

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

22 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Rizvi says Opposition 'living in fool's paradise' with one-point warning:** BNP Acting Secretary General and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Monday said the BNP will not sit idle if the opposition issues a "one-point warning", saying those making such statements are "living in a fool's paradise". **"They are saying these things as if they are living in a fool's paradise. A mass-based party has been elected through a free and fair election, and you think it will happen simply because you say so? Will we sit back with our hands folded? No, we will not,"** he said while briefing reporters after a joint meeting with leaders of BNP's affiliated, associate and professional organisations. Rizvi said the BNP will continue its political activities through democratic programs involving people. "The people are the main judges. No planned or conspiratorial program can stop the course of a party that enjoys public support," he said. **Asked about the opposition's long march despite 34 MPs travelling abroad and its renewed talk of a one-point movement, Rizvi said such statements were intended to create confusion.** He said those making such statements are themselves engaging in a conspiracy and said their activities have no connection with people and would not receive public support (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Parwar says Govt seeking Cyber Security Act amendment to suppress dissent:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar on Monday alleged that the government is seeking to amend the Cyber Security Act with an "ulterior motive" to suppress opposition views and prevent alleged government corruption and politicization from being exposed. **"The government is moving to amend the law to suppress the opposition and the media so that its corruption and politicization cannot be exposed,"** he said. The Jamaat leader was speaking at a seminar titled "Cyber Security Act 2026: Security, Control or Suppression of Freedom of Expression?" arranged by Jamaat's Information and Broadcasting Department at the Jatiya Press Club. He claimed that political leaders and journalists will be particularly vulnerable to harassment under the proposed amendments and urged the government to abandon the move. **Parwar urged the government to keep the Cyber Security Act, 2026 unchanged and scrap the proposed amendment draft, questioning why the law needs to be changed only four to five months after its enactment.** "The government is showing instability and indecision," he said. **He alleged that the BNP is using its parliamentary majority to pass laws "contrary to the Quran and Sunnah", while disregarding the referendum verdict.** The Jamaat secretary general said the government repealed ordinances concerning the prevention of enforced disappearances, the National Human Rights Commission, and the Supreme Court Secretariat. "The government is turning fascist by virtue of its majority" (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nahid demands rollback of fuel price hike:** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam has demanded the immediate withdrawal of the government's decision to hike fuel oil prices, criticising the move as irresponsible and isolated from public. **In a press statement issued on Monday afternoon, the NCP leader alleged that the country's 180 million people are being forced to pay for the government's inefficiency and mismanagement.** He noted



that BNP government has directly imposed a burden on public instead of seeking effective and creative alternatives to tackle the ongoing crisis, marking the third fuel price increase in just a few months since it came to power. Addressing the government's rationale – which cites the Middle East conflict, rising international oil prices, transport costs, and substantial recent losses incurred by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) – Nahid questioned the handling of previous revenues (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [21 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **EC rules out local govt polls this year:** The Election Commission (EC) yesterday said it will not hold local government elections in November and December this year. The commission also cancelled the scheduled law-and-order meeting yesterday, noting that discussions on the country's security situation had already been held last Wednesday with heads of 27 ministries and divisions, including law enforcement agencies. It further announced the cancellation of stakeholder talks with political parties, originally scheduled for September 23-25, after tentative polling dates were pushed back following government objections that it had not been consulted on union parishad election dates. Asked about the timeline, Masud said, "I can assume that the local government election is not happening in November and December." He added, "They assumed then it would be January. I also said it could be, but that was only an estimate. Nothing has been finalised yet." He noted that the Local Government Division would inform the commission soon. "We have clearly asked them to let us know," he said (*The Daily Star*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EC awaits parliament's word on MP Nazrul's seat:** The Election Commission (EC) says it is waiting for formal communication from parliament before deciding whether any action can be taken over the parliamentary seat of Gazi Nazrul Islam, two months after he was expelled from Jamaat-e-Islami. The status of the Satkhira-4 MP has come under renewed scrutiny following his arrest in a case over the alleged abetment of his second wife Mariam Khatun's suicide. EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said on Monday that although Jamaat had informed the commission of Nazrul's expulsion, it could not act without a formal communication from parliament. "We have not yet received any letter from parliament on the matter," he told reporters at the Election Commission building. "Once a letter arrives, action will be taken in accordance with the law." The family of 19-year-old Mariyam Khatun, the second wife of Satkhira-4 MP Gazi Nazrul Islam, has alleged that she suffered months of physical and mental abuse at the lawmaker's NAM Bhaban residence before being found hanging there on Sunday, with relatives now questioning whether her death was suicide. Mariyam's father, SM Masum Billah, filed a case accusing Nazrul, his first wife Maksuda Islam and Mariyam's maternal uncle Obaidur Rahman of abetting her suicide. Police arrested Nazrul and Maksuda, while Obaidur remains at large (*bdnews24.com*, [21 September 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [22 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **IMF: 36% of educated youth in Bangladesh unemployed:** Thirty-six percent of educated young people in Bangladesh are unemployed, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report, published in the September issue of the IMF's Finance & Development magazine, said youth unemployment is high across Asia, with the highest rates recorded among more highly educated young people. The IMF said artificial intelligence (AI) could boost economic growth and productivity. However, if AI adoption

outpaces skills development, the technology could put additional pressure on young workers in the labour market. Fahim Mashroor, founder and managing director of Bdjobs.com, one of Bangladesh's leading online job platforms, said that the number of bachelor's degree holders has increased significantly over the past two decades. In 2010, only 3.9% of the labour force held bachelor's degrees. By 2022, the figure had risen to 9%, more than doubling in 12 years. However, the job market has changed little, while the country's economic structure has also remained largely unchanged. New industries have not emerged at a pace sufficient to absorb the growing number of graduates, Mashroor said. According to him, around 2.2–2.3 million young people enter Bangladesh's labour market each year, including about 750,000 university graduates (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Cost of living set to rise further:** The day after diesel prices were raised, passengers at the Gabtoli bus terminal in the capital were being charged Tk 50 to Tk 100 more in fares, depending on the distance. Meanwhile, a rice mill owner in Kushtia said that while he had paid Tk 20,000 to transport a truckload of rice to Dhaka the previous day, the same shipment cost Tk 22,000 yesterday. This is how the impact of the fuel price hike has begun to be felt in the transport sector. Analysts say the higher fuel prices will raise transport fares as well as agricultural production costs. The cost of supplying goods from factories will also increase. In some cases, factory production costs will rise as well. Rural households that use kerosene lamps during power cuts or load-shedding will face higher expenses. Motorcycle and car owners will also have to spend more. Overall, there is a risk of higher inflation. The main burden will fall on poor, lower-income and low-income households (*Prothom Alo*, [22 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, China discuss security, law enforcement and cybercrime prevention:** Bangladesh and China have discussed expanding cooperation in security, law enforcement, cybercrime prevention and technology as the two countries seek to strengthen collaboration in law enforcement capacity and training. The issues were discussed at a meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat on Monday between Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen, according to a handout issued by the Press Information Department (PID). **Both the minister and the ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing law enforcement capabilities, particularly in technology and combating cybercrime. The Chinese ambassador said over the past two years, China has provided training to more than 100 members of Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies in areas such as cybercrime, public security management, traffic and transportation management, immigration, and for the UN peacekeeping missions.** The home minister said the Bangladesh government has taken an initiative to establish a specialized “Cyber Security Unit” for the police and develop the necessary infrastructure. He said plans are being implemented to establish digital forensic laboratories and cyber laboratories at the police stations, and at district, divisional and central levels. **Ambassador Yao Wen suggested that Bangladesh could send a team of experts to China to visit the laboratories, meet the Chinese experts and exchange technical expertise in a bid to help prevent cybercrimes in Bangladesh.** In response, the minister announced that Bangladesh will send a five-member high-level delegation to China, led by an additional inspector general of police from the Criminal

Investigation Department (CID), along with an additional deputy inspector general and cyber and digital forensic experts (*Dhaka Tribune*, [21 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **South Korea provides \$5m for Rohingyas:** South Korea has provided US\$5 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to sustain food assistance, nutrition services and school feeding for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The contribution will enable WFP to support more than 462,000 Rohingyas, including vulnerable families, pregnant and breastfeeding women and children attending learning centres, according to a WFP news release issued today. **The funding, officially announced by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July, comes as nearly 1.2 million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char continue to depend on humanitarian assistance amid mounting pressure on international funding. Under the assistance, more than 36,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women will receive nutrition support, while 260,000 children attending learning centres will benefit from school feeding** (*BSS News*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Is a Trump-Tarique meeting possible during the UNGA visit?:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's delegation has faced questions about whether he could meet US President Donald Trump separately during his four-day visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly. The press conference was held at 9pm local time on Monday in the lobby of the Hyatt Grand Central New York hotel, where the prime minister is staying. **Asked whether there was any opportunity or arrangement for a separate meeting with Trump amid more than 10 bilateral, multilateral and courtesy engagements, Humaiun said the visit was focused on the UN General Assembly rather than bilateral diplomacy.** Trump had already expressed interest in meeting Tarique, he said, referring to a letter the US president sent to the prime minister. "That's bilateral," the state minister said, adding that the two sides could consider such a meeting at an appropriate time convenient for both sides. **He said there would be little scope for bilateral discussions outside the UN framework during the current visit** (*bdnews24.com*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM to present Bangladesh's vision, people's aspirations at UNGA:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present Bangladesh's vision for the future, national interests and aspirations of its people at the global forum of the United Nations General Assembly, with a focus on ensuring inclusive development, said PMO Spokesperson Mahdi Amin. **"Carrying the patriotism, emotions, sentiments and aspirations of the people, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will present before the global community what Bangladesh's vision for the future should be, how the country's interests can be safeguarded and how inclusive development can be ensured," he said.** Mahdi Amin made the remarks at a press conference in the lobby of the Hyatt Grand Central New York hotel at 9:00pm local time today after the premier arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly. He said the prime minister has arrived in New York on a historic visit as the head of a representative government elected by the people's vote after a long time (*BSS News*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Germany eyes deeper economic, political ties with Bangladesh:** Germany is seeking deeper economic and political engagement with Bangladesh, with a visiting parliamentary delegation exploring expanded trade, investment and energy cooperation, including possible collaboration in natural gas extraction in Bhola. A delegation of the German-South Asian Parliamentary Group, led by Nicklas Kappe of the CDU/CSU, concluded a three-day visit to Bangladesh from September 17 to 19, according to a press release, issued by the German embassy here

today. The visit highlighted growing European interest in Bangladesh as a geo-economic partner and explored opportunities for deeper trade integration and cooperation in the energy sector. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **The discussions covered Bangladesh's political and economic developments, trade and investment opportunities, climate change and the protracted Rohingya crisis. The two sides also discussed Bangladesh's energy challenges and explored possible cooperation in natural gas extraction in Bhola. Both sides expressed interest in advancing discussions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Bangladesh and the European Union** (*BSS News*, [21 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **10 crude bombs recovered in Jatrabari:** Police recovered 10 crude bombs from an abandoned bag in the South Dania area under Jatrabari Police Station in the capital on Sunday evening. According to Jatrabari police, the crude bombs were found around 6pm on Sept 20 after an old plastic shopping bag was noticed lying at the entrance to a lane beneath a six-storey building near South Dania Kitchen Market. Police later searched the bag and recovered 10 crude bombs from inside. The matter was immediately reported to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Bomb Disposal Unit. Upon receiving the information, members of the unit rushed to the spot, took necessary safety measures, and recovered the cocktails (*BSS News*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Two held over crude bomb blasts at Kamalapur Railway Station:** Police have arrested two people over the consecutive explosions of two cocktails at Platform No. 2 of Kamalapur Railway Station on Sept 19. The arrestees are Md Sakhawat Hossain Raihan, 32, and Md Saimun, 23. Motijheel Division Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid confirmed the matter at a briefing at DMP Media Centre on Mintoo Road here today. The explosions occurred around 10:37pm between pillars 29 and 30 of the platform. **Raihan, an electrician at the station's MOD branch, is a former organising secretary of Shahjahanpur thana unit of the now-banned Chhatra League, while Saimun is an alleged active Jubo League worker in the area, police said.** "Based on intelligence, technology and information from trusted sources, we identified and arrested those directly involved," the DC said (*BSS News*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Suspect arrested over crude bomb blast near Supreme Court:** Police have arrested a 23-year-old man for his alleged direct involvement in a crude bomb blast in front of the main gate of the Supreme Court in Dhaka on Sept 15. **The arrestee was identified as Md Salman Islam Sakib alias Asif, said a DMP press release. Police said Sakib had served as joint general secretary of the Motijheel unit of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League.** A case has been filed with Shahbagh Police Station, while efforts are underway to identify and arrest the other suspects (*BSS News*, [21 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB seizes smuggled goods, drugs worth Tk 2.44cr in 5 separate drives:** The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has seized smuggled Indian goods, narcotics and a stone idol worth approximately Tk 2.44 crore in separate operations along the borders, according to five BGB press releases. In Kushtia, 47 BGB Battalion recovered 600 Indian smartphone displays, 20 bottles of Fairdeal syrup and 3,000 cyproheptadine tablets worth Tk 43.08 lakh. Besides, 60 BGB Battalion, under Sultanpur sector, seized Indian sarees, 315 litres of formalin, 54 kg of

basmati rice, a cow, 10.5 kg of cannabis and a pickup van in Brahmanbaria and Cumilla. The seized items were valued at Tk 80.79 lakh. Meanwhile, 10 BGB Battalion recovered Indian sarees worth Tk 74.20 lakh from Sonapur, around 100 yards inside Bangladesh. In Chuadanga, 6 BGB Battalion seized 8,550 dexamethasone tablets, 1,000 cyproheptadine tablets, 20 yaba pills and 22 bottles of Torex syrup worth Tk 28.80 lakh. Separately, 1 BGB Battalion recovered a 32.2-kg stone idol valued at Tk 16.10 lakh near Jahaj Ghat in Rajshahi. Suspected smugglers fled, abandoning the item. BGB said anti-smuggling operations and surveillance would continue, the paramilitary force added (*BSS News*, [22 September 2026](#)).

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