

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

25 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **JCD protests AL attempts to destabilise country:** Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a procession and a rally in Dhaka on Thursday evening, protesting subversive activities by banned organisations and alleged conspiracies to destabilise the country. The procession, organised by JCD's central committee, began at the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon and moved towards Shahbagh, where leaders and activists joined a rally on the evening. BNP and JCD leaders addressed the gathering, discussing recent incidents of arson and explosions and the country's political situation. **Speaking at the rally, BNP acting secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that recent incidents of arson and bomb attacks were being carried out as part of a planned operation. "Those who are terrorists, those who are setting fire, those who are bombing, are enemies of Bangladesh, enemies of democracy," he said, urging people to remain vigilant against such activities. Rizvi claimed that incidents of arson and explosions were being organised in a coordinated manner. Referring to statements allegedly given by people detained by police, Rizvi claimed that they had received instructions from a specific telephone number to carry out such activities. He further claimed that those involved had been promised payment for carrying out the activities. Rizvi also said that the telephone number was from a neighbouring country and questioned who was behind the instructions. He called for a thorough investigation into whether the incidents were part of a wider conspiracy and urged people to remain alert amid the current situation (Daily Sun, [24 September 2026](#)).**
- ◆ **Locals rescue Awami League activists detained, beaten during Dhaka procession:** A clash unfolded at Dhaka's Kuril after Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal members detained several people from an Awami League procession and began beating them, prompting local residents to step in and pull them away. **Several hundred Awami League leaders and activists brought out the procession around 1pm on Thursday outside Jamuna Future Park at Kuril Bishwa Road. During the procession, Chhatra Dal members detained four or five people and began beating them separately. Local residents gathered and intervened, with nearby shopkeepers also joining them. A video shows a 15- to 16-year-old participant being slapped, detained and taken away. Residents subsequently intervened (bdnews24.com, [24 September 2026](#)).**
- ◆ **30 BCL activists held in Sylhet over flash procession attempt:** Thirty activists of banned Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the activities-banned Awami League, were arrested in the Moglabazar area of Sylhet Metropolitan Police on Thursday early morning on charges attempting to bring out a flash procession. Moglabazar police station officer-in-charge Monir Hossain confirmed it. **He said that a group of some 50 leaders and activists of the BCL in four minibuses had reached Moglabazar area at about 6:00am and tried to bring out a procession. The official said that upon receiving the information, a huge contingent of police rushed to the spot and arrested 30 BCL activists and seized two out of the four minibuses. He added that two other vehicles, carrying at least 20 more BCL leaders and activists, somehow managed to flee the scene at that moment. The arrested BCL men were sent to the chief metropolitan magistrate court after police filed a case against them under the Anti –**



Terrorism Act and the court ordered them to be sent to jail, the police officer said in the afternoon (*New Age*, [25 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **AB Party says 3 fuel price hikes in 7 months show govt's 'bankruptcy':** Amar Bangladesh Party on Thursday said the government's decision to raise fuel prices three times in seven months without considering public interest reflected its 'bankruptcy'. AB Party chairman Mujibur Rahman Manju said this at a press conference at the party's Bijoy Nagar office. **The government has raised the prices of diesel, kerosene, petrol and octane by Tk 20 a litre, taking diesel to Tk 135 from Tk 115. Manju said the latest hike would increase costs in agriculture, irrigation, public transport and goods transportation, putting further pressure on consumers. With inflation at 8.26 per cent and wage growth at 8.05 per cent in August, the increase would further squeeze people's purchasing power, he said.** 'International market pressures must be addressed, but they cannot simply be passed on to people at once. We need price adjustment, not price shock,' Manju said (*New Age*, [24 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rizvi accuses opposition leaders of offensive remarks against PM:** BNP Acting Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has accused some opposition leaders of using indecent language while criticising Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. He made the allegation on Thursday at a discussion organised at the National Press Club to mark the second death anniversary of journalist Ruhul Amin Gazi. The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) jointly organised the event. Rizvi said opposition parties had every right to criticise the government and the prime minister strongly, both inside and outside parliament. **"Opposition leaders are making statements attacking the prime minister in indecent language," he said. He said the 11-party alliance was opposing the BNP-led government, but the government had repeatedly made it clear that opposition parties could hold political programmes, express their views and criticise the government. Referring to two long marches organised by opposition parties, Rizvi said the programmes were held without any obstruction.** "If you believe in democracy, you have to allow opposition parties to hold their programmes and speak," he said (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [24 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **No code of conduct for MPs despite two attempts:** The Rules of Procedure of Parliament lay out how members of parliament (MPs) should perform their duties and conduct themselves inside the House. However, there is no separate law or code of conduct governing the ethical behaviour, conflicts of interest, responsibilities and accountability of elected representatives outside Parliament. **Two MPs, one during the BNP's tenure and another during the Awami League's tenure, introduced private members' bills in the past with the aim of enacting such a law, but neither became law.** Calls for a law to regulate MPs' conduct have emerged at various times following controversies involving individual lawmakers. Recommendations have also been made at different stages. Yet no effective initiative has so far been taken to introduce such a code or law. **The need for a code of conduct for MPs has again come under discussion following recent controversy surrounding Gazi Nazrul Islam, an MP from Satkhira-4 who was expelled from the Jamaat-e-Islami** (*Prothom Alo*, [25 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **EC says Local polls likely in January, not delayed by govt pressure:** Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarker today said the tentative date for the local government elections had been pushed back not because of government pressure, but due to students' examinations in November and December and other practical considerations. He made the remarks while talking

to reporters in the afternoon at his office in Election Commission (EC) headquarters in Dhaka's Agargaon. Asked when the elections would be held, Anwarul said, "The EC hopes that public examinations scheduled for November and December will not be disrupted. We are considering holding the elections at a later time so that our young students can sit for their examinations without any disruption and in a disciplined and proper manner." He further said, "**We hope that once these examinations are completed by December, or around January, In sha Allah, we will be able to hold the elections.**" The Election Commission (EC) has finalised 42 electoral symbols for the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections, covering the posts of chairman, general member and reserved women member (*The Daily Star*, [24 September 2026](#); [24 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Bangladesh moves closer to joining RCEP:** Bangladesh's push to join the world's largest free trade bloc moved a step closer after trade ministers of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) gave final approval to set up an ad hoc Accession Working Group to fast-track the entry of four applicant economies, the Commerce Ministry said on Thursday. The decision was taken at the 5th RCEP Ministers' Meeting in Manila, the Philippines, the ministry said in a press release. At the September 21 meeting, ministers formally endorsed a recommendation made by the RCEP Joint Committee, reports UNB. Apart from Bangladesh, the applicants are Chile, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong. A joint statement issued after the meeting said the RCEP agreement remains committed to an open and inclusive framework. As part of efforts to expand the bloc and in line with its roadmap for admitting new members, the working group will advance formal negotiations and technical processes with Bangladesh and other aspiring economies. The bloc comprises the 10 ASEAN members along with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The Commerce Ministry believes Bangladesh's inclusion in the mega trade bloc could be a major milestone for the economy (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [24 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Chinese banks interested in financing Dhaka elevated expressways:** A Chinese delegation at a bilateral meeting with the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) assured that efforts were being made to expedite financing for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project, as two leading banks from China's Shandong Province have expressed interest in financing the project as alternative lenders. "**The Chinese delegation assured that resolving the financing issue at the earliest was being given high priority and that efforts were continuing to expedite the process. Meanwhile, two leading banks from China's Shandong Province have already expressed interest in financing the project as alternative lenders,**" said Bridges Division Secretary Mohammad Abdur Rouf. During the meeting, the bridges division secretary sought an update on the overall financing of the project, while the delegation of First Dhaka Elevated Expressway Company Limited (FDEE) discussed the progress and financing of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway PPP project and measures to expedite the ongoing construction work (*BSS News*, [24 September 2026](#); [24 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh eyes wider cooperation with China:** Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said Bangladesh-China relations are poised for further expansion across trade, investment, infrastructure, energy, technology and people-to-people contacts. "**Our ties span trade, development, infrastructure, energy and industry, and,**

last but not the least, people-to-people contact," he said. The minister made the remarks as the chief guest at a reception in Dhaka on Wednesday evening marking the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Yao Wen has voiced firm confidence in an "ever brighter" future for Bangladesh-China relations, saying no challenge could impede the advancement of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. **"The China-Bangladesh friendship serves the fundamental interests of both countries and both peoples and conforms to the trend of the times; no storm can hold back the forward march of our relations,"** he said (*BSS News*, [24 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Solar power systems ordered for all haats, markets across Bangladesh:** The Local Government Division has directed authorities to install solar power systems at every haat and market in each union of all upazilas across Bangladesh by 31 January 2027. The directive was issued in a letter sent to upazila parishad administrators and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) on Thursday (24 September). **According to the Local Government Division, solar power systems must be installed based on the roof areas of permanent sheds at haats and markets and the roofs of four- to five-storey buildings constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at various markets.** The authorities have been instructed to arrange for surplus electricity, after meeting the facilities' own demand, to be supplied to the national grid (*Daily Sun*, [25 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks fresh Ganges water-sharing agreement with India:** Bangladesh wants a fresh agreement with India on sharing the Ganges water, rather than simply renewing the existing deal, with Dhaka seeking terms that it says would better protect the country's interests. Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee made the remarks while speaking to reporters after attending the national dialogue "Kollolini: A River Dialogue 2026" at Aloki Convention Centre in Dhaka on Thursday. He said, **"We are interested in signing a new and equitable agreement that protects Bangladesh's interests."** The event was convened under the Team Europe Initiative on Climate and Energy in Bangladesh and jointly organized by the European Union, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Embassy of the Netherlands, GIZ and the Embassy of Switzerland. **Anee said the framework of any new agreement would have to take into account Bangladesh's geographical position, ecological balance and actual water requirements during the dry and monsoon seasons. "The country's interests must remain protected at any cost,"** he said, adding that Bangladesh wants a specific "guarantee clause" in the agreement to ensure its right to receive a fair share of water. **The minister warned that inadequate water flows during the dry season could have serious consequences for agriculture, fisheries and the wider economy. "If there is no water in the dry season and no guarantee clause, we will have to suffer a lot. It will become a desert. Agriculture and fish production will be disrupted,"** he said. **Asked about the proposed Teesta Barrage project, Anee said the government had already received several feasibility studies, including technical assistance.** "We have already started work to complete and make the necessary studies visible as soon as possible, in line with the election manifesto and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's commitment," he said. He added that the government had so far decided to implement the project under a government-to-government framework, with the next steps to be determined based on the feasibility studies (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Zaima Rahman appointed legal officer in UNGA president's office:** Zaima Rahman, daughter of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, has been appointed as a legal officer in the office of Khalilur Rahman, president of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The office has 40 personnel, including 6 Bangladeshis, according to the UN. Bangladeshi diplomat Md Abdul Alim will serve as deputy chief of the office. Moazzem Hossain will serve as an adviser and administrative assistant, while Mafizul Islam will be senior adviser on information, artificial intelligence and strategic foresight. Zakir Ahmed will serve as senior adviser on sustainable development and climate change, and Md Rafiqul Alam Molla will serve as senior adviser on countries with special needs. **According to UN officials, Zaima will oversee legal matters in her capacity as a legal officer in the office. The UN's official team page lists her as a legal officer representing Bangladesh** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [24 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique, Shehbaz discuss Bangladesh-Pakistan ties:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has met his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif in New York, with the two leaders discussing bilateral ties and opportunities for greater cooperation. The meeting took place at the United Nations headquarters on Thursday morning, according to the prime minister's Assistant Press Secretary KM Nazmul Haque. **Nazmul said the two leaders discussed various aspects of Bangladesh-Pakistan relations, as well as regional and international developments. They also exchanged views on areas where the two countries could work together for the benefit of their people. The two prime ministers stressed the importance of strengthening relations on the basis of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation, according to Nazmul. They also agreed on the need to maintain regular communication and dialogue on issues of shared interest.** Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, State Minister Humaiun Kobir and Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Irene Khan attended the meeting with Tarique. Pakistan Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar and several other officials accompanied Shehbaz (*bdnews24.com*, [25 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh leader Tarique holds talks with UN chief Guterres in New York:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York, with the Rohingya crisis, climate change and Bangladesh's development among the issues discussed. The meeting took place at the UN Secretariat Building on Thursday afternoon, New York time, according to the prime minister's Assistant Press Secretary Nazmul Haque. **Nazmul said the talks covered cooperation between Bangladesh and the United Nations, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two sides discussed efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis and address the effects of climate change. They also exchanged views on Bangladesh's development and its continuing contribution to UN initiatives on peace, security and development.** Tarique highlighted the importance of UN cooperation and support for Bangladesh's priorities and reaffirmed the country's commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation, peace and sustainable development, according to Nazmul. Guterres stressed the importance of further strengthening the UN's longstanding cooperation with Bangladesh. The two sides agreed to continue working closely on shared global challenges and deepen cooperation between Bangladesh and the United Nations (*bdnews24.com*, [25 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM outlines 3-R strategy at UNGA to rebuild Bangladesh:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Thursday told the international community that Bangladesh was pursuing a three-R strategy — Recovery, Restoration and Reconstruction — to rebuild the country after more

than a decade-and-a-half of what he described as fascist rule and exploitation. Addressing the general debate of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York, he also called for resolving global conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy, while urging stronger international action on the Rohingya crisis, climate change, disarmament, migration and equitable access to technology. **“Bangladesh became free from fascism in 2024, bringing an end to more than one and a half decades of fascist rule and exploitation. Having freed itself from the scourges of enforced disappearances and killings, abductions, corruption, looting and money laundering that had become the norm under fascist rule, Bangladesh is now once again embarking on the path of democracy,”** Tarique said. He said an immense horizon of possibilities was now open before Bangladesh and the government had begun implementing extensive programmes to transform the country’s working-age population into skilled human resources by taking advantage of the demographic dividend. The Prime Minister said Bangladesh had been sheltering more than 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar for more than nine years, putting immense pressure on the country’s resources, environment, security and local communities. **He said the source of the Rohingya crisis lay in Myanmar and, therefore, its solution also lay there.** Highlighting Bangladesh’s vulnerability to climate change despite its limited contribution to global carbon emissions, the Prime Minister called for stronger global action at COP31 on climate justice, climate finance and adaptation support. Tarique said science and technology would shape the future, with artificial intelligence, biotechnology and other scientific advances creating new opportunities. But he warned against allowing today’s digital divide to become tomorrow’s “artificial intelligence divide.” **He called for technology transfer, skills development and affordable access to modern technologies for developing countries.** The Prime Minister said Bangladesh remained committed to ensuring regular, safe and orderly migration and called for stronger global cooperation to protect the rights, dignity and welfare of migrants. **As Bangladesh prepares to graduate from the UN’s Least Developed Countries category, he sought continued international support in financing, market access, technology transfer and capacity building to make the transition sustainable.** As he outlined his vision for Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said “a state can never become strong by keeping its citizens powerless.” He said Bangladesh wanted to establish a prosperous, self-reliant, welfare-oriented democratic state where people regardless of political affiliation, religion or race, could live safely with equal rights, respect and dignity (*Dhaka Tribune*, [25 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Indian national remanded over suspicious activities in Bangladesh:** A Dhaka court on Wednesday placed Rabiul Islam, an Indian national, on a four-day remand on suspicion of his involvement in a cognisable offence and suspicious activities. Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Rana passed the order after the Detective Branch of police produced him before the court, said State Prosecutor Harun-or-Rashid. Earlier, DB Sub-Inspector Binoy Kumar Roy sought a seven-day remand for interrogation after showing Rabiul arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. **While being taken to the court, Rabiul claimed that he was not involved in any such activities and was engaged in business.** He told reporters that he had visited Bangladesh many times and had many relatives and friends here (*Daily Sun*, [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**]*