

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

15 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **DUCSU museum: Jinnah's photographs added, what else is included and omitted:** Before the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) election on 9 September last year, the museum showcased photographs and artefacts depicting major historical movements and struggles of Bangladesh, along with iconic portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Following its reopening yesterday, Sunday, significant changes were made to the collection. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's solo portraits were removed, whilst three photographs of Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, were added. **Currently, the DUCSU museum features no solo photographs of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman across sections detailing the 1952 Language Movement, the 1954 United Front election, the 1966 Six-Point Demand, the 1968 Agartala Conspiracy Case, the 1969 Mass Uprising, the 1970 General Election, or the Liberation War of 1971.** However, the section covering 1971 to 1975 includes a photograph of the weddings of Bangabandhu's two sons in 1974 alongside a newspaper cutting regarding the founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL). **The three photographs of Muhammad Ali Jinnah displayed (until noon) included one from 21 March 1948, showing him delivering a speech at the then Racecourse Maidan (currently Suhrawady Udyan), where he declared Urdu as the sole state language of Pakistan. Another was a group photograph from the 1940 All India Muslim League conference in Lahore, and the third was a news clipping from Pakistan's Dawn newspaper regarding the 1970 election.** Additionally, the museum features portraits of prominent historical figures including AK Fazlul Huq, Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, MAG Osmani, Nawab Salimullah, Ziaur Rahman, and Khaleda Zia (*Prothom Alo*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ex-DU student tears down Jinnah's portraits at Ducsu archive:** A former student of Dhaka University (DU) tore down and ripped up three portraits of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah from the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) archive on Monday in protest against their display. **The former student, identified as Abu Tayeb Habildar, entered the archive at around 2:30pm, removed the pictures from the wall, pulled them from their frames, and tore them apart, according to eyewitnesses. While tearing up the photographs, Abu Tayeb strongly criticised Jinnah's stance against the Bengali language. Addressing DUCSU leader Sadik Kayem, he questioned whether DUCSU intended to make Urdu the state language, condemning the decision to display the portrait of a leader who had declared that the state language would be Urdu, not Bengali.** Demanding answers from the university administration and DUCSU leaders, Abu Tayeb questioned how Jinnah, who attempted to snatch away the mother tongue of the people, could be featured while omitting the actual heroes of the country's Language Movement (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ghulam Azam shoe-beating image displayed at Ducsu museum:** An image depicting former Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Ghulam Azam being beaten with shoes has been placed at the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) museum, in protest against the display of photographs of Muhammad Ali Jinnah at the museum. Around 3:00pm, a group

of students, led by Arko Barua, organising secretary of the Chhatra Federation's DU unit and a student of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, pasted the image on a wall. A visit to the museum found that the image of Ghulam Azam being beaten with shoes was placed directly on the spot where Jinnah's photographs had previously been displayed. According to the caption accompanying the image, Ghulam Azam was beaten with shoes by worshippers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on January 1, 1981, when he went there to attend the funeral prayers of two Bangladeshis who were killed while fighting in the Palestinian war (*Dhaka Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **JCD condemns display of Jinnah's picture in DUCSU archive:** Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has strongly condemned the display of a 1948 photograph of Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the historical archive of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU). In a joint statement issued on Monday, Chhatra Dal President Rakibul Islam Rakib and General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir claimed that displaying the portrait of Jinnah—a figure widely criticised for his anti-language movement stance insults the heritage of the university's historical language movement and freedom struggle. **The student organisation alleged that a series of recent actions, starting from a malicious attempt to rename Madhur Canteen to “Ishrat Manzil” to installing Jinnah's picture in the DUCSU archive, demonstrate that the current DUCSU Parishad is abandoning the mass aspirations and freedom-seeking spirit of Dhaka University students. The leaders asserted that these activities reveal a hidden affection for the defeated forces of 1971 and an underlying “love for Pakistan.”** Chhatra Dal leaders stated that displaying a portrait of Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the archive of DUCSU one of the central workshops of Bengal's freedom movement is entirely unacceptable and directly undermines the historical spirit of the language movement and liberation war (*Daily Sun*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **DUCSU's recent activities conflicting to university law:** The Dhaka University authorities, in a statement issued through the university's public relations office on Monday, said that several recent activities of the university's central students' union were conflicting to the institution's laws, rules and administrative structure. **According to the statement, DUCSU installed a memorial, Nirbhik July, near the DUCSU building and central library without permission from the syndicate or the vice-chancellor, which was ‘beyond the union's jurisdiction under the 1973 Dhaka University Order’ and the university's ordinances. The statement also objected to displaying of photographs of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and former Chhatra Sangha leader Abdul Malek at a DUCSU archive, calling their presence ‘incompatible’ with the history of language movement and Bangladesh's independence, and ‘warned of strict administrative action’ against those responsible for these. The statement further said that DUCSU had launched an unauthorised website to evaluate teachers, exposing their personal data. ‘There is no scope for formation of any dual administration,’ the statement said, adding that DUCSU's activities must stay within the university's rules, and any parallel structure bypassing the administrative authorities would be firmly resisted.** When contacted, DU vice-chancellor ABM Obaidul Islam also said, ‘Some of the students' union's recent activities go against the university law’ (*New Age*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Those blinded by conventional party politics could act like this: Golam Porwar on tearing down of Jinnah's photo:** Commenting on the tearing down of photographs of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the former Governor-General of Pakistan, from the DUCSU (Dhaka University Central Students' Union) museum, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar stated that only those blinded by conventional party politics could behave in such a manner.

When asked about the incident during an event, the Jamaat Secretary General remarked, "We have been informed of this. We would say that those who are ignorant of the political **history of Bangladesh**, those who do not know the historical background of Bangladesh's creation, and those who do not know who fought and contributed to the liberation and independence of this land—those who lack knowledge of this political history and are merely blinded by conventional party politics—are the ones capable of such behaviour." "All patriotic citizens of this land were aligned with the movement he led and the cause he spoke for. People need to understand this history. Political immaturity leads to many actions and responsibilities that raise questions among the public," Mia Golam Porwar added (*Prothom Alo*, [14 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ctg port protesters plan Oct 5 sit-in over NCT, CCT leasing:** The group calling itself the "Port Protection Committee Chattogram" (Bandar Rakkha Committee) has announced a sit-in programme outside the port authority's headquarters on Oct 5. **It is demanding an end to the process of leasing the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and Chattogram Container Terminal (CCT) to any local or foreign entity, including DP World.** The announcement came at a rally following a protest march that began from the city's Barik Building intersection on Monday. Though the march was meant to reach the port authority's headquarters, police stopped it near the port's Gate No. 2, where the rally was subsequently held. Committee Convenor Engineer Delwar Majumder, said their movement was not directed against the government but stood for the public, aiming to steer a government of the people back towards the people. He said they had already held symbolic hunger strikes, press conferences, roundtables and human chains peacefully, with Monday marking their first protest march. If their demands were met before then, the sit-in would end early; otherwise, it would run until evening, with the next course of action announced afterwards (*bdnews24.com*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Meeting on return plan: Hasina calls AL leaders to Delhi:** Deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina has called senior Awami League leaders staying in India to a meeting in Delhi on 18 September, her first in-person gathering with members of the party's Central Working Committee since the ouster of her government in 2024. **Twenty-one Central Committee members currently staying in Delhi and Kolkata are expected to attend.** Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former organising secretary Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel will also be present. Awami League Presidium Member Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya confirmed the meeting to TIMES on Monday. "Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina will exchange views with the central leaders staying in India. There is no specific agenda for the discussion," he said. An organising secretary of the party based in Europe, however, said the discussions would focus mainly on the party's organisational situation and Hasina's possible return to Bangladesh. "Those who are staying in India have been called. In Delhi, the former prime minister will hear directly from the leaders about the organisational situation and their opinions and advice regarding her return to the country," he said. **Awami League Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim said the party was keeping its plans confidential.** "There are many strategic issues involved in the leader's return. All the plans cannot be disclosed right now. The outline will be announced once it is finalised," he said. **Party leaders also claim Hasina will hold an in-person press conference in New Delhi around mid-October to announce the route for her return. They said Hasina and members of her party were in contact with diplomats from several countries, while some former diplomats could accompany her on the journey** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [15 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Speaker says Bangladesh wants equal ties with India:** Speaker Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmad on Monday said Bangladesh wants a friendly relationship with India based on mutual respect, good-neighbourliness and equality. **“We want such a kind of friendly and equal relationship that should exist between two sovereign countries,”** he told journalists after a meeting with officials of the district administration at the Bhola Circuit House in the morning. The Speaker said the country suffered extensive damage in almost every sector and at every level during what he described as 17 years of Awami League rule. “The previous government’s illegal activities brought the country almost to the brink of destruction,” he said, adding that it will take time to overcome the situation and put the country back on the path of development. “Seven months is too short for this,” Hafiz Uddin said. He said the reform process has already started, although major legal steps have yet to be taken. “I believe the reform process has already begun. We need to make a number of changes, particularly to the laws and regulations,” he said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **352,787 kg of Indian Hilsa imported through Benapole in 2 months:** Bangladesh imported 352,787 kg of hilsa from India through Benapole in the first two months of the 2026–27 fiscal year, with imports rising sharply in August. Of this, 29,440 kg entered the country in July, the volume jumped to 323,346 kg in August—nearly eleven times higher than the previous month. According to customs and Fisheries Quarantine Office data, the total declared value of the consignments was approximately Tk6.92 crore. Three importing companies brought in 29,440 kg of hilsa in July. The number of importers rose to 19 in August, when 323,346 kg entered the country. **In total, 22 companies imported hilsa through Benapole during the two months. There was a time when hilsa from Bangladesh was exported to India. But the importing of Indian hilsa into Bangladesh is a relatively recent phenomenon.** Bangladesh’s domestic markets are increasingly receiving significant quantities of hilsa imported from India (*Daily Sun*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Cabinet body approves purchase of 9 LNG cargoes:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on Sunday approved the purchase of nine cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for 2026 through international quotation and direct procurement processes. The decision was taken at the committee’s 44th meeting of 2026 held with Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair, where three proposals from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division were discussed. **Of the nine cargoes, five will be procured through the Request for Quotation (International) process under Rule of the Public Procurement Rules 2025, while four will be bought directly from US suppliers** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh explores LNG imports from Algeria:** Bangladesh is exploring liquefied natural gas imports from Algeria amid growing energy demand, with the two countries discussing a possible supply arrangement. **On September 10, Bangladesh and Algeria held a virtual meeting to explore mechanisms for supplying LNG to Bangladesh, according to Algerian media outlet Al Nahar Online.** Bangladesh ambassador to Algeria Md Najmul Huda told New Age that the meeting between Algerian state minister for hydrocarbons Mohamed Arkab and Bangladesh minister for power, energy and mineral resources Iqbal Hassan Mahmud was ‘very cordial’. ‘The ministers iterated the excellent bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Algeria and agreed in principle to advance cooperation in the energy sector through both short

and long term arrangements. Working groups from the two countries are expected to meet soon to finalise the quantity, type and cost of energy to be supplied,' he added. They also discussed potential cooperation in energy infrastructure development (*New Age*, [15 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Shama seeks increased Canadian investment in Bangladesh:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today called for increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Canada, highlighting opportunities to deepen economic and business ties between the two countries. She made the call when a five-member delegation of the Bangladesh Business Chamber of Canada (BBCC), led by its Vice President Ferdous Ahmed, paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry here. During the meeting, the BBCC delegation stressed the need for an appropriate legal framework to protect Canadian investment in Bangladesh, according to a foreign ministry press release. The delegation also highlighted opportunities to increase Bangladesh's exports to the Canadian market, particularly in ready-made garments, jute products, leather goods and information technology services. Noting that Canada imports a significant volume of garments from China and Vietnam, the BBCC representatives said there is considerable scope for Bangladesh to increase its share of the Canadian apparel market (*BSS News*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dhaka, Beijing discuss Bangladesh-China-Myanmar Economic Corridor cooperation:** Bangladesh and China today discussed cooperation on the Bangladesh-China-Myanmar Economic Corridor alongside a wide range of bilateral areas, including infrastructure, energy, human-resource development and economic cooperation. The issues came up when Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, MP, at her office here, according to a foreign ministry press release. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and cooperation, particularly the Bangladesh-China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, the Chinese Economic Zone and development of Mongla Port. They also discussed the proposed 1,000-bed hospital in Rangpur, education and human-resource development, people-to-people exchanges, energy cooperation, including renewable energy, and women's empowerment (*BSS News*, [14 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Pakistan stress parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen bilateral ties:** Bangladesh and Pakistan have emphasized strengthening parliamentary diplomacy through regular dialogue, parliamentary delegation exchanges and greater people-to-people contacts to further deepen bilateral relations. The emphasis came at a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Deputy Speaker and leader of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation Barrister Kayser Kamal, MP, and Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday, on the eve of the opening of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Cape Town, South Africa. The two leaders discussed various issues of mutual interest between Bangladesh and Pakistan, said a press release of parliament secretariat today. At the meeting, Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal invited Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The Pakistani National Assembly speaker, in turn, invited the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time (*BSS News*, [15 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **DMP tightens checks at Dhaka access points amid security concerns:** Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Mosleh Uddin Ahmed has ordered intensive "block checks" at entry points and key locations of the capital to prevent criminals from outside Dhaka entering the city. He also urged for the regular collection and preservation of guest lists from residential hotels. According to a statement, Mosleh Uddin issued a series of directives to senior police officials during the monthly crime review meeting for August, held at the DMP headquarters on Monday. He highlighted the need to monitor and control the movements of suspicious individuals before a crime occurs, in addition to taking legal action against them. "Emphasis must also be placed on gathering, analysing, and immediately acting upon intelligence to control crime," Mosleh Uddin said "To prevent crime, the CTTC, DB, and local police stations must coordinate and perform their duties. Responsibilities should be allocated on an area-wise basis to ensure there are no security gaps or lapses in duty coverage" (*bdnews24.com*, [14 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Families seek answers for 32 Bangladeshis caught in Cambodia's scam-centre web:** Bangladesh has long struggled with irregular migration and human trafficking. But in recent years, scam centres in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar have added a new and particularly brutal dimension. Victims are recruited with promises of jobs abroad, only to be handed over -- sometimes literally "sold", according to returnees -- to other criminal networks. They are then confined to compounds where they are ordered to make contact with strangers online and trick them out of money. Those who refuse can be beaten, threatened or denied wages. Some say they have been forced to call relatives in Bangladesh and ask for money before they are allowed to leave. Others say they have had to pay for their own release. At least 1,796 Bangladeshis who had registered their names with the embassy in Bangkok during Cambodia's return window remain stranded there. Most had wanted to return within the deadline set by the Cambodian government. Many had been forced to work in scam centres, according to people involved in assisting them (*bdnews24.com*, [15 September 2026](#)).

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