

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

23 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Opposition involved in 'self-confessed extremist acts' - Says Rizvi:** BNP Acting Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that the political party now playing the role of the opposition is involved in "self-confessed violent activities" and that threats are coming from within the party. **"We are now seeing fires and crude bomb explosions at different places in Dhaka. Are all of them being conducted by associates of the fallen autocrat? Now statements about self-admitted extremism are coming from the political party that is now playing the role of the opposition. They are involved in self-admitted violent activities, and the threats are certainly coming from among them,"** he said. "You know who I am referring to, but I may not want to say it," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Samomona Jote at the Jatiya Press Club. **Rizvi also questioned the use of fuel by the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance during its recent long march to Rangpur. He also referred to an incident at Rajshahi Railway Station late at night two days earlier, alleging that the student wing of the opposition, which he described as "covert", carried out unprecedented vandalism and destructive activities there. "Who will take responsibility for this?" he asked** (*The Daily Star*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Focus on real causes of crisis, not personal attacks, Rizvi urges opposition:** BNP Acting Secretary General and Prime Minister's Political Adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi urged the opposition to focus on the underlying causes of the country's ongoing crisis rather than making sweeping allegations or launching personal attacks against the government. **He said citizens have the democratic right to criticise the government and that the opposition can strongly raise its voice both inside and outside parliament.** Rizvi made the remarks while addressing a discussion titled "Role of the Government and Opposition in Establishing a Democratic State" at the National Press Club in Dhaka on Tuesday. **He claimed that the government had maintained a democratic environment and had not obstructed opposition programmes, including long marches and other political activities** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Zahed says Crude bombs, arson attacks can't create political crisis:** Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman has said a political crisis cannot be created in the capital through incidents such as crude bomb blasts or arson attacks on buses. Speaking at a regular press briefing on government activities at the Secretariat on Tuesday, he said politics should be conducted on the understanding that a democratically elected government remains in power for five years. "We do not see any political crisis. A democratically elected government will remain in charge for five years, and politics should actually be conducted accepting this," Zahed said. Referring to opposition activities, the adviser said those currently outside government are organising long marches. **Drawing comparisons with recent political movements in India, he referred to large-scale protests by the Cockroach Party and the farmers' movement against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying such movements had brought Delhi to a standstill but did not seek the resignation of the government. He said political pressure should instead be applied on issues where the government has failed.**



Commenting on recent violent incidents in Dhaka, Zahed said isolated incidents could not create a political crisis (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [22 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Two more govt law officers resign amid BNP lawyers' protests:** Deputy attorneys general KM Rezaul Firoj Rintu and Md Belayet Hossain have resigned amid protests by Bangladesh Nationalist Party-leaning lawyers over the appointment of government law officers. The protesting lawyers' allegations include that several of the appointees were linked to Awami League, now banned from holding activities. 'I have submitted my resignation letter to the attorney general, who forwarded it to the law ministry,' Rezaul told *New Age* on Monday. 'I have a good corporate practice and want to devote myself to it,' he said. Asked about allegations by BNP-leaning lawyers that he had served as legal affairs secretary of an Awami League-backed lawyers' association in Dhanmondi area, Rezaul said that he had held a post in the Dhaka Bar Association unit of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum. 'Can they show any document in support of the allegations?' he asked (*New Age*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Sheikh Hasina sued over BCL procession in Jhenaidah:** The police have named deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina as the primary accused in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act over a procession allegedly staged by members of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League and Swechchhasebak League in Kotchandpur upazila, Jhenaidah. Kotchandpur police station Sub-Inspector Mujahidul Islam filed the case on Tuesday afternoon, naming 52 individuals and a further 100 to 120 unidentified people as accused. Confirming the development, officer-in-charge Mehedi Hasan said Hasina, district Chhatra League leaders, and activists from the Kotchandpur upazila activity-banned Awami League and its affiliate organisations were among those named in the First Information Report. The police have already arrested two suspects named in the FIR and another identified during initial investigations, he said. 'Police operations are ongoing to arrest the remaining suspects,' OC Mehedi said. The case follows a procession allegedly organised by members of the banned Chhatra League in Kotchandpur town on Monday morning (*New Age*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **'Arrest Patwary, truth will come out':** Rashed Khan: Prime Minister's Political Assistant Rashed Khan today called for the arrest and remand of National Citizen Party (NCP) Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary, saying investigators should determine who was behind the recent arson attacks and crude bomb explosions. He made the demand at a discussion titled "Role of the Government and Opposition in Establishing a Democratic State", organised by the Jatiyatabadi Samomona Jote at the Jatiya Press Club. **Referring to a recent comment by Patwary, Rashed said the NCP leader had claimed that there would be no more crude bomb blasts if their demands were met. "He made the statement. If he is arrested and taken on remand for questioning, the truth will come out about who is behind the crude bomb explosions and the arson attacks on buses and trains," he said. Criticising the role of opposition parties, Rashed alleged that they are acting together with the aim of destabilising the country** (*The Daily Star*, [22 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **IMF has no condition on raising fuel prices: PM's adviser:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has no condition requiring Bangladesh to raise fuel prices, Prime Minister's Adviser on Information and Broadcasting Dr Zahed Ur Rahman said on Tuesday. He made the

remarks in response to a question from journalists at a press briefing on the progress of various government ministries and current affairs. The briefing was held at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID) at the Secretariat around noon on Tuesday (*Daily Sun*, [22 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt. paid extra Tk 23,000cr in six months for fuel import:** The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) had to spend an extra amount of some Tk 23,000 crore for fuel imports in six months from March this year in view of increased international fuel price and freight charge, officials said today. **Talking to BSS BPC chairman Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam said fuel prices and import costs in international market increased abnormally in view of the Middle East crisis requiring “us to spend an extra amount of Tk 23,000 crore over the past six months”. “Yet the government so far tried to keep fuel prices at a tolerable level considering people’s interest,” he said against the backdrop of the recent government decision on price adjustment.** BPC officials said the country currently had sufficient stocks of fuel oil, with no supply shortage expected until December while oil imports continued. They said despite the readjustment BPC would incur a loss of around Tk 70 per litre of diesel while the per day loss due to diesel alone import is around Tk 109 crore. The annual loss from diesel alone could reach around Tk 40,000 crore, the BPC chief said. He said adjusting fuel oil prices by Tk 20 per litre in line with neighbouring countries pricing could reduce BPC's annual losses by around Tk 10,000 crore (*BSS News*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Border security to get priority in Naf River embankment project:** Border security will be given priority in the construction of an embankment along the Naf River in Teknaf of Cox’s Bazar, said Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee on Tuesday. **“The project will be implemented in a way that enables the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to perform its duties effectively and strengthen patrols along the border,” he said adding that the border road would help prevent smuggling and curb Rohingya infiltration.** The minister made the remarks while speaking to reporters after inspecting the dam and rehabilitation project on the banks of the Naf River in Teknaf in the afternoon. The project, launched in 2017 at an estimated cost of around Tk142 crore, now has a revised cost of Tk415.58 crore. According to government figures, 53.68% of the work has been completed. The project includes rehabilitation of embankments, construction of drainage facilities, re-excavation of canals, and construction of roads, bridges and culverts. However, concerns have been raised over the implementation of the project as it remains incomplete nearly a decade after its launch (*Daily Sun*, [23 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Taka gains ground against Indian rupee, strengthens 11.6pc in 2 yrs:** The Bangladeshi Taka has strengthened significantly against the Indian rupee over the past two years, gaining around 11.6 percent in value against the Indian currency, including a 7.6 percent gain over the past year compared to the last year. According to exchange-rate data, Tk 1 was equivalent to around ₹0.78 on September 22, 2026, compared to about ₹0.73 on September 22, 2025 and around ₹0.70 on September 22, 2024. This means that the Taka gained around 5.5 Indian paisa against the rupee during the one-year period, raising its purchasing power against the Indian currency by approximately 7.6 percent. In terms of the reverse exchange rate, one Indian rupee was worth around Tk 1.281 on September 22, 2026, compared to Tk 1.3782 a year earlier. **Thus, the amount of Taka required buying one Indian rupee declined by around Tk 0.0972, or about 7.1 percent, over the year.** The latest Bangladesh Bank data also indicate continued strength of

the Taka against the Indian rupee in the foreign-exchange market (*BSS News*, [23 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **ADB approves \$200m loan to modernise Bangladesh power distribution network:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to help Bangladesh modernise and strengthen its power distribution network in peri-urban areas surrounding Dhaka, improving the reliability, efficiency and resilience of electricity supply for businesses and households. **The Power Distribution Network Enhancement Project will support the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) in upgrading electricity distribution infrastructure across 13 Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs)—or electric cooperatives—serving rapidly growing industrial and urban areas around Dhaka, it said.** Under the ADB-supported Integrated Growth Network Development initiative, the project will help address overloaded substations, aging infrastructure, power losses, and increasing natural hazard risks that constrain electric service delivery (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [23 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **French ambassador says Buying Airbus aircraft important for advancing Bangladesh's relations with Europe:** Advancing relations between Europe and Bangladesh involves the important Airbus issue, commented French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Jean-Marc Sérè-Charlet. He stated that decisions made in Dhaka concerning the Airbus issue are significant for determining the long-term good relations with Europe. This is because nearly 50 per cent of Bangladesh's ready-made garments are exported to Europe, making the relationship with Europe a major interest for Bangladesh. The French ambassador made these remarks at the 'DCAB Talk' held at the National Press Club in the capital. The Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) organised the event. **The French ambassador mentioned that neither France nor Europe is concerned about Bangladesh's agreement with Boeing. France or Europe does not believe in imposing relationships.** Instead, Europe aims to be a genuinely trustworthy partner on Bangladesh's path to development. **The Airbus is crucial for advancing the relationship with Europe** (*Prothom Alo*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh team to meet US tech giants in San Francisco:** A Bangladeshi ministerial delegation will visit San Francisco on September 27 to hold a roundtable with US technology giants as part of efforts to attract US investment in Bangladesh's IT and technology sectors, **foreign ministry officials said.** Several officials told New Age on condition of anonymity that the visit was also linked to Bangladesh's commitment to implement the US-Bangladesh agreement on reciprocal trade. They said Washington was seeking to prevent China from gaining dominance in Bangladesh's digital sector. Prime minister's finance and planning adviser Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir will lead the delegation. State minister for foreign affairs-2 Shama Obaed Islam and prime minister's adviser for information technology Rehan Asif Asad will also join. **A foreign ministry official said preparations for the meeting with US technology giants had been underway for the past three to four months** (*New Age*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM holds separate talks with Bhutanese PM, Maldives vice president:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Tuesday held separate meetings with Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Maldives Vice President Uz Hussain Mohamed Latheef on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The talks took place at the UN Headquarters in New

York as the prime minister attended the high-level General Debate of the 81st UNGA, according to a release issued by the Prime Minister's Press Wing. **During the meetings, they discussed ways to further strengthen the friendly and cordial relations between Bangladesh and the two countries, as well as various issues of mutual interest and regional and international cooperation. The leaders also exchanged views on expanding existing areas of cooperation for the mutual benefit of the countries and the welfare of their peoples.** He is scheduled to address the General Debate of the 81st UNGA on Thursday, in his first address to the world body as prime minister. He is expected to deliver the speech in Bangla (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM, WB president discuss development priorities, support for Bangladesh:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and World Bank Group President Ajay Banga on Tuesday discussed Bangladesh's development priorities, economic progress and ways to further strengthen World Bank support for the country's development efforts. **During their meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, they also exchanged views on ways to explore opportunities to expand areas of partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank in the future, according to a release issued by the Prime Minister's Office.** He is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Thursday, delivering his first speech at the world body as prime minister. He is expected to outline Bangladesh's vision for the future, its development priorities and its position on major regional and global issues (*Dhaka Tribune*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **India clears Siam's appointment as envoy to Delhi:** Bangladesh's decision to appoint Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam as its next high commissioner in New Delhi has received India's formal consent. Saidur Rahman, spokesperson for the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, told bdnews24.com that India's foreign ministry informed him by email on Tuesday afternoon that it had issued the agreement, or formal consent, for Siam's appointment. **The Print reported last week that New Delhi was delaying its formal consent to Siam's appointment as Bangladesh's next high commissioner. The approval has now come through.** A career diplomat who joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1995, Siam is expected to replace current High Commissioner M Riaz Hamidullah in New Delhi within the next few weeks. The government is sending Hamidullah to Geneva as Bangladesh's new permanent representative to the United Nations (*bdnews24.com*, [22 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jaiswal says India seeks 'constructive' ties with Bangladesh:** India wants to put its ties with Bangladesh on a "positive, constructive and forward-looking" footing. And New Delhi is ready to discuss all bilateral issues through the existing mechanisms, according to a report from The Print. Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the remarks on Tuesday. He was asked about the state of relations between the two countries, including Bangladesh's decision to send Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam as its next high commissioner. Asked whether Siam's appointment indicated that ties between the neighbours were "back on track", Jaiswal said India had already made its position clear. **"On the trajectory of the bilateral relationship, we have said this in the past as well, India desires a positive, constructive and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh,"** Jaiswal was quoted as saying by The Print. **"We are ready to discuss all the issues within the structured mechanisms that we have right now. We want to take this relationship forward in a positive and constructive direction, in a forward-looking manner,"** he said. The question came as Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's

possible visit to India has also drawn attention. **Reports have suggested Tarique could visit India in November.** Bangladesh's foreign ministry had earlier set three conditions for the proposed visit, prompting a journalist to ask whether Dhaka had sent any communication on the matter or withdrawn the conditions. **Jaiswal did not address those points directly** (*bdnews24.com*, [23 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tarique Rahman, Erdogan discuss expanding Bangladesh-Türkiye trade, investment ties:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan today, Wednesday held a high-level meeting and discussed ways to further expand trade and investment ties between the two countries. **During the meeting, the two leaders expressed their firm commitment to further strengthening the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Türkiye and exploring new areas of future cooperation based on mutual interests and shared priorities.** The meeting was held this evening (New York time) on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at the Turkish House located at 821 United Nations Plaza near the UN Headquarters in New York, said Prime Minister's Assistant Press Secretary KM Nazmul Haque. **They also discussed the possibilities of expanding existing cooperation in various sectors, including trade, economy and investment, he added.** The assistant press secretary said the leaders also underscored the importance of maintaining close cooperation and coordination between the two countries on various regional and international issues of common interest (*Prothom Alo*, [23 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **No alternative to safe, dignified Rohingya repatriation, PM tells UNHCR chief:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said there is no alternative to the safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland for a lasting solution to the crisis. **"Bangladesh has been hosting a large number of Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds for years. There is no alternative to their safe and dignified return to their homeland for a lasting solution to the crisis," he said.** The prime minister made the remarks during a courtesy call and meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Barham Salih at Hyatt Grand Central New York on Tuesday afternoon (New York time), said his Assistant Press Secretary KM Nazmul Haque. The prime minister stressed the need for stronger and more coordinated international efforts to facilitate their repatriation. The assistant press secretary said the meeting discussed the sustainable solution to the prolonged Rohingya crisis, creating a conducive environment for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingyas to Myanmar, and the effective and coordinated role of the international community in this regard (*Prothom Alo*, [23 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Is smuggled Bangladeshi fertiliser feeding Myanmar's conflict?:** At the Bangladesh-Myanmar frontier, a strange contradiction is taking shape. Farmers say they cannot get enough fertiliser for their fields, yet sacks of the same commodity are being seized on routes leading towards Myanmar. Despite surveillance and checkpoints along the border, fertiliser is allegedly moving through different routes in Ukhiya and Teknaf, across the Naf River. Law-enforcing officials, local representatives and farmers say the trade involves both locals and Rohingya refugees living in camps. **Police case records show repeated seizures of fertiliser allegedly destined for Myanmar. Security officials and analysts say the trade may work through barter, with drugs and weapons coming back across the border. There are also allegations that urea is being used to make bombs in Myanmar's conflict zone.** Fertiliser dealers Ibrahim Azad and Selimullah

said smugglers cannot obtain supplies directly from them because government allocations are distributed according to farmer lists. Ukhiya Upazila Agriculture Officer Kamanashish Sarkar said much of the seized fertiliser appears to have been brought in from outside Ukhiya because the quantities seized do not match the area's official allocation. Ukhiya Police chief Atikur Rahman said urea sent from Bangladesh is used to make bombs in Myanmar. Urea itself is not explosive under normal conditions, but it can serve as an explosive precursor under certain circumstances. The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency lists urea among chemicals that can potentially be used in improvised explosive devices (bdnews24.com, [23 September 2026](#)).

*[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views or interpretations expressed by various Bangladeshi commentators we make available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Bangladesh Watch (DBW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the existing thought process in Bangladesh having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Bangladesh in a more effective manner. DBW is curated by **Dr. Ankita Sanyal, Research Fellow, CPS**]*