

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

01 October 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Minister rejects report of fountain replacing Pakistani surrender sculpture:** What should stand where Pakistan surrendered in 1971? A fountain is not the answer, Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan says, rejecting reports that one would replace the planned sculpture. The minister on Wednesday said the government is instead discussing how to complete the Independence Monument, including the site where Pakistani forces surrendered in 1971. “There was a plan for the surrender of Pakistani soldiers, and whether a fountain would be built there -- we have had no discussion or taken any such step,” he said. The minister spoke after a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi at the Secretariat on Wednesday. bdnews24.com News Service reported on Sept 26 that a fountain was planned instead of the surrender sculpture, prompting criticism of the government. Although the minister now denies the report, he had declined to comment when contacted for it, advising reporters to speak to “the officials responsible” (bdnews24.com, [30 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Home Minister says Inquiry seeks answers over MP’s possible link to Radda destruction:** An investigation is under way into whether the local MP was involved in the demolition of Radda MCH-FP Centre in Mirpur, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said. On Wednesday, he warned that nobody involved would be spared. “Evidence was found of negligence by a police officer in the Radda incident. He was immediately withdrawn and departmental proceedings began. There is no political involvement there,” he said. The minister said some suspects may have political affiliations, but those would not be considered in taking action. “Whether a member of parliament was involved is under investigation. If involvement is found, nobody will be spared” (bdnews24.com, [30 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP, affiliates dissolve 3 Dhaka committees:** The BNP and its affiliated organisations last night dissolved three major committees in Dhaka and expelled 14 leaders at different levels over allegations of indiscipline, anti-organisational activities and unethical conduct. The dissolved bodies are the 51-member Dhaka Metropolitan North BNP convening committee, the Dhaka Metropolitan North Jubo Dal committee and the Dhaka Metropolitan West Chhatra Dal committee. The decisions came amid growing discussion over the September 25 attack, looting and demolition of the Radda MCH-FP Centre in Mirpur-1, in which several figures linked to local BNP politics have been accused of involvement. However, none of the statements announcing Wednesday’s decisions mentioned the Radda incident. The BNP and its affiliated organisations cited unethical activities, breaches of organisational discipline and anti-party conduct in the expulsion notices, while the Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal said their committees were dissolved because their terms had expired (*The Daily Star*, [01 October 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **43 lakh farmers to get Farmer Card this year: Minister:** Agriculture and, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid today said a total of 43 lakh farmers will receive



Farmer Card this year. On the opening day of the pilot phase, 100,047 farmers will get input incentives under the farmer card programme, he said while briefing journalists today after inspecting the venue of the programme at Phulgazi Government Pilot High School grounds in Feni district, where the Prime Minister will distribute 'Family Card, Farmer Card, and honoraria for imams of mosques, priests of temples, and persons of other religious places of worship.' The minister said after the pre-pilot phase of the farmer card was successfully completed, work began this year on creating a database of 43 lakh farmers in the pilot phase. In the first phase, 110,165 farmers are being brought under the farmer card and among them, tomorrow (100,047 farmers will receive Tk 2,500 each as agricultural input assistance. A total of 7,643 farmers in Feni district will receive printed copies of farmer cards, he added (*BSS News*, [30 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Plug and Play sees potential to mobilize over \$500m FDI for Bangladesh:** Bangladesh's engagement with Silicon Valley-based global innovation platform Plug and Play has opened a potential pathway to mobilize more than \$500 million in foreign direct investment (FDI), alongside technology partnerships and innovation cooperation. A high-level Bangladesh delegation held discussions with Plug and Play leadership at its Silicon Valley headquarters on Monday, focusing on attracting international investment, strengthening the startup and innovation ecosystem, developing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities and technology talent, and connecting Bangladesh with global corporations and investors, said a press release here on Wednesday. The delegation was led by Adviser to the Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir. During the meeting, representatives of the Bangladesh government and Plug and Play signed a cooperation document to advance collaboration, including exploring the establishment of one or more AI Centres of Excellence in Bangladesh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Petrobangla sees no LNG shortage as 19 cargoes due in Oct-Nov:** Petrobangla has secured 19 LNG cargoes for October and November, ensuring uninterrupted supply and ruling out any shortage during the two-month period, officials from Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) said. Of the total, 10 cargoes are scheduled to arrive in October and the remaining nine in November. So, there will be no shortage of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) during October and November, they said. Talking to BSS, Petrobangla Chairman Md Abdul Mannan said there is no problem regarding LNG-carrying cargoes for November as the required nine cargoes have been confirmed. He said necessary LNG cargoes have been secured for October as well, with a total of 10 cargoes scheduled for import. This ensures preparedness for LNG supplies over the coming months (*Daily Sun*, [30 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi stresses proper preparations before Tarique-Modi summit:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Wednesday laid emphasis on proper preparations by both sides before the meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, noting that there is no benefit in rushing. "We have to make sure that proper preparations are made because many issues will have to be discussed - trade, commerce, water - many issues. We are very positive about the future," he told reporters in response to a question. He said the two prime ministers might discuss trade, water and other important issues at the meeting, adding that officials needed to work beforehand to ensure that the talks produced implementable outcomes. After a courtesy meeting with Liberation War

Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan, the high commissioner said they have to give both prime ministers a convenient time (Dhaka Tribune, [30 September 2026](#); New Age, [30 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **President seeks greater Chinese investment, stronger support for Rohingya repatriation:** President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Wednesday called on China to increase investment in Bangladesh and step up cooperation to create conditions for the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar. The president made the call when outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a farewell courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. President's Press Secretary Md Sarwar Alam briefed reporters after the meeting. Appreciating China's constructive role in addressing the Rohingya crisis, the president said China's initiatives would contribute to resolving the crisis and facilitating sustainable repatriation. He also urged China to enhance cooperation and investment in various sectors, including readymade garments, electric vehicles, light engineering, high-tech electronics, semiconductors and solar power. Welcoming initiatives for enhanced regional connectivity including the Kunming-Chittagong corridor and China-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor, the president said Bangladesh is ready to work with China and other partners in areas of mutual interest. He described the modernization and expansion of Mongla Port and the establishment of the China Economic and Industrial Zone as important initiatives for improving connectivity, promoting industrialisation and accelerating economic development. The president also urged China to continue its technical and financial assistance for the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project and requested that discussions on implementation of the project be taken forward (*Dhaka Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Millat seeks direct Türkiye flights from Chattogram, Sylhet:** Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat has urged Türkiye to consider launching direct flights from Chattogram and Sylhet to improve international connectivity and meet growing travel demand among expatriate Bangladeshis. The minister made the proposal during a meeting with a Turkish delegation led by Türkiye's Ambassador to Bangladesh Ramis Şen at his office in the ministry here today. Millat specifically called for direct air connections with Türkiye from Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram and Osmani International Airport in Sylhet, according to a ministry press release. He said a large number of expatriate Bangladeshis, particularly those originating from Chattogram and Sylhet, have significant international travel requirements. Introducing flights from these two airports would make international travel more convenient and strengthen people-to-people connectivity between Bangladesh and Türkiye, he said. Turkey wants to operate three more flights from Dhaka to Istanbul, in addition to the current seven flights a week. The interest was expressed when a Turkish delegation led by Turkish ambassador to Bangladesh Ramis Sen met with civil aviation and tourism minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat at his office at the Secretariat in Dhaka on Wednesday, according to a statement of the ministry. The Turkish delegation included Commercial Counsellor Bilal Belyurt and Turkish Airlines Bangladesh country director Islam Gure. Turkish Airlines currently operates seven weekly flights on the Dhaka-Istanbul route. Welcoming Turkey's interest in operating three additional flights, the minister said opportunities for additional flights would expand further after the opening of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (*BSS News*, [30 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [30 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **379 more held in Cumilla anti-teen gang crackdown:** The police have rounded up another 379 people in a sweeping crackdown in Cumilla on alleged teenage gangs. The detainees were taken into custody during coordinated operations conducted from all 18 police stations in Cumilla district and the Detective Branch from September 29 evening until about midnight. Additional superintendent of police (administration) of Cumilla Md Lutfar Rahman confirmed on Wednesday morning that 379 people were arrested. Immediately before, the police had detained 1,293 people in similar coordinated drives across the jurisdictions of the 18 police stations. Of them, 874 were released into the custody of their families upon signing bonds, while the remaining 419 were sent to court in various cases. The police said that following the killing of 13-year-old Opratim, total 1,672 people have so far been detained in three rounds of anti-teenage gang operations in the district (*New Age*, [01 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **UN says Rohingya being returned to Myanmar may face serious risks:** UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has raised questions about whether the decisions to return of Myanmar nationals from Malaysia were genuinely free and informed. In a statement issued from Geneva on Wednesday, it has expressed concerns over Malaysia's recent return of 1,476 people to Myanmar amid the country's continuing conflict and dire human rights and humanitarian situation. The Myanmar military has repeatedly carried out crackdowns against the country's Rohingya minority. Bangladesh is currently hosting more than 1.2 million Rohingya, most of whom fled a military crackdown in Rakhine State in 2017. Rights groups strongly criticised the Malaysian move, saying conditions in Myanmar were not safe for the return of Rohingya. In the statement, UNHCR assistant high commissioner for protection Edem Wosornu said, 'We are concerned by these returns at a time when people sent back to Myanmar may face serious risks, and some within the group may be in need of international protection' (*New Age*, [01 October 2026](#)).

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