's Office:** Five state law officers resigned today, citing “professional and personal reasons” amid recent appointments and cancellations in the Attorney General's (AG) office. The five are: Additional Attorneys General Md Abdul Jabbar Bhuiyan, Rohani Siddiqua and Projjal Chakma, and Deputy Attorneys General (DAGs) Sultana Akter Rubi and Mamun Chowdhury. AG office sources said another 10 to 12 law officers may resign soon, having been asked to step down over alleged links with the Awami League, whose activities have been banned. **Earlier, two AAGs resigned citing personal reasons after similar allegations.** On July 30 this year, the government appointed 86 Supreme Court lawyers as DAGs and 179 as AAGs to represent the state in the Supreme Court, after revoking all previous appointments. Since then, excluded lawyers have staged demonstrations at the AG office. On September 1, two groups clashed at the Supreme Court Bar Association premises. **Earlier, on June 23, 18 Jamaat-e-Islami-backed law officers -- seven DAGs and 11 AAGs -- resigned in protest against the BNP government's failure to implement the July National Charter, its opposition to an independent judiciary secretariat, and its move to repeal the Supreme Court Judge Appointment Ordinance** (*The Daily Star*, [07 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt blames Awami League for energy crisis; opposition says mismanagement continues:** Treasury bench members on Monday blamed the acute energy and gas crisis in Bangladesh on the “short-sightedness, corruption and protection of partisan business interests” of the ousted Awami League government. Opposition lawmakers agreed with the assessment but also blamed the incumbent government, arguing that the roots of the crisis lie in “mismanagement, indecision, and above all, the government’s incompetent leadership”. They made the remarks during a debate in the parliament on a motion brought by Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman on the energy crisis. The motion called for “effective measures to prevent severe disruption to electricity generation, closure of industries leading to unemployment, and serious damage to the national economy caused by the acute energy and gas crisis”. Shafiqur proposed forming a taskforce or cell to identify solutions to the energy crisis. In reply, State Minister for Energy Aninda Islam Amit urged the opposition to formally submit its proposals to his ministry (*The Daily Star*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Writ seeks suspension of Awami League activities ban:** The government’s ban on all activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations has come under legal challenge, with a writ petition asking the High Court to declare the May 2025 notification imposing the restrictions beyond the government’s lawful authority. **The petition also seeks a stay on the notification while the court considers the challenge, potentially opening a significant legal test of the restrictions imposed on the former ruling party until completion of proceedings at the International Crimes Tribunal.** Deputy Attorney General Nur Mohammad Azmi confirmed the filing of the petition on Monday. The writ was listed as item 60 on Monday’s cause list of the High Court bench comprising Justice JBM Hasan and Justice Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **‘No appeal window left for death-row convict Hasina’:** Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Md Aminul Islam said on Monday that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina will have no further opportunity to appeal against her death sentence as she did not file an appeal within 30 days of the ICT verdict. Speaking at a press conference at his office, he said the law applied equally to everyone, whether the person concerned was a fugitive or in custody. Referring to the case of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the chief prosecutor said the **law clearly requires an appeal against a tribunal verdict to be filed within 30 days of its pronouncement.** The tribunal had sentenced Azad to death, but he remained outside the country for a long time and did not file an appeal, he said. **The chief prosecutor said work is under way to finalise the legal process for confiscating the assets of Hasina and others already ordered by the tribunal in cases over the July killings, including which agency will carry out the confiscation and how proceeds will reach victims’ families** (*Daily Sun*, [08 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hasina plans first-week December return:** Deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, sentenced to death for crimes against humanity in absentia, plans to return to Bangladesh in the first week of December, according to Awami League leaders. **The president of Awami League, which faces ban on political activities, has finalised plans to enter Bangladesh through the Petrapole-Benapole land port either at the end of the first week of December or the beginning of the second week.** All European Awami League leader Abbas Chowdhury told TIMES, citing Hasina, that she would announce her return date before international media in New Delhi in mid-October. It would be her first public appearance since she was ousted from power. Hasina also told Indian media outlet The Wall on Sunday that she plans to return in December, saying, “I could be killed if I return home. I could be arrested and tortured. Yet, for the sake of the people

of the country, I must return.” TIMES spoke to at least six Awami League leaders, who said Hasina may not ask anyone to take risks and return home, but leaders and activists staying abroad want to come back. They said around 60 party leaders from different countries have already gathered in Kolkata, where they are holding regular meetings, coordinating online activities and instructing party workers to remain active. Another 20 central leaders are also working with them. Abbas Chowdhury claimed leaders from the United States, United Kingdom and Europe would join them in Kolkata before December and return to Bangladesh with Hasina (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [08 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Hasina says Sheikh Selim, not Rehana, will lead Awami League in her absence:** Awami League President Sheikh Hasina says senior Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim will serve as party president in her absence, ruling out her sister Sheikh Rehana for the role. Hasina made the remarks in a telephone interview with Amal Sarkar, executive editor of Indian outlet The Wall. **“Sheikh Selim is now the senior-most Presidium member. He will serve as president in my absence,”** the report quoted her as saying. Speculation has persisted over the future leadership of the Awami League and who might take charge of the organisation in Hasina’s absence. **Asked whether Rehana could assume the role, Hasina said: “Rehana is not directly involved in politics.”** She instead named Selim, her cousin, as the senior figure who would take charge. Some former Awami League ministers and senior leaders, however, told *bdnews24.com* they had reservations about the decision. One said discussions held at meetings at Selim’s residence often became public quickly. Another pointed to allegations previously raised against Selim, including claims of corruption and nepotism (*bdnews24.com*, [07 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **ACC adds Kaykaus corruption allegations to Adani power deal investigation:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has recommended adding fresh allegations of illicit wealth against Ahmed Kaykaus to its ongoing inquiry into the Adani power deal. **Kaykaus, a former principal secretary to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former senior secretary of the Power Division, is accused of amassing illegal wealth through corruption, irregularities and abuse of power,** ACC Deputy Director (Public Relations) Md Aktarul Islam said at a briefing on Monday. He said, “The commission has recommended adding the allegation to the ongoing inquiry into irregularities and corruption in the power purchase agreement between Adani Power and the Bangladesh government.” **Kaykaus was power secretary when the agreement was signed.** The ACC began examining the deal in April 2025 over allegations that customs and tax exemptions were included while bypassing the National Board of Revenue (NBR), costing the government around Tk 45 billion in revenue. **The NBR had said its investigation found evidence of around \$400 million in customs evasion linked to Adani power imports** (*bdnews24.com*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh exports to India rise 7.67 percent despite diplomatic tensions:** Diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and India have remained strained for more than two years, but bilateral trade has continued to show resilience, with Bangladesh’s exports to its neighbour rising in the first two months of the ongoing fiscal year. **Bangladesh exported goods worth \$335.2 million to India in July-August of fiscal 2026-27, up 7.67 percent from \$311.3 million in the same period a year earlier,** according to Export Promotion Bureau data released on Tuesday. The

growth was the highest among Bangladesh's major non-traditional markets. Exports to China and Australia each rose 2.51 percent, while exports to Japan fell 0.30 percent. The figures indicate that political tensions following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on Aug 5, 2024 have not translated into a decline in Bangladesh's exports to India so far. **Imports from India have also continued** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [08 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Local government minister hopes for 'deeper' Bangladesh-Malaysia ties:** Bangladesh has looked to open a new chapter in its ties with Malaysia, with Local Government Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan calling for "deeper, more multifaceted" cooperation between the two countries. He congratulated the Malaysian government and people while addressing a Monday event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dhaka, held to mark the country's 69th National Day and Malaysia Day. **Bilateral trade now stands at around \$3 billion, the minister said, adding there was scope to grow it further alongside boosting cooperation in free trade, investment, energy, digital infrastructure, electric vehicles and modern technology.** Moyeen stressed the need to ensure safe, transparent migration for Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia. **He called on both administrations to join hands in reining in unscrupulous syndicates seeking to exploit overseas job seekers. The minister also advocated for expanding cooperation across education, skill development, and cultural exchanges. He urged Malaysia to play a "constructive role" in resolving the Rohingya crisis** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [08 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Inflation eases slightly to 8.26pc in August:** Bangladesh's overall inflation eased slightly to 8.26 percent in August, down from 8.32 percent in July, according to the latest data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). **The inflation rate declined by 0.06 percentage point month-on-month while it stood at 8.29 percent in August last year. The decline was mainly driven by lower food inflation, which fell to 7.02 percent in August from 7.16 percent in July and 7.60 percent a year earlier. However, non-food inflation increased to 9.32 percent in August from 9.28 percent in July and 8.90 percent in August 2025.** According to the BBS data, overall inflation in rural areas fell to 8.31 percent in August from 8.36 percent in July. Rural food inflation declined to 7.01 percent while non-food inflation rose to 9.59 percent. In urban areas, overall inflation eased to 8.20 percent in August from 8.24 percent in July. Urban food inflation stood at 7.04 percent, while non-food inflation was recorded at 8.97 percent. Meanwhile, the national wage growth rate also moderated slightly in August (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Government approves six-month tax relief on solar power imports:** The government has approved six months of duty and tax relief on imports of equipment and parts for solar power plants to boost renewable energy development. **The decision was approved at the cabinet's 20th meeting, held at the parliament on Monday, according to a Cabinet Division media statement. Under the measure, specified equipment imports will be exempt from most duties and taxes for six months.** The cabinet has also approved a proposal to sign an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Hong Kong to boost investment from the territory and ensure greater security and protection for investors from both sides. The agreement will establish an institutional framework to facilitate increased foreign investment flows between Bangladesh and Hong Kong once it comes into force, according to the Cabinet Division (*bdnews24.com*, [08 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh to host next Sundarbans conservation talks with India:** The next meeting of the Joint Working Group of Bangladesh and India on the conservation of biodiversity of the Sundarbans will be held in Bangladesh. The decision was taken when Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dinesh Trivedi met Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo at the Secretariat. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Working Group of the two countries on the Sundarbans conservation in Bangladesh under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh and India. **They also agreed to hold the next bilateral meeting in Bangladesh in continuation of the protocol signed between the two countries on the conservation of the Bengal Tiger. However, it was decided to hold the next meeting on transboundary Asian elephant conservation in India.** They discussed environment and climate change, transboundary environmental problems, carbon credits, carbon emission reduction and development of green economy. He also said Bangladesh is keen to advance positive and constructive relations with India based on mutual respect and common interests (*BSS News*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zabihullah for ensuring Bangladesh's fair share of Ganges waters:** Prime Minister's Adviser on Public Administration Md. Ismail Zabihullah today called for reducing the trade deficit between Bangladesh and India and ensuring Bangladesh's fair share of the waters of the Ganges. **"Bangladesh and India are friendly neighboring countries. Bangladesh shares a long border with India,"** he said while Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on Md Ismail Zabihullah, also BNP National Standing Committee member, at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat. The adviser said bringing border killings down to zero is important for mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries. During the meeting, they discussed enhancing mutual communication and advancing bilateral relations between the two countries. Zabihullah expressed hope that Bangladesh-India bilateral relations would be further strengthened under the leadership of the current Indian High Commissioner. During the meeting, High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi highlighted the shared culture and historic ties between Bangladesh and India. He also mentioned the strong demand for Bangladeshi hilsa in India. The Indian High Commissioner expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries would be further expanded in their mutual interests (*BSS News*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi says PM Tarique has a standing invitation:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Monday expressed optimism that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would pay a visit to India at the right time, stressing that the Prime Minister knows about the standing invitation. **"We are absolutely confident....at the right time... the prime minister of Bangladesh has a standing invitation, and he knows it,"** he told reporters when a journalist wanted to know about the possible visit. The high commissioner met with Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo. State Minister Shaikh Faridul Islam was also present. **Talking to reporters after the meeting, the high commissioner said the people-to-people relationship is very important. "So, we don't only share borders, we share dreams,"** he said. The Indian envoy said environment and animals, fortunately, do not require visas. They discussed the progress of bilateral cooperation mechanisms in the areas of wildlife conservation and habitat protection, as well as opportunities to further strengthen cooperation on transboundary pollution, waste management, and other environmental issues of mutual interest (*Dhaka Tribune*, [08 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Khalilur takes UNGA chair on Tuesday, elevates Bangladesh's diplomatic visibility:** Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman is set to assume the presidency of the 81st United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA) on Tuesday, marking a defining moment for Bangladesh's diplomacy and enhancing the country's global visibility. The year-long presidency places a Bangladeshi diplomat at the helm of the UN's most representative organ at a critical juncture when conflicts, climate emergencies, development setbacks and eroding confidence in multilateralism are testing the international system. Khalilur will open the 81st session at the UN Headquarters in New York at 3 pm local time on Tuesday, succeeding Germany's former foreign minister Annalena Baerbock. **Shama said the presidency would give Bangladesh greater global visibility and opportunities to articulate issues of importance across the multilateral system. She particularly highlighted the Rohingya crisis, saying the presidency would provide an opportunity to keep the issue high on the international agenda and mobilize stronger global attention towards a sustainable solution.** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said Khalilur's election demonstrated Bangladesh's ability to play a constructive role in promoting international peace and stability. **Describing Bangladesh as a "soft power" and an "emerging tiger", he said the country engages internationally through cooperation, dialogue and goodwill rather than coercion** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Volker Turk calls for independent oversight body for Bangladesh security forces:** Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has called for the establishment of a robust and independent national institution to oversee Bangladesh's security forces. He made this call regarding Bangladesh during his address on the global situation at the 63rd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva today, Monday. Volker Türk stated, "In Bangladesh, we have been calling for a strengthened and independent national institution that has oversight of security forces." **The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly stressed the need to ensure accountability within Bangladesh's law enforcement and related agencies. He emphasised the necessity of creating a stronger institutional framework for independent oversight of these bodies. The report put forward 44 recommendations aimed at improving the human rights situation in Bangladesh.** Major among them was the emphasis on independent oversight to monitor the conduct of law enforcement agencies, alongside recommendations for independent investigations into grave human rights violations, institutional reforms, civilian oversight, and mechanisms for accountability. The report also highlighted recommendations from various UN treaty bodies—composed of independent experts monitoring the implementation of international human rights treaties (*Prothom Alo*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Japanese delegation meets state minister for disaster over Rohingya crisis:** A high-level delegation from The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) of Japan, now visiting Bangladesh, today met with the State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief M. Iqbal Hossain at his Secretariat office here. **The delegation was led by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the present situation of the Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, their ongoing humanitarian assistance programmes and the growing international funding crisis.** The meeting noted that declining foreign humanitarian assistance and funding has made it increasingly difficult to maintain essential services for the Rohingyas including their food and nutrition, healthcare, water and sanitation, protection, shelter and other emergency humanitarian activities. Against this backdrop, the participants stressed the need for continued, adequate and long-term foreign funding to ensure the basic humanitarian needs of the Rohingyas. The Bangladeshi side particularly called for stronger cooperation from The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to sustain humanitarian assistance

programmes for the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char and to help address the funding shortfall (*BSS News*, [07 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Switzerland find economic partnership key pillar of bilateral relations:** Bangladesh and Switzerland on Monday discussed ways to further expand bilateral trade and investment, including increased Swiss investment in promising sectors of the Bangladesh economy. Both sides recognised economic partnership as a key pillar of Bangladesh-Switzerland bilateral relations. Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Reto Renggli paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **They agreed to pursue practical measures to enhance technical and vocational skills development opportunities for Bangladesh's workforce.** The ambassador congratulated the state minister on his assumption of office and expressed confidence that the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Switzerland would be further strengthened. The state minister also underscored the importance of regular exchanges in strengthening political, cultural and people-to-people ties between Bangladesh and Switzerland. **The ambassador of Switzerland hoped that operationalisation of the new Embassy of Bangladesh in Bern could facilitate in strengthening existing bilateral relations in depth and dimension, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.** Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to shared values, including democracy, human rights, multilateralism, respect for international law and rules-based international order. They reiterated their commitment to working together in multi-lateral fora to uphold these values (*Dhaka Tribune*, [07 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Commerce Minister, US envoy discuss ways to boost trade, investment:** US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen held a fruitful meeting with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir today, focusing on increasing US investment in Bangladesh, ensuring transparency in major infrastructure projects and making the trade environment more business-friendly. The meeting was held at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) office in the capital, said a press release. **The two sides discussed expanding bilateral trade, partnership in the energy sector and recent policy reforms in Bangladesh. During the meeting, the US Ambassador raised the issue of floating LNG terminal (FSRU) projects and said maintaining a transparent and competitive environment in major infrastructure initiatives would further strengthen confidence among foreign investors.** He said US companies are highly interested in operating in Bangladesh and stressed ensuring fair opportunities for open competition. In response, Muktedir welcomed US investors and said proposals from US companies would receive the highest priority if they demonstrate their capacity to deliver FSRUs within the shortest possible time. He said presenting an effective supply plan within a short timeframe would strengthen their position in the bidding process (*BSS News*, [07 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Drugs enter through border, where major markets are located:** A Toyota Land Cruiser Prado carrying 300,000 yaba tablets from Cox's Bazar set off for Dhaka on 17 August. After stopping in Chattogram for a day, the vehicle took the Dhaka–Chattogram highway. Before reaching Dhaka, the vehicle was intercepted in Cumilla by the district Detective Branch police. In the past five months, nearly 2.7 million yaba tablets were seized in six major incidents along various borders of Cox's Bazar alone. Five of these consignments were destined for Dhaka. **Investigation sources said the drugs were then supposed to be distributed to different parts of the country from Dhaka. Law enforcement agencies' data show that the largest consignments**

of drugs entering the country through the borders are now being transported to different parts of the country through metropolitan areas. At the same time, the country's eight cities have emerged as major drug markets due to their large populations. The cities are Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Gazipur, Rangpur, Khulna, Barishal and Sylhet. Sources concerned said a large portion of the drugs in the country enters through the borders. **Cox's Bazar, which shares a border with Myanmar, is one of the major routes for yaba and crystal meth, or ice, to enter the country.** On 11 April this year, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 1,059,400 yaba tablets in a single operation in a border area adjacent to the Naf River. According to BGB, this was the largest yaba seizure in a single day in its history. Even after that, large consignments have been seized in Ukhia, Teknaf and Ramu areas of Cox's Bazar. **On the other hand, drugs also enter the country through various districts along the Indian border.** At the final stage of this flow, markets for the sale and use of drugs are developing in major cities (*Prothom Alo*, [07 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**]*