

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

21 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Tarique Rahman must decide how he will step down: Nahid Islam:** Opposition Chief Whip and National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam has said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), after coming to power, is taking away people's rights and undermining democracy. **Those who have undermined democracy in the past have been ended up as disgrace in the pages of history. Tarique Rahman must decide how he will step down, he said.** Nahid Islam made the remarks at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital today, Saturday morning during the inaugural rally of the Dhaka to Rangpur-bound long march. Nahid Islam further said, "He (Tarique Rahman) must decide whether he will flee the country by helicopter or resign with dignity. Ershad also resigned with dignity. Tarique Rahman must choose his own way out" (*Prothom Alo*, [19 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shafiqur says One-point movement anytime if demands unmet:** Leader of the Opposition and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has warned that the **11-party alliance could turn its eight-point campaign** into a one-point movement at any time if the government fails to meet its demands. Shafiqur issued the warning on Saturday as the Jamaat-led alliance took its campaign from Dhaka to Rangpur, holding six roadside rallies along the way. The convoy set off from Manik Mia Avenue in the capital and travelled through Gazipur, Tangail, Sirajganj, Bogura and Gaibandha before ending at Rangpur Zilla School ground at night. It was the alliance's second long march in two weeks, following a Dhaka-Chattogram programme on 5 September. At a roadside rally at Nagar Jalfai intersection in Tangail, Shafiqur told supporters that the movement could escalate if the government continued to ignore the alliance's demands. **Their eight-point demand includes the implementation of the 2026 referendum verdict, trial of the July mass killings, fixing electricity, fuel, gas and fertiliser shortages, controlling commodity price, improvement of law and order, an end to corruption, extortion land grabbing and favouring partisans in the administration and implementation of the Teesta master plan.** 'If the government does not accept the eight-point demand willingly, we will call for a one-point movement with you,' Shafiqur told the people gathered at the rallies (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [19 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **AL holds first meeting of Central Working Committee since ouster from govt:** The Awami League, whose activities as a political party remain banned in Bangladesh, on Friday held what observers billed as its first Central Working Committee meeting since being ousted from government through the July uprising of 2024. **With most of the party's top leaders having fled to India in the aftermath, Friday's meeting was initially planned to be an in-person event, at the Indian Air Force safehouse on the outskirts of Delhi where party president Sheikh Hasina has been residing throughout this entire period.** Those plans had to be shelved, however, after word got out and the Indian government possibly intervened in the matter. Delhi has been increasingly receptive in recent times, to Dhaka's more assertive stance on tying the scope of bilateral relations to the extent the Indian government allows Hasina to use Delhi as a base for carrying on her political work. And so in the event, the much-touted meeting



had to be held on a virtual platform. The party's presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim presided over the meeting, which was moderated by the party's liberation war affairs secretary Mrinal Kanti Das. Hasina delivered the keynote address as chief guest (*New Age*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Three new faces lined up for AL leadership:** The Awami League, whose political activities remain banned in Bangladesh, is set to see three new figures added to its senior leadership, including its Presidium, the party's highest policymaking body. At a meeting of the party's central executive committee on Friday night, AL President Sheikh Hasina was given the authority to decide which positions the three would hold, according to party insiders. The meeting also indicated that several members could be dropped from the central committee as part of a wider restructuring, informed the sources. Several leaders who attended the meeting confirmed the details to TIMES on condition of anonymity. They said Hasina instructed senior leaders to keep the party's strategic decisions confidential **and warned against leaking plans to the media or spreading false and misleading information** Leaders were also told not to disclose details of the meeting beyond those contained in official party statements. It was the first meeting of the Awami League's central executive committee since the party was toppled from power in the 2024 mass uprising. As part of the restructuring, the meeting discussed filling three senior positions. The names under consideration are **SM Rezaul Karim, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel and Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury Nasim**, according to sources familiar with the discussions. A significant number of central committee members were not invited to Friday's meeting, they said. Some who tried to join on their own initiative were not allowed to participate. Some party leaders see this as an indication that members who have remained inactive over the past two years could be removed from the committee (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Constitution amendment committee: Parties invited for talks today; opposition to stay away:** The special committee of the National Parliament on constitutional amendments will hold discussions today, Sunday, with leaders of the political parties and alliances that signed the July National Charter. Representatives of all 26 parties and alliances that signed the charter have been invited. However, several parties, including the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP), are not taking part in the discussions, sources said. According to sources in the special committee, its second meeting will be held at 2:30pm today in the Cabinet Room of the Parliament building. The discussions with the political parties and alliances will be held as part of that meeting. One item on the agenda is "discussions between the committee and the leaders of the political parties and alliances that signed the July National Charter". **Two representatives at the level of party president and secretary general have already been invited from each party and alliance. The special committee held its first meeting on 4 August. At that meeting, it decided to consult political parties, constitutional experts, lawyers, media editors and other stakeholders.** Today's discussion is being held as part of that process. Representatives of the parties and alliances have been asked to present their views on constitutional amendments. The opposition, however, supports the formation of a Constitutional Reform Council to implement the constitutional reform proposals in the July National Charter in accordance with the referendum verdict (*Prothom Alo*, [20 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Opposition rejects Parliament route to Constitutional reform:** The Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance has rejected the government's initiative to amend the Constitution through a special parliamentary committee, saying the process bypasses the mandate given through the referendum. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar made the statement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka this afternoon, saying the alliance believes constitutional reforms should be implemented in line with the July charter and the referendum verdict. Meanwhile, Islami Andolan Bangladesh decided not to attend Sunday's meeting of the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendments. **In a statement, the party said, 'Islami Andolan Bangladesh does not want to participate in this game of amending the Constitution according to the government's wishes by disregarding the decision of the July referendum.'** The party said constitutional reforms must be carried out in accordance with the July National Charter and the referendum verdict. **Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal declined an invitation to join discussions with political parties and alliances on constitutional amendments, saying the implementation of the July Charter and the referendum verdict must precede any amendment process.** The decision was taken by the party's standing committee, according to a statement issued on Sunday. The JSD said it would not participate in what it described as the government's 'pre-planned' discussions on constitutional amendments. **However, the party said it would join talks if the government initiated meaningful and specific discussions on implementing the July Charter, enforcing the referendum verdict and reforming the state in line with people's aspirations.** The opposition, having already refused to participate in the special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendment, has now declined to join the discussions as well. The committee had invited the political parties that signed the July Charter to talks this afternoon on amending the nation's Constitution but the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance declined the invitation, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings (*The Daily Star*, [20 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [20 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [20 September 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Constitution amendment committee aims to wrap up discussions by December:** The Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment of the Jatiya Sangsad expects to conclude discussions with stakeholders regarding constitutional reform by this coming December. **The committee has already begun drafting its report. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Committee, made these remarks following its second meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday afternoon. Twenty-six political parties and alliances that signed the July Charter were invited to today's exchange of views. However, not all parties attended the session. With this interaction, the special committee formally initiated its dialogue with stakeholders.** Speaking at a press conference at the Media Centre after the meeting, Committee Chairman Salahuddin Ahmed stated that they would progressively consult various sections and professions of society, including individuals involved in drafting the July Charter, former judges, lawyers, constitutional experts, July activists, members of martyrs' families, and journalists. He further said the committee will proceed with the implementation of the July National Charter by incorporating their views. Should complementary proposals arise beyond the scope of the July Charter, these will be considered as recommendations. Commitments outlined in the BNP's (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) election manifesto will also be taken into account. Subsequently, the committee will submit its report to Parliament. "We wish to move forward at a swift pace. If possible, we will convene a meeting every week," Salahuddin Ahmed remarked. **Regarding today's meeting, Salahuddin Ahmed noted that although 26 parties and alliances signatory**

to the July Charter were invited, representatives from 15 political parties attended in person; one party submitted written observations, while a representative from another cited illness as the reason for non-attendance. “We can broadly state that 17 political parties participated,” he added (*Prothom Alo*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BNP, Awami League supporters clash in New York:** Supporters of the ruling BNP and the Awami League have clashed in New York ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s arrival in the United States, prompting riot police to intervene. The confrontation took place at Diversity Plaza in Jackson Heights on Sunday evening (local time) as supporters of both parties gathered in connection with the prime minister’s visit. **More than 50 riot police officers moved in to bring the situation under control. BNP supporters had converged on Diversity Plaza to mark the arrival of Tarique, who is heading to New York to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.** Awami League supporters gathered nearby and responded with slogans of their own. At one point, pushing and shoving broke out between the two groups as they exchanged verbal abuse. Awami League supporters also tore down several banners welcoming Tarique. Police intervened amid the tensions, separating the two groups and positioning officers between them. BNP leader Golam Faruk Shaheen said hundreds of party supporters planned to gather at John F Kennedy International Airport to welcome Tarique (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [21 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **KOICA to provide \$2m grant for vocational training project in Chattogram:** The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will provide a \$2 million grant to implement a project aimed at improving vocational training facilities at the Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre (BKTTTC) in Chattogram. The Government of Bangladesh and South Korea’s development cooperation agency KOICA signed the Record of Discussion (RoD) and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project on Thursday. According to a press release issued by the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the initiative aims to ensure the continuous and safe operation of the BKTTTC by replacing its outdated facilities. A new two-storey academic building, designed with a six-storey foundation, will be constructed under the project. It is also expected to improve the quality of technical and vocational education and training programmes at the centre and contribute to Bangladesh’s sustainable economic development by producing highly skilled technical manpower (*Prothom Alo*, [18 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, China’s Yunnan seek to boost trade:** A visiting delegation from China’s Yunnan Province met with Bangladeshi officials and business leaders in Dhaka on Sunday to explore avenues for expanding bilateral trade, investment, and broader economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Yunnan. Mohammad Hasan Arif, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive (Additional Secretary) of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), presided over the meeting. **The discussions focused on strengthening existing trade ties, creating new market opportunities, establishing business connections, and expanding mutual trade prospects between Bangladesh and Yunnan Province, reports UNB.** Led by the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, the Chinese delegation comprised government officials, entrepreneurs, and business leaders representing various sectors. The meeting emphasized facilitating direct communication and business partnerships between Yunnan-based enterprises and Bangladeshi

government agencies, trade associations, and private sector stakeholders. **Members of the Yunnan delegation expressed keen interest in conducting market research, appointing local agents and distributors, exploring import-export opportunities in agricultural and agro-based products, utilizing logistics services, and gaining insights into Bangladesh's commercial infrastructure, including Chittagong Port.** The Yunnan Department of Commerce proposed several initiatives, including assessing market demand in Bangladesh for construction materials, engineering products, and agricultural machinery. Their proposals also highlighted visiting local trade exhibitions and commercial markets, building distribution and logistics networks, and expanding exports of agricultural and light industrial goods. Additionally, the meeting explored creating stronger trade linkages between Yunnan's product offerings and Bangladeshi textiles and specialized agricultural products (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Labour leaders says Don't lease out NCT to foreign cos:** Chattogram Port Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Bandar Rakkha Sangram Parishad on Saturday demanded an immediate halt to the process of leasing out the New Mooring Container Terminal at Chattogram port to DP World. They also set a two-day ultimatum to authorities to meet their four-point demand. At a press conference held at a restaurant in the city's Agrabad area, the Chattogram Port Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, a labour organisation associated with the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and Bandar Rakkha Sangram Parishad (movement council to protect the port) warned of a fierce movement if their demands were not met. They announced to form a human chain at 3:00pm on September 22 and a protest procession at 3:00pm on September 27 if the authorities failed to respond to their demands. **Their demands are: an immediate halt to all activities related to leasing the Chattogram port's NCT to the United Arab Emirates-based company DP World; withdrawal of the cases filed against 15 port employees, including movement leaders; removal of port officials involved in the DP World contracting process; and resumption of recruitment to fill all vacant posts to strengthen the port's operations and improve its international standing** (*New Age*, [20 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh bets on China diplomacy to end decade-long Rohingya impasse:** Nearly a decade after the mass displacement of the Rohingya from Myanmar, Bangladesh is turning to China in search of a breakthrough, reports Arab News. Dhaka announced this month it plans to hold trilateral talks with China and Myanmar. **State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir stressed that only a political settlement can resolve the crisis, it added. Bangladesh insists any return must be safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable. China is central to the effort.** Beijing maintains working relationships with both Dhaka and Naypyidaw, holds significant economic interests in the region. It has been involved in Rohingya diplomacy before -- helping establish a trilateral mechanism in 2019 that ultimately yielded little progress (*bdnews24.com*, [18 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **China's CPC Minister Liu Haixing to visit Dhaka by year-end:** Communist Party of China International Department chief Liu Haixing is set to visit Dhaka by the end of this year, according to outgoing Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen. Yao shared the plan during a farewell call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on

Sunday. The Chinese envoy said Liu, minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), is eager to undertake a visit to Bangladesh at the end of the year. Liu has “strong connections” with Bangladesh, Yao said, noting that his father, Liu Shuchuing, served as China’s ambassador to Bangladesh in the 1980s and presented his credentials to then-president Ziaur Rahman in August 1980. The state minister said that during Yao’s tenure, China-Bangladesh ties had been elevated to a “Shared Community” level, while several mechanisms, including a state minister-level 2+2 mechanism, were set to commence (*bdnews24.com*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shama seeks stronger Algeria energy cooperation for Bangladesh:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today sought enhanced energy cooperation with Algeria to help ensure Bangladesh's long-term energy security. She made the call when Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdelouahab Saidani met her at the foreign ministry here, according to a ministry press release. During the meeting, the two sides reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and growing cooperation between Bangladesh and Algeria and discussed ways to further deepen bilateral ties. **Shama requested the Algerian envoy to explore enhanced collaboration in the energy sector, underscoring its importance for Bangladesh's long-term energy security.** The two sides also discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, climate change, sports, culture and people-to-people contacts. The state minister stressed the importance of cooperation in the fertilizer sector to support Bangladesh's food security. She also called for greater collaboration on climate issues, noting that both Bangladesh and Algeria are facing adverse impacts of global warming. Shama encouraged increased exports of biodegradable and environment-friendly Bangladeshi jute and jute products to the Algerian market (*BSS News*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, Canada hopeful of high-level engagements on UNGA sidelines:** High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Ajit Singh on Sunday met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir, and they expressed hope for high-level engagements on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly. **The two sides discussed avenues for enhancing bilateral trade, including diversification beyond garments into sectors such as light engineering and machinery, as well as the exchange of business delegations.** The Canadian high commissioner also raised the possibility of establishing a framework of cooperation on agriculture between the two countries, and the two sides exchanged views on energy cooperation (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India eyes stronger trade, investment ties with Bangladesh:** Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pawankumar Tulshidas Badhe stressed the need for expanding bilateral trade and investment, removing tariff and non-tariff barriers and further strengthening commercial connectivity between the two countries. He met the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Administrator Md Fazlul Hoque at the federation's Gulshan office in Dhaka on Sunday. Badhe stressed the need to form a business-to-business (B2B) task force to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries. He said his office has been maintaining regular communication and holding discussions with the governments of both countries to expedite the formation of the task force. He also sought cooperation from Bangladesh's private sector, under the leadership of FBCCI, to make the initiative effective (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **101 India Deals Under Review: National Interest, Gains First:** There is nothing unusual about a newly elected government reviewing agreements signed by its predecessor. Governments change, circumstances change and, with them, the terms on which a country assesses its international commitments. **The problem begins when a review becomes an exercise in political inheritance—when agreements are judged primarily by who signed them rather than by what they deliver. That distinction matters as Bangladesh's BNP-led government reviews 101 agreements and memorandums of understanding concluded with India during the previous Awami League government. BNP Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni has said the government is reviewing the agreements and will announce its findings. He has also stressed that Bangladesh wants to maintain friendly relations with India while giving priority to national interests.** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has struck a similar balance. In a meeting with India's high commissioner, he called for a “conducive environment” to advance bilateral relations, even as Dhaka continues to press New Delhi over the extradition of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. There is no contradiction here. A government can seek to renegotiate individual agreements while maintaining a broader working relationship with its neighbour. The real question is whether the review will be conducted as a policy exercise or become another chapter in Bangladesh's increasingly partisan debate over India (*Daily Sun*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique Rahman leading 38-member delegation to UNGA:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is leading a 38-member delegation to the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, with his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman accompanying him. The delegation includes five Cabinet members – Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Md Asaduzzaman, and Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, whose name is on the delegation list but who will preside over the 81st UNGA session. The delegation also includes State Ministers for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir and Shama Obaed Islam, State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj, Prime Minister's advisers Mahdi Amin and Rehan Asif Asad, Invest Bangladesh Authority Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Special Assistants to the Prime Minister Tanvir Shahriar Ghani, SM Ziauddin Hyder and Dr Md Saimum Parvez, and Biman Bangladesh Airlines Chairman Rume A Hossain. Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Irene Khan and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Tareq Md Ariful Islam are also members of the delegation. Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abu Abdullah M Saleh (Saleh Shibly) and Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon are accompanying the Prime Minister. The delegation also includes Prime Minister's officials, including Assistant Military Secretary Lt Col Md Junnun Nahid, ADC Lt Cdr Md Sohanur Rahman and protocol officers (*Daily Sun*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM's UNGA trip to open scope for expanding ties - Says foreign secy:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to deliver his first address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 24, outlining Bangladesh's vision and priorities before world leaders at the 81st session of the global forum in New York. Tarique, who will be accompanied by a relatively small delegation, leaves for New York today (September 21) and will stay until September 25, with a packed schedule of high-level meetings and diplomatic engagements on

the sidelines of the session. “I believe this visit will provide a significant opportunity to showcase the new government’s journey on the global stage, while also expanding bilateral and multilateral cooperation,” Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam said at a media briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday. Through the visit, he said, the government aims to send the world a message of a democratic, self-confident, responsible, peace-loving and promising Bangladesh. “Bangladesh’s participation in this session holds special significance for several reasons. First, it marks the current government’s first participation in the United Nations’ highest global forum. “It offers an opportunity to present the new government’s political commitments and vision for Bangladesh’s future to the global community,” Siam added. Second, he said, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will represent Bangladesh at the UN General Assembly for the first time. “Furthermore, Bangladesh’s foreign minister will serve as president of this session. This is therefore not only a rare and historic moment for us but also a matter of distinct prestige and pride. “Third, on the sidelines of the session, the prime minister will hold important meetings with heads of state and government from various countries, as well as top officials of international organisations,” the foreign secretary said, adding that the meetings would open up new opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation (*The Daily Star*, [21 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **23 detained from Tejgaon College mosque over suspected militant links:** Police detained 23 people during what they described as a secret meeting at the Tejgaon College mosque in Farmgate, Dhaka, on Friday. **The 23 were detained based on intelligence information. However, police have yet to confirm their organizational affiliations and are verifying their identities and backgrounds, said Tejgaon Division Deputy Commissioner Ibne Mizan.** Law enforcement sources said the detainees were suspected of having links to a militant organization. Several teams from the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, along with police personnel, were at the scene (*Dhaka Tribune*, [18 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mosque detainee claims group contacted on WhatsApp, did not ‘know each other’:** One of the 23 people arrested on suspicion of militancy from the Tejgaon College mosque in Dhaka has claimed that the group gathered there after getting in touch over WhatsApp. After their arrests on Friday afternoon, the 23 were taken to Tejgaon Police Station for initial questioning. Later in the evening, as the detainees were being taken to the office of the police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit on Minto Road, one of them spoke to reporters from the prison van. When asked, he identified himself as Shihab Uddin. He said, **"We gathered at the mosque through a WhatsApp group. We were discussing business matters during the meeting. "We did not know each other before our gathering today. I do not know the person standing next to me either. We are not involved with any banned organisation. We have no involvement with any such platform."** Police officials said that **24 mobile phones and a book were recovered from the detainees** (*bdnews24.com*, [18 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mosque meeting aimed to form ‘extremist group’: home minister:** Among those arrested on suspicion of militancy from the Tejgaon College Mosque in Dhaka, 12 had planned to establish an extremist organisation called “Ittehadul Ummah” to form a caliphate, says Home Minister

Salahuddin Ahmed. They were arrested in a raid based on information available to the government's intelligence agencies, he said at a press briefing at the Secretariat on Sunday. **Salahuddin said, "A number of people were sitting and holding discussions in the mosque even after prayers were over. Our intelligence agency had information that such activities might be taking place. They went there and arrested them based on the intelligence report. There was probably around 23 of them."** The home minister said that each of the arrestees was interrogated and their mobile phones underwent forensic examination. He said, "There were about 11 people there against whom no evidence or information was found by phone forensics. They were later handed over to their elders." Regarding the other 12, he said: "The information found in the forensic report of their telephones and during interrogation shows that they wanted to form an organisation called 'Ittehadul Ummah'. They wanted to establish a caliphate and I would say they were extremists and intending to carry out radical activities." The government has declared it will have "zero tolerance" on such matters, Salahuddin said: "That is why they have been remanded for police interrogation. This will uncover the truth" (*bdnews24.com*, [20 September 2026](#)).

◆ **Crude bomb blasts across Dhaka spark panic:** Dhaka witnessed incidents of crude bomb blasts in a number of spots on Friday, triggering panic among the city dwellers. The incidents took place between noon and 11pm at places, including in front of the main gate of Jatrabari police station. An autorickshaw driver was injured in a blast in the Jatrabari intersection area. According to police, a crude bomb exploded in front of the main gate of Jatrabari police station around 7:30pm. Shortly afterwards, three more crude bombs exploded in front of a traffic police box at the nearby Jatrabari intersection. Dhaka Metropolitan Police Additional Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations Division) Niaz Mehedi said several crude bomb explosions were reported at different places in the capital on Friday. "We have not yet been able to confirm who carried out the explosions," he said, adding that those involved would be identified and brought to justice using information technology and intelligence (*Daily Sun*, [19 September 2026](#)).

◆ **Fire and crude bomb attacks carried out by AL (activities banned), all those involved arrested:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said the Awami League, whose activities have been banned in the country, blasted crude bombs (locally known as cocktails) at one or two locations at night. He said everyone involved in the incidents of cocktail explosions and arson at various locations had been arrested. They were arrested along with their motorcycles and are being questioned, he added. The home minister made the remarks at an emergency press conference held in the meeting room of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Secretariat in Dhaka on Sunday. Asked whether the disorder that had occurred over the past week before his visit was an attempt to create an impression internationally that Bangladesh was experiencing instability, the home minister said the prime minister attends the UN General Assembly once a year. As prime minister, he will deliver an address on behalf of Bangladesh. **There is no connection between his visit and the recent incidents** (*Prothom Alo*, [20 September 2026](#)).

◆ **Govt not concerned by AL lockdown programme: Salahuddin:** Home minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Sunday said the government was not concerned about the Awami League's recent activities, including its announced 'lockdown' programme, amid a series of crude bomb

explosions and arson attacks on buses in Dhaka. 'We have heard the term 'lockdown'. But has a lockdown actually been visible here? The nation has rejected these things,' he said at an emergency briefing, referring to the activity-banned Awami League's programme. **The minister said the government was not alarmed by what he described as the party's 'subversive activities' and claimed that the people would not accept the Awami League politically.** His comments came days after the International Crimes Tribunal sentenced seven senior Awami League and affiliated organisation leaders, including party general secretary Obaidul Quader, to death for crimes against humanity committed during the July-August 2024 uprising. Salahuddin said the Awami League had announced the programme in response to the ICT verdict (New Age, [20 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **AL leaders directing violence from India, 1 arrested: DB:** The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch (DB) has said it arrested a leader of the Awami League, whose political activities are currently banned in the country, in connection with a crude bombs explosion in front of Jatrabari police station in the capital. **The DB identified the arrested man as Raihan Uddin, office secretary of Unit 6 of Ward 32 of the Awami League in the capital. Three others were also arrested. They are Russel Khan, Alauddin and Abdullah. Four crude bombs were seized from them. A motorcycle allegedly used to carry out the crude bombs explosions was also seized.** The DB disclosed the information at a press conference held at the DMP Media Centre in the capital today, Sunday. Molla Md Shaheen, deputy commissioner of the DB's Wari Division, said details would be provided after the suspects were interrogated on remand. According to the DB, central Awami League leaders are directing acts of violence from India through WhatsApp and Viber. They are also providing financial support through hundi, it said (*Prothom Alo*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **5 Bangladeshis return after 11 days in India:** The Border Security Force of India returned five Bangladeshis Friday evening, 11 days after they accidentally crossed the international border while returning home by boat after buying jute. The BSF personnel of Khasmahal camp handed them over to the Border Guard Bangladesh following a company commander-level meeting at the zero line near Mirganj BOP under the BGB's Alaipur camp in Bagha upazila of Rajshahi at around 7:00pm. Family members said that they contacted the Alaipur BGB camp on September 8. A flag meeting was subsequently held between the BGB and BSF, but the BSF said that the five could not be handed over without approval from higher authorities (*New Age*, [20 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Strengthen coastal security:** President Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday urged the Bangladesh Coast Guard to take stronger measures to maintain law and order in coastal areas and combat drug smuggling and human trafficking. He made the call when Bangladesh Coast Guard Director General Rear Admiral Md Moinul Hassan paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban, said president's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam. **The president also asked the Coast Guard to strengthen efforts to conserve fisheries and natural resources, protect the environment and prevent water pollution. He said the government was committed to developing the Coast Guard into a modern and efficient force capable of protecting the country's vast coastal areas and maritime boundary.** During the meeting, the Coast Guard director general briefed the president on the force's activities and progress in procuring new patrol boats and modern rescue helicopters and establishing an aviation wing to enhance its

operational capabilities. He sought the president's cooperation in discharging his responsibilities. Fakhrul assured him of all-out cooperation for the development of the force (*The Daily Star*, [21 September 2026](#)).

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