

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

10 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **ACC says corruption allegations against former advisor Asif Mahmud warrant inquiry:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has opened an inquiry into corruption allegations against former interim government advisor Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain after finding the claims worthy of investigation, the agency's Secretary Saidur Rahman Khan has said. However, without giving a firm ruling on whether preliminary evidence of the allegations had been uncovered, he said the matter was at the "inquiry stage". Saidur made the remarks on Wednesday at the ACC headquarters in Dhaka's Segunbagicha in response to questions from reporters. His statements came just hours after Asif, spokesperson for the National Citizen Party (NCP), held a media briefing questioning the ACC's investigation. The NCP leader alleged that the ACC was being used "politically" to harass him. Rejecting the accusation, the ACC secretary said: "Certainly not. We operate in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Commission Act. "The ACC functions as an independent agency. We receive complaints, conduct inquiries, and will subsequently take legal action." Noting that Asif has the right to express his views, he added: "The commission will review the matter" (bdnews24.com, [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Govt aims for policy reforms for transparent, people-focused field admin:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday said the government is taking initiatives to reform and modernize existing policies and management systems to make the field administration more citizen-friendly, transparent, accountable, efficient, and service-oriented. "As part of these efforts, the Service Simplification Guidelines, 2026, Government Office Website Guidelines 2026 and guidelines for evaluating the performance of deputy commissioners have been formulated," he said. Replying to the question on government's initiatives to reform policies to make the field administration more citizen-friendly and accountable, the prime minister said special emphasis is currently being given to service simplification, use of digital technology, performance monitoring, receiving and resolving complaints, inspection and supervision, public hearings, implementation of the Right to Information Act and improving the quality of citizen services. Expressing his firm commitment to further reforming and modernizing the existing policies and systems, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said his government would continue to simplify service delivery, increase reliance on technology, ensure greater transparency and disclosure of information, expedite complaint resolution and strengthen results-based performance monitoring to make the field administration more citizen-friendly and citizen-centred ([Dhaka Tribune](#), [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Govt moves against 17 years of graft exposed in 'White Paper':** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday said the government is taking necessary measures based on the 'White Paper' prepared by the interim government on corruption over the past 17 years. "The interim government had formed a committee, and that committee published a White Paper or a report on various issues, particularly on the economy. If we look at it, we get a clear picture of what happened during that period," he said while replying to a supplementary question from lawmaker Mobasher Alam Bhuiyan in the parliament in the afternoon. The Prime

Minister said the government is examining the findings of the White Paper and gradually taking necessary measures based on it (*Daily Sun*, [09 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **CEC says No unlawful directives to law enforcers ahead of local government polls:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said the Election Commission would not issue any "unlawful directives" to law enforcement agencies ahead of the local government elections, expressing full confidence in the police. The CEC made the remarks at a press briefing this afternoon at the Bangladesh Police Auditorium at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka, following the inauguration of a training programme titled "Enhancing Police Skills and Capacity for Professional Execution of Electoral Duties". **On preparations for the local government elections, the CEC said, "No unlawful directive will go out from the Election Commission during the polls. I can guarantee that we will not issue anything illegal, and they (law enforcers) have pledged to work for a fair and credible election."** He stressed that the commission and all stakeholders are committed to ensuring a free and fair election (*The Daily Star*, [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **JS sees heated debate over bank bill, fertiliser crisis:** Sharp exchanges between government and opposition lawmakers over the Bank Resolution (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the fertiliser situation marked proceedings in Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday, with lawmakers trading accusations over loan defaults, corruption, supply management and alleged syndicates. Independent lawmaker Rumeen Farhana's criticism of the BNP's record in government triggered a noisy protest from ruling-party lawmakers during debate on the bank bill, disrupting proceedings as deputy speaker Kayser Kamal repeatedly called for order. Speaking during her allotted two minutes, Rumeen, lawmaker for Brahmanbaria-2, said successive BNP governments had been associated with gas and power shortages, fertiliser crises, corruption and high loan defaults. 'BNP will come to power and there will be no gas and power crisis – that cannot happen,' she said, adding that fertiliser shortages and problems faced by poor farmers had also occurred during BNP rule. She also claimed that Bangladesh would not have topped global corruption rankings or recorded high loan defaults if a BNP government were in office. Her remarks prompted ruling-party lawmakers to shout from their seats, effectively drowning out parts of her speech. **The Jatiya Sangsad later passed the Bank Resolution (Amendment) Bill, 2026 by voice vote. Finance minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury placed the bill, which repeals Section 18A of the Bank Resolution Act, 2026.** The repealed provision had allowed former shareholders of distressed or weak banks, including those accused of contributing to their insolvency, to seek restoration of ownership under certain conditions. The government said the provision had been introduced as a market-based resolution mechanism to keep troubled banks operational during restructuring, address capital and liquidity shortages, protect depositors and investors, and reduce the government's financial exposure. It said no individual or institution had applied to regain ownership under the provision after fulfilling its conditions, leading to the decision to repeal it (*New Age*, [10 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Railways Minister says Initiatives being taken to resume passenger train services with India:** Railways Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam informed Parliament on Wednesday that freight train services are currently operating between Bangladesh and India, while initiatives are being taken to resume passenger train services with the neighbouring country. **"On average, around 43 freight trains are being received and 42 empty rakes are being sent back every month,"** he said

in reply to a scripted question from ruling BNP lawmaker Reza Ahammed (Kushtia-1) in the House. The railways minister said Indian goods trains are being received and empty rakes are being sent through Rohanpur, Darshana and Benapole interchange stations. He added that the operation of a passenger train on the Rajshahi-Kolkata-Rajshahi route is currently under examination. In reply to another scripted question from BNP lawmaker Shah Md. Wares Ali Mamun (Jamalpur-5), Rabiul Alam said the government has a plan to gradually bring all districts of Bangladesh under the railway network in line with the government's Election Manifesto-2026 and the Railway Master Plan. "The present government is working towards achieving this goal," he said (*Prothom Alo*, [09 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Beyond Rooppur: US, China in talks as Bangladesh eyes small-scale nuclear energy:** As Bangladesh moves closer to commissioning its first nuclear power plant, the government has begun exploring another nuclear technology, small modular reactors (SMRs), in consultation with the United States and other international partners. **The proposed reactors, capable of generating between 100 and 300 megawatts of electricity, are under consideration for remote regions, economic zones, and locations where constructing large transmission networks presents significant logistical challenges.** The government has held preliminary discussions with companies from the United States, China, and South Korea, as well as an Indian nuclear scientist. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has expressed keen interest in the technology, according to a cabinet member. Science and Technology Minister Fakir Mahbub Anam told TIMES of Bangladesh that SMRs could prove particularly beneficial in areas where connecting to conventional power grids is difficult. "These units are highly suited to remote regions where constructing transmission lines is impractical, as well as dedicated sites such as Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and economic hubs," he said (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [10 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **CCEA gives in-principle nod to import 18 LNG cargoes:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday gave in-principle approval to a proposal for importing 18 cargoes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Total Energies through the direct purchase method to meet the country's emergency gas demand. The approval was given at the CCEA meeting held at the Cabinet Division in the city with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. Under the approved proposal, Bangladesh will import two LNG cargoes per month from October 2026 to June 2027. The agreement will also contain a provision for procuring additional LNG cargoes, if required, subject to mutual consent of the two parties. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division placed the proposal before the committee (*Daily Sun*, [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt clears 7.7 lakh tonnes of fertiliser imports in 39 days to safeguard supply:** In a concerted drive to secure agricultural stocks ahead of the crucial Boro and Rabi cropping seasons, the government has cleared the import of approximately 7.7 lakh tonnes of fertiliser over the past 39 days. The latest tranche was approved on Wednesday at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP), chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the Bangladesh Secretariat. **The committee greenlit proposals to import 1,10,000 tonnes of fertiliser from Belarus, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, comprising 30,000 tonnes of muriate of potash (MOP), 40,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate (DAP), and 40,000 tonnes of urea** (*Daily Sun*, [10 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Govt to drill 150 gas wells by 2030-31:** Prime minister Tarique Rahman has told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government plans to drill 150 gas wells by 2030-31 as part of a broader effort to avert sudden gas shortages and protect industries from production disruptions.

Replying to a question from reserve women seat lawmaker Sultana Ahmed, the prime minister said on Wednesday that the government was also expanding Liquefied Natural Gas infrastructure, exploring domestic gas reserves and preparing alternative supply arrangements to deal with emergency shortages. Bangladesh's two existing floating LNG terminals could supply an average of around 935 million cubic feet of gas a day, he said. The prime minister made the statements during the eighth sitting of the third session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad with speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad in the chair (*New Age*, [10 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, India reaffirm commitment to boost defence cooperation:** Bangladesh and India on Wednesday expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and work together to maintain regional stability and address common global challenges. The resolve was expressed when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister's Defence Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr AKM Shamsul Islam at his office at the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment. **During the meeting, they discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, while the talks featured prominently joint military training, exchange of professional expertise, disaster management and maritime security.** At the outset, the defence adviser and the Indian high commissioner exchanged greetings and discussed measures to enhance professional cooperation between the armed forces of the two neighbouring countries. **They discussed joint training programs to enhance the professional capabilities of the armed forces, exchange of experiences and training among military officers, disaster management, regional peace and maritime security.** The Indian high commissioner appreciated the government's initiatives in the socio-economic sector and said India attaches great importance to its deep military and strategic relations with Bangladesh. He reiterated India's continued commitment to working with Bangladesh in professional cooperation, capacity building and areas of common security interests between the armed forces of the two countries (*Dhaka Tribune*, [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM's adviser says Bangladesh to buy Airbus planes if needed:** Bangladesh will purchase aircraft from European manufacturer Airbus alongside US-based Boeing according to the country's requirements, prime minister's information adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said on Tuesday. 'Bangladesh will also buy Airbus aircraft if necessary. This has been conveyed by our ministry,' he said at a press briefing on the progress of various government activities at the secretariat in the capital. **The adviser said Bangladesh had a greater preference for Boeing partly because Biman Bangladesh Airlines had been operating Boeing aircraft for a long time and had trained support staff for them. Responding to a question about the relatively high price of the Boeing aircraft Bangladesh is set to purchase, he said the government had inherited a 'very bad economy'** (*New Age*, [09 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama says Oman will take 10,000 Bangladeshi workers as labour market reopens:** Oman is preparing to reopen its labour market to Bangladesh and recruit 10,000 workers, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has said. She added that an agreement has already been signed. She disclosed the plan after meeting Oman's royal family member Al Sayyid Mohammed Salim Ali Al Said in Dhaka on Wednesday. **"We have spoken with Oman's agriculture ministry. They will take five thousand farmers and five thousand fishermen. An agreement has also been signed," she said. "An Omani delegation will visit Bangladesh next month and speak with the expatriates welfare ministry. Then these will be finalised."** Shama said diplomatic efforts were under way to reopen Oman's visa channels and promote skilled

migration. The foreign ministry said discussions also covered stronger economic ties and opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. Al Said praised Bangladeshi workers' contributions to Oman's development (*bdnews24.com*, [09 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Two Bangladesh Army soldiers killed, officer seriously injured in tank firing accident in Chattogram:** Two Bangladesh Army soldiers have been killed and an officer seriously injured in an accident during a field firing exercise in Chattogram's Hathazari. The accident occurred at the Hathazari Field Firing Range on Wednesday as a tank was firing during the exercise, according to the Army. **The two soldiers died in the incident, while the officer sustained serious injuries.** The injured officer is being transferred by helicopter to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka for advanced treatment. **The Army said necessary steps are under way to investigate the cause of the accident** (*bdnews24.com*, [09 September 2026](#)).

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