

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

05 October 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **BNP steps up activities amid opposition programmes:** Ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is stepping up its political and organisational activities amid a series of programmes by opposition parties led by Jamaat-e-Islami and activities by the Awami League, whose activities have been banned in the country. According to party sources, organisational instructions have been issued to prepare counter-programmes at the field level. **The party has already begun holding what it calls “undeclared” programmes in Dhaka and elsewhere. BNP leaders, however, say they are not organising the programmes because of any pressure, but to counter what they describe as “propaganda” by the opposition and activities of the Awami League.** Speaking to several senior BNP leaders, Prothom Alo learned that sudden fuel price hikes amid economic difficulties and other pressures have created unease within the party. Jamaat-e-Islami, the National Citizen Party (NCP) and several other opposition parties have already been carrying out various programmes. The fuel price hike has added a new issue to their programmes. The recent activities of the Awami League have also concerned BNP policymakers. BNP leaders have accused the Awami League of involvement in incidents of violence and arson targeting buses and trains in Dhaka and elsewhere. According to party sources, these developments have caused concern within the BNP. Several senior government officials and ministers told Prothom Alo on condition of anonymity that the government’s image is declining with each passing day. In this situation, they said, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s personal image is currently the government’s only asset (*Prothom Alo*, [01 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP MP Ferdousi Ahmed Misti resigns, seat declared vacant:** Ferdousi Ahmed Mishti, a BNP lawmaker elected to a reserved seat for women, has resigned from Parliament. She met Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed at around 1:45pm today and submitted her resignation. The Parliament Secretariat has already issued a gazette notification declaring her seat vacant. Ferdousi Ahmed Mishti was elected as a reserved-seat lawmaker on a BNP nomination. There are 50 reserved seats for women in Parliament. Under the Constitution, these seats are distributed among political parties in proportion to the number of directly elected members they have in Parliament. This time, 36 women were elected to reserved seats on BNP nominations. The gazette notification for the reserved-seat lawmakers was published on 30 April, and they took oath on 3 May. Ferdousi Ahmed Mishti has therefore resigned as an MP after serving for about five months. **A senior source at the Prime Minister’s Office said Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman instructed Ferdousi to resign on Wednesday night. She was also told that stricter action would be taken against her if she did not resign as soon as possible. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said he does not know whether BNP reserved-seat MP Ferdousy Ahmed Mishti has resigned over the attack, vandalism and looting at the Radda MCH-FP Centre in Dhaka’s Mirpur. He said action would be taken against Mishti under the law if the allegations against her were initially established through an investigation** (*Prothom Alo*, [01 October 2026](#); *bdnews24.com*, [01 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Radda health centre vandalism: Expelled BNP leaders among those involved:** According to sources involved in the investigation, leaders and activists recently expelled from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its affiliated and associate organisations are among those involved in the attack and vandalism at the Radda MCH-FP Centre, a mother and child healthcare facility in Mirpur, Dhaka. **The sources also claim that, besides those recently expelled, information has also emerged about the involvement of several former local leaders and activists of the party. Police say they have identified those who ordered the attack, but have not yet been able to arrest them. Sources involved in the investigation said the people involved in the attack had been identified through CCTV footage from the scene and surrounding areas, mobile phone data and information from local sources. Almost all of them are local leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated and associate organisations.** According to sources involved in the investigation, five of the 14 expelled individuals were found to have been involved in the attack and banners were put up after the health centre was demolished. (*Prothom Alo*, [02 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Fascist and ‘gupto’ runited in anti-national plot:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said on Thursday afternoon that fascist and “gupto” (underground political party) have re-united to plot anti-national conspiracies, calling for public alertness against those causing anarchy. He made these remarks as the chief guest at a welfare event held at the Fulgazi Pilot High School ground in Feni, which marked the distribution of Family Cards and Farmer Cards, honourariums for imams and priests, and financial support for underprivileged students and helpless people. Affirming that pre-election pledges were kept, the prime minister noted that successfully delivering Farmer Cards, Family Cards, and honourariums for imams and priests would directly benefit the public. **He further called out a political party that claimed to sell “tickets to heaven” prior to the election, saying that its hypocrisy has been exposed since such ownership belongs solely to Allah. Commenting on underground forces, he remarked that their statement regarding the return of fled fascist was unsurprising given that they previously engaged in politics together** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [01 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **‘Look at your own house first’: PM Tarique tells ‘covert group’:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today accused some political parties of trying to create anarchy in Bangladesh by exploiting untoward incidents and urged people to remain alert to what he described as efforts to mislead them. The prime minister made the remarks while inaugurating the work of the Tk 1,542 crore Muhuri-Kohua Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project (Phase I) in the Kheya Ghat area near the Muhuri Bridge in Parshuram upazila of Feni. Referring to the government’s various initiatives, including Family Card, Farmers’ Card, canal excavation, expansion of upazila health complexes and reopening closed mills and factories, he said if these works are disrupted, people of Bangladesh will suffer. **“Some political parties are plotting to create anarchy. We have seen what role these political parties played in 1971. We saw what they did at that time, how they committed injustices and how they harassed and tortured women,”** Tarique Rahman said. He said those political forces had won some seats in the last parliamentary election by misleading voters but were now behaving as though they had achieved everything. **Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar today responded to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s description of Jamaat and Shibir as “covert”, reminding the BNP of its political cooperation with Jamaat since 1991.** Speaking at a rally at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Porwar referred to the

BNP's "efforts to secure Jamaat's support to form the government in 1991" and asked, "Didn't you remember then that they were 'clandestine'?" He said BNP and Jamaat had also been together in street movements under the four-party, 18-party and 20-party alliances. "Begum Khaleda Zia announced the programmes, and Shibir and Jamaat joined the streets and made sacrifices," Porwar said (*The Daily Star*, [01 October 2026](#); [03 October 2026](#)).

◆ **Tarique Rahman issues stern warning for all:** Before assuming the responsibilities of Prime Minister, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman stated that strict action would be taken against terrorists, extortionists, and corrupt individuals regardless of their political affiliation. Last Thursday, by instructing a Member of Parliament from his own party to resign, he proved that he will not grant the slightest leniency to terrorists, extortionists, or the corrupt. His zero-tolerance policy against those involved in such crimes is not mere rhetoric. The Prime Minister truly believes what he says and puts it into practice. By taking action against an MP, Tarique Rahman has proven that he will make no compromises in building the BNP into a clean, transparent political party. This is a groundbreaking step in our politics—an occurrence rarely seen in Bangladesh. It serves as a stern warning to party activists and individuals involved in terrorism, extortion, and mugging. This resignation sends a clear message: the government is enforcing a zero-tolerance policy, and excess will no longer be tolerated. Anyone stepping out of line will face swift disciplinary measures. Due to this decisive approach, various forms of wrongdoing across the country will decline significantly, giving other political parties the courage to clean up their own ranks. **This decision will help purge corruption and terrorism from Bangladeshi politics and play a vital role in building a nation free from terror and corruption** (*Daily Sun*, [02 October 2026](#)).

◆ **Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman arrested in case over airport disorder and assault on official:** The Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested former army major Akhtaruzzaman. He was arrested from his home in DOHS (Defence Officers' Housing Society), Cantonment, in the capital on Friday afternoon. He further said that a lawsuit was lodged against him at Airport police station on Thursday night over allegations of creating disorder at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport amid a shortage of luggage trolleys, obstructing government officials in the discharge of their duties, and assaulting an on-duty security official. **The case against retired Major Akhtaruzzaman includes allegations of obstructing government duties, causing injury, using criminal force, intentional insult and issuing threats. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has condemned the arrest of former MP and retired Major Akhtaruzzaman, alleging that the case against him was filed before any investigation into the Dhaka airport incident and demanding his immediate, unconditional release.** Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar made the demand in a statement, saying the case and arrest were "intentional" despite police saying they would investigate the incident using CCTV footage, eyewitness accounts and other evidence. Porwar said Akhtaruzzaman, a freedom fighter, returned home yesterday after performing Umrah and faced various forms of harassment and inconvenience at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, like other passengers. He protested and demanded that the harassment be stopped (*Prothom Alo*, [02 October 2026](#); *The Daily Star*, [02 October 2026](#)).

◆ **Give details on errants, 'no more cover-ups', BNP tells its grassroots:** The BNP high command has instructed grassroots organisers to promptly inform the party's central office

if any member in their area faces allegations of criminal activity, rather than conceal the matter or shield the person involved. District-level leaders have also been asked to verify allegations locally, gather information on members involved in wrongdoing, and cooperate with law enforcement agencies if legal action is required. “Sometimes grassroots leaders try to hide controversial issues involving influential party figures,” said a senior BNP leader, speaking on condition of anonymity. “In some cases, they also avoid taking action for various reasons. Even if they are unable to act locally, they must at least inform the central leadership,” the leader added. **According to party sources, the move aims to identify problems early, before they turn into major controversies that give political opponents an opening to question the government and put pressure on both the party and the government. The party does not want district committees merely to carry out central decisions, BNP leaders said. It also wants them to closely monitor leaders and activists in their areas and take initial steps when problems arise.** Therefore, district leaders have been asked to stay particularly alert to allegations of misusing the party’s name to influence others or for personal gain, land or institution grabbing, extortion, and taking the law into one’s own hands (*The Daily Star*, [04 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Political violence in September leaves 4 dead, 527 injured:** At least four people were killed and 527 others injured in 68 incidents of political violence across Bangladesh in September, according to a report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS). The human rights organisation disclosed the figures in a press release on Saturday, saying the report was based on news published in 16 national media outlets and information gathered through its own investigations. **In August, 70 incidents of political violence left seven people dead and 536 injured, according to the report. HRSS said the September incidents were mainly linked to political disputes, attempts to establish dominance and extortion. Of the 68 incidents, 35 stemmed from internal conflicts within the BNP, leaving 340 people injured and one dead** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mahila Parishad: 252 women, girls subjected to violence in September:** A total of 252 women and girls were subjected to various forms of violence across the country in September, including 49 rape cases, while 52 were killed and 45 others died under mysterious circumstances, according to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. The organisation’s Central Legal Aid Sub-Committee compiled the figures based on reports published in 15 national dailies and two online news outlets. The data were disclosed in a press release signed by Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu on Thursday. Of the 49 rape victims, 30 were girls and 19 were women. Nine people, including two girls, were gang-raped. Four girls were killed after being raped, while another girl died by suicide following rape. Besides, 13 people, including 11 girls, were victims of attempted rape. **In September, 52 women and girls, 39 women and 13 girls, were killed for various reasons. One person also survived an attempted murder. Meanwhile, 45 people, including 34 women and 11 girls, died under mysterious circumstances. The month also saw 22 cases of sexual violence, involving 12 girls. Of them, 12 people, including eight girls, were subjected to sexual harassment, while seven, including four girls, faced stalking. Three people were victims of cyber violence** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [01 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **18th Amendment to Constitution likely in January:** The government is moving forward to place the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in Parliament in January 2027, followed by another referendum to validate the major structural changes. The move, however, has triggered a fresh legal and political debate over whether a fresh referendum can be held and under what constitutional authority. The Special Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Amendment is currently working to finalise the report on the proposed 18th Amendment. The committee plans to finalise its report in December. The recommendations would subsequently be converted into the 18th Amendment Bill through the law ministry and placed before Parliament in the first session of 2027, said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed, who is also chairman of the special committee. **In this manner, the proposed 18th Amendment is going to be introduced to bring radical changes to several key structural provisions, including matters such as executive powers, legislative oversight, and the democratic governance framework.** However, the opposition parties remain rigid on their stance on forming a “Constitution Reform Council” instead of the parliamentary route (*Daily Sun*, [03 October 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Ctg port committee demands cancellation of 15-year NCT concession:** The Chittagong Port Protection Committee has demanded that the government scrap the process for a proposed 15-year concession agreement with an international operator to run the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and its Overflow Container Yard. The committee also called for an end to the process of leasing out the Chattogram Container Terminal (CCT). The demands were made at a press conference at Chattogram Press Club on Saturday. Labour leaders at Chittagong Port have called for a review of the process to hand over operations of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and Chattogram Container Terminal (CCT) to foreign operators, urging talks with workers and other stakeholders. **At a joint meeting on Saturday evening, leaders of the Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Sramik Dal and Chittagong Port Protection Committee made the demand.** The meeting was organised to protest the approval of a draft deal to hand over NCT to DP World and the process to put CCT and General Cargo Berth (GCB) under foreign management. The finance ministry said on Thursday that it had approved a draft agreement to hand NCT operations to an international operator, without naming the company. Dubai-based DP World, however, has been in talks over leasing NCT from the outset (*bdnews24.com*, [03 October 2026](#); [03 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Uranium for Rooppur Power Plant Unit-2 reaches Dhaka:** The first batch of uranium for the second unit of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna reached Dhaka from Russia late on Friday. An official from Triune (Pte) Ltd confirmed the flight’s arrival, adding it travelled through Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, India, and also Pakistan, which had blocked an earlier fuel transport plan on 24 September. **Uranium for the first unit reached the country in 2023. This year, in total, nine cargoes of uranium are expected to reach Dhaka from Russia.** Seven of the cargoes are destined for use in the second unit, and the remaining two cargoes are aimed at replenishing stocks (*Daily Sun*, [03 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Finance minister says Capital market to be transformed within a year:** Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury Sunday said the face of Bangladesh's capital market will change completely within the next year, with the market becoming far stronger. **“If there is no accident and the capital market keeps running the way it is now, a huge positive change will come in the market within the next year,”** Khasru said at World Investor Week 2026, organized by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) at Khamarbari in the capital. The minister said the capital market is in a much better position than in the past and investors are regaining confidence. He added that many large foreign companies have also shown interest in investing in Bangladesh's stock market (*Dhaka Tribune*, [04 October 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh seeks expanded trade, investment with S Korea:** Bangladesh has sought expanded trade, investment and development cooperation with South Korea as State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir urged greater market access for Bangladeshi products and increased Korean investment in the country. Kobir made the urge during separate meetings with South Korean Deputy Minister for Trade Negotiation Hyejin Kwon and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Vice-President Doh Young-Ah in Seoul today, said a press release of Foreign Ministry. During his meeting with Kwon, Kobir called for concrete measures to increase Korean imports of Bangladeshi goods and services and gradually reduce the bilateral trade imbalance. He also sought streamlined food-safety inspection and quarantine procedures for Bangladeshi agricultural, fishery and food products to facilitate their entry into the Korean market. **Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Bangladesh-Republic of Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in August 2026**, the state minister expressed hope that the agreement would enable Bangladesh to integrate more deeply into Korean and regional supply chains as the country transitions from least developed country (LDC) status. He also expressed the hope that the CEPA would be formally signed during the proposed visit of the South Korean president to Bangladesh, following completion of the necessary domestic procedures (*BSS News*, [01 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **South Korea keen to expand defence ties with Bangladesh:** South Korea has appreciated Bangladesh's interest in strengthening bilateral defence relations and expressed readiness to explore opportunities for greater cooperation in mutually agreed areas, including training, capacity-building and peacekeeping. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir held separate meetings with Korean First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Park Yoon-joo and Vice Minister of National Defense Lee Doo-hee in Seoul on Friday, discussing issues of mutual interest with particular focus on political and economic cooperation. The meetings reaffirmed the shared commitment of Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea to further consolidate their long-standing partnership and expand cooperation for mutual benefit, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With Vice Minister Park, the state minister conveyed Bangladesh's readiness to work closely with the Korean government to deepen long-standing friendly relations. He handed over an invitation letter from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the South Korean President Lee Jae Myung to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time (*Dhaka Tribune*, [02 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **US provides 5 lakh dengue test kits amid rising cases:** The United States government has provided 5,00,000 US-made dengue NS1 rapid diagnostic test kits to Bangladesh amid rising dengue cases and deaths across the country. US Embassy Dhaka Chargé d’Affaires Trishita Maula presented the kits to health minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain at a ceremony at Kurmitola Multicare Specialized Hospital on Thursday. In a statement, the US Embassy Dhaka said the donation advances the America First Global Health Strategy and supports Bangladesh government efforts to detect and manage cases amid the country’s ongoing dengue surge. Health Services Division secretary ANM Bazlur Rashid, director general of health services Pravath Chandra Biswas, Kurmitola hospital director Brig Gen Md Saydur Rahman were present at the event (*New Age*, [02 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM says Govt moving ahead to implement promises made to people:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today, Saturday said the new government, having received a strong mandate from the people, is moving ahead with a clear action plan to fulfill its commitments over the next five years. “Our priorities are to protect national interests, maintain policy continuity, ensure economic stability and carry out institutional reforms. We are now moving directly from commitments to implementation,” he said. The prime minister was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day international conference “Bay of Bengal Conversation (BOBC) 2026”, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on Saturday morning. This year’s BOBC is being held under the theme “Fragments, Frontiers and Futures: Navigating Power, Technology and Trust in a World Rewritten”. **The prime minister said the government has taken initiatives to make Bangladesh an attractive investment destination and transform the country into a strong hub for production and investment. “The government is focusing on improving language skills, creating employment opportunities, technological transformation and wider use of artificial intelligence. We are supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups. We want our young people to compete on the global stage and transform brain drain into brain circulation,” he said** (*Prothom Alo*, [03 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh doesn’t want to be a chessboard for other players, says Shama:** State minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Saturday said Bangladesh wanted to pursue an independent foreign policy while remaining open to cooperation with the international community. ‘We don’t want to be a chessboard for other players to play. **We want to play on our own terms. We are ready to negotiate, collaborate and partner with the rest of the world with our head held high,**’ she said. She was speaking at a panel discussion titled ‘A World Rewritten: Power, Technology and Trust in the Age of Uncertainty’ as part of the three-day Bay of Bengal Conversation. Prime minister Tarique Rahman attended the inaugural session of the event as chief guest. Shama said the interests of the people remained the foremost consideration in Bangladesh’s foreign policy. **Seeking broader international cooperation to resolve the Rohingya crisis, she said Bangladesh wants to cooperate with countries across South Asia, Asia and beyond as part of its economic diplomacy.** She also called for broader international cooperation to resolve the Rohingya crisis, saying Bangladesh could not sustain the burden of hosting the refugees indefinitely (*New Age*, [03 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Dinesh Trivedi says Not allowing Hasina to land would have created a different situation:** Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi has said, “There was no alternative

but to allow former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina to land in Delhi. If we had not allowed her to land, a completely different situation would have arisen.” He made the remarks during a question-and-answer session at a working session of the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026 at a Dhaka hotel on Saturday afternoon. The three-day international conference is being organised by research institute Centre for Governance Studies (CGS). In response to a question from the audience, when India would extradite Bangladesh’s ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Dinesh Trivedi said, **“Hasina ji was not brought by the IAF (Indian Air Force) or the Indian Army. She came because of the tragic events in Bangladesh at that time. Such an incident should not have happened, in which innocent people lost their lives. We hope and pray that such incidents never happen again, where innocent people lose their lives, no matter where in the world they occur.”** Mentioning that **“She was taken to India on a Bangladeshi military aircraft”**, Dinesh Trivedi further said, **“When she (Sheikh Hasina) left Dhaka, she was the prime minister of Bangladesh, and India was not prepared for this situation. If we had not allowed her to land, a completely different situation would have arisen.”** The Indian High Commissioner said, **“When the military aircraft arrived in India, India was not prepared. I was watching television, and a scroll at the bottom of the screen was saying that she was going to another country. Hasina ji was still the prime minister of Bangladesh. As a neighbouring country, we had very few options other than accepting the reality.”** **“Because sometimes situations take a turn for which you are not prepared in advance. What choice did we have? If we had said, ‘No, we will not allow you to land’, I do not know what the situation would have been. So, that is the historical reason for it,”** he added. **Regarding the extradition of Sheikh Hasina, Dinesh Trivedi further said that the Indian government had repeatedly answered the question through its Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, saying that there is a process for that. The process involves legal matters and is based on a specific framework. Therefore, the relevant legal process is currently underway.** As the courts are involved, no one can give a specific timeline for the matter. Expressing the expectation that Bangladesh would respect that legal process, the Indian High Commissioner said, **“Just as Bangladesh is a vibrant democracy, India is also a living democracy. You will respect the legal system, and that legal process is currently underway.”** (*Prothom Alo*, [03 October 2026](#)).

◆ **Shama says India’s political intent needed for Hasina’s extradition:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said India’s political will, alongside the legal process, was necessary to secure the extradition of Sheikh Hasina. **“There is certainly a legal process involved, but political intent is also necessary,”** she told journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this afternoon. Shama expressed the hope that the Indian government would take steps to expedite the ongoing extradition process to bring back the accused. The state minister was responding to a question about remarks made by Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi regarding disposed Hasina’s stay in that country and the timeframe for her extradition. Asked whether the accused could be brought back under the existing extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, she replied in the affirmative (*BSS News*, [04 October 2026](#)).

◆ **Bangladesh envoy makes farewell call on Jaishankar in Delhi:** Outgoing Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Md Riaz Hamidullah today paid a farewell call on Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in New Delhi and discussed issues of mutual interest. **“Pleased to receive Bangladesh High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah for a farewell call.**

Appreciate his contribution and wish him all the best in future endeavours,” Jaishankar said in a post on his verified social media account. During his around 18-month tenure in India, Riaz said he had sought to quietly advance Bangladesh-India relations based on mutual trust, dignity and shared benefits. Rather than following only traditional channels of diplomacy, Riaz said he sought to reach out to different sections of Indian society and strengthen the people-to-people dimension of bilateral relations. The farewell call came as the Bangladesh envoy prepares to conclude his diplomatic assignment in New Delhi (*BSS News*, [04 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Pakistan envoy discusses trade, investment with finance adviser:** Pakistan High Commissioner Imran Haider met finance and planning adviser Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir on Sunday and discussed ways to expand bilateral trade and investment between Bangladesh and Pakistan. **During the meeting, the high commissioner briefed the adviser on the progress made following decisions taken at the ninth session of the Joint Economic Commission. They also discussed the scope for expanding bilateral trade and investment and establishing linkages between the revenue authorities of the two countries. The adviser encouraged greater dialogue through bilateral and multilateral forums, stronger business-to-business and people-to-people contacts, improved supply chain linkages and increased cultural exchanges, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka** (*New Age*, [04 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh urged to balance major powers, tap Asia's rise:** Experts at an international conference in the Dhaka city on Saturday identified navigating great power rivalry in the Bay of Bengal region as a major foreign policy challenge for Bangladesh. **On the first day of the three-day Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026, they said Bangladesh must balance relations with the United States America, China, India and Japan while safeguarding its economic interests and strategic autonomy. Speakers at separate sessions also called for stronger regional cooperation, greater economic integration and international dialogue to establish rules for artificial intelligence amid growing technological rivalry. They warned that weak implementation of regional initiatives, protectionism, geopolitical conflicts and the unregulated use of technology could undermine economic development, human security and the interests of smaller countries.** Prime minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the fifth geopolitical conference organised by independent think tank Centre for Governance Studies with its president Zillur Rahman in the chair. Experts stressed that Bangladesh should avoid being drawn into geopolitical and military competition and instead use major powers' growing interest in the region to advance trade, investment, economic development and regional connectivity (*New Age*, [04 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Tarique, UK high commissioner explore new avenues for bilateral cooperation:** A wider canvas for Bangladesh-UK ties has come into focus as Prime Minister Tarique Rahman met with British High Commissioner Sarah Cook. The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the Cabinet Division at the Secretariat on Sunday, according to the Prime Minister's Assistant Press Secretary KM Nazmul Haque. **The two sides have discussed a range of issues concerning bilateral relations, including trade and investment, economic cooperation, education, skills development, migration and human resource development, Nazmul said. They have also discussed continued UK support for Bangladesh's economic development and prospects for expanding trade and investment between the two countries, he added** (*bdnews24.com*, [04 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Netherlands pledge to work jointly on water resources management:** Bangladesh and the Netherlands today pledged to work together to strengthen water resources management with the Dutch side expressing interest to support sustainable water management, riverbank protection and erosion prevention in Bangladesh. The commitment came when Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Joris Van Bommel met Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat here today, said a press release. State Minister for Water Resources Forhad Hossain Azad was present. Anee described the Netherlands as a trusted development partner of Bangladesh and said the two countries enjoy strong bilateral relations. He called for cooperation between the two countries in sharing experience in water resources management, education, technical assistance, professional skills development through training and research (*BSS News*, [04 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Protest held near Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata:** A small group of around 100 people staged a protest near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata on Saturday, demanding the release of Chinmoy Krishna Das, who has been Bangladesh jail since 2024 facing multiple charges. The protesters, under the banner of Vivekananda Mission Sheba Protisthan and the National Citizen Party of India, brought out a procession from Sealdah railway station towards the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission. Police stopped the procession at a location close to the mission and escorted five representatives to the chancery, where the head of chancery and a second secretary received a memorandum, according to a message received from Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata. During the handover, the representatives thanked Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman for allocating additional funds for Durga Puja and extending the holiday period to five days, the message said. They also wished the prime minister good health, the Deputy High Commission said. The protesters called on the Bangladesh government to ensure the security of Hindu minorities during Durga Puja and beyond, and sought justice and the early release of Chinmoy Krishna (*New Age*, [03 October 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **2 injured in Chapainawabganj blasts, 11 undetonated bombs found:** A string of crude bomb blasts, which police say grew out of a turf dispute, has injured two people in Chapainawabganj's Sadar Upazila. The blasts struck Sheikhpura and Kabirajpara in Moharajpur Union on Friday morning, with 11 undetonated bombs recovered from the scene, Chapainawabganj Superintendent of Police Goutam Kumar Biswas said. Legal action over the incident is under way, the officer added (*bdnews24.com*, [02 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **ISPR reports 65 Malaysia-bound victims rescued, 11 suspected traffickers detained:** The Bangladesh Navy has rescued 65 people from a wooden boat allegedly being used to transport people illegally to Malaysia by sea and detained 11 suspected human traffickers. The rescue was carried out on Wednesday night during a routine patrol in the Saint Martin's area, according to a release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday morning. BNS Khalid Bin Walid intercepted the boat after a fishing vessel, FV Crystal-1, spotted it drifting about 81 nautical miles from the Saint Martin's Lighthouse, the release said. The fishing vessel approached the boat after noticing that its engine had failed. Its crew later informed the Navy

after becoming suspicious of the people on board. Navy personnel reached the scene and rescued all 76 people. As water was entering the wooden boat, they removed the water to prevent it from sinking and provided the people with first aid, food and other humanitarian assistance (*Daily Sun*, [02 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Ten crude bombs recovered outside Chhatra League leader's home in Tongi:** Police recovered 10 crude bombs from a sack placed in front of the home of outlawed Chhatra League leader Nur Nabi Hossain, alias Hridoy, 22, in Tongi, Gazipur, along with 2 banners of the outlawed Awami League beside the sack on Saturday, October 3. Hridoy is the organizational secretary of Tongi West thana Chhatra League. The crude bombs were recovered from Tongi's Gutiya Andarul area early Saturday and later neutralized by the police bomb disposal unit in the afternoon. Police and locals said residents saw the crude bombs lying in front of Hridoy's home in the morning and informed police. **The 2 recovered banners announced a protest procession demanding the cancellation of the ban on the Awami League, cancellation of the court verdict and release of imprisoned individuals. The banners carried the names of several leaders and activists of Tongi West thana and Ward 52 Jubo League and Chhatra League.** One banner named Farid, Habibur Rahman, Babul and Ali Akbar as aspirants for various posts in Ward 52 Jubo League. The other banner named Tongi West thana Chhatra League organizational secretary Nur Nabi Hossain, alias Hridoy, Sajid Hossain Dipu, and Ward 52 Chhatra League's Hasan Nahid and Sajib. It could not immediately be confirmed who had placed the crude bombs there or whether there was any connection between the explosives and the banners (*Dhaka Tribune*, [03 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Army chief leaves Dhaka for Australia, US on official visit:** Chief of Army Staff General Waqar-Uz-Zaman left Dhaka on Saturday for a nine-day official visit to Australia and the United States. During the first phase of his tour, the army chief will attend the Chief of Army Symposium and Land Forces International Defence Exposition 2026 in Perth, Australia. **He will also visit Deakin University in Melbourne during his stay in Australia, according to ISPR.** General Waqar-Uz-Zaman will then travel to Washington, DC, where he will attend the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition. During the visit, the army chief is scheduled to hold courtesy meetings and exchange views with senior defence officials and other important personalities in both countries. He will also visit several military installations (*Daily Sun*, [04 October 2026](#)).

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