

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

06 October 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **NCP demands fair probe into attacks on Patwary:** The National Citizen Party has demanded proper investigations into and accountability for repeated attacks on and harassment of its chief coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary, including the latest attack at Lalon Akhra in Kushtia. **The party demanded investigation into each of the incidents, accountability of those responsible and measures to ensure the security of Patwary and the leaders and activists accompanying him. In a statement on Sunday night, the party said brick chips were thrown at Patwary's vehicle while he was entering Lalon Akhra in Chheuria, injuring him and two others accompanying him.** Party activists moved them to safety, it said, while police reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The party said Patwary had previously faced attacks or harassment in Dhaka, Habiganj, and Sylhet. It demanded investigation into each incident, accountability of those responsible and effective measures to prevent further violence. **The National Citizen Party on Monday alleged that police did not accept a case filed by its leaders over Sunday's attack on chief coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary at the Lalon Shain shrine in Kushtia. Prime Minister's Political Assistant Rashed Khan has said BNP leaders and activists in Kushtia were not involved in the attack on National Citizens Party (NCP) leader Nasiruddin Patwary** (*New Age*, [05 October 2026](#); [06 October 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Attack on RU journos: JCD expels one, strips two of posts, show-causes six:** The central committee of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has expelled one member, removed two leaders from their organisational positions, and issued show-cause notices to six others following an attack on journalists at Rajshahi University (RU). The disciplinary measures were announced on Monday through two separate press releases signed by Md Jahangir Alam, Office Secretary holding Vice-President rank in central JCD. **According to the press releases, RU JCD vice-president Ahsan Habib and joint general secretary Hasib Hasan have been stripped of their organisational posts, while student leader Bishal Chakraborty has been expelled from primary membership. In a second press release, show-cause notices were served to six other university unit leaders, including Vice-Presidents Takbir Ahmed Emon, Bulbul Rahman, Shariful Islam, and Faruk Hossain, Assistant Office Secretary Shahariar Alam, and student leader Saju.** The central action follows an [incident](#) on Sunday night when a group of JCD activists led by RU unit Vice-President Ahsan Habib assaulted journalists in front of Ziaur Rahman Hall. **Around 10 people were injured in the attack, including four journalists** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [05 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **TIB urges BNP, Jamaat to rein in affiliates:** Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the leaderships of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and opposition Jamaat-e-Islami to reform their organisations and rein in affiliated groups to end what it described as a violent struggle for power and influence. TIB also strongly condemned the armed attack and death threats against media workers at Rajshahi University (RU), calling for

those responsible to be brought to justice regardless of their political affiliation or influence. **TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the perpetrators, accomplices and supporters must face prosecution following an impartial investigation, irrespective of their political connections.** He also called for proper medical treatment for the injured, protection for students and media workers, and an investigation into the police's failure to perform their duties. **He said the incident highlighted the need for fundamental reforms and greater accountability within political parties** (*Daily Sun*, [05 October 2026](#)).

◆ **11-party alliance announces Dhaka-Kushtia long march Oct 31:** The 11-party alliance on Monday announced that it would hold a nearly 400-kilometre long march from Dhaka to Kushtia on October 31 to press its seven-point demands. The alliance announced the programme after an emergency meeting of its liaison committee at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the capital. Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Mia Golam Porwar, who briefed journalists after the meeting, said the long march would begin from the southern gate of Baitul Mukarram in Dhaka at 8:00am, following an opening rally at 7:00am. The motorcade will travel through the Padma Bridge, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Bhanga, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Fakirhat, Khulna, Jashore, Jhenaidah and Kushtia. A concluding rally will be held at the Kushtia Zilla School ground. Roadside rallies are also planned at Naodoba in Shariatpur, Katakhal in Fakirhat, Babri Chattar (Shibbari intersection) and Phultala in Khulna, Chanchra in Jashore, and Chuadanga Bus Stand intersection in Jhenaidah. **Porwar said the programme had been shifted from October 10 to October 31 considering the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations.** 'As citizens, it is our duty to extend sympathy and cooperation regarding the religious rights of the Hindu community,' he said (*New Age*, [05 October 2026](#)).

◆ **When BNP Dhaka North committee will be formed, who are frontrunners:** There are discussions among leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP) over whether new faces will emerge in the top leadership of the Dhaka North unit or leaders of the recently dissolved committee will return. Although the committee was dissolved following the attack on the Radda health centre, some former leaders want to see new leadership selected from among the leaders of the previous committee. On the other hand, a clean image and acceptability are also being considered in selecting the leadership. In a press release, the party said that a new committee would be announced soon. However, no specific information was available about when the committee would be formed. **A source familiar with organisational affairs of the Dhaka city BNP, based at the Prime Minister's Office, indicated that it would take some time to finalise the leadership.** It has been learned after speaking to several leaders of the recently dissolved committee that in selecting the new leadership, they are giving importance to roles played in past movements against the authoritarian regime, communication with thana and ward-level units, and experience in running the organisation. At the same time, they said consideration should also be given to ensuring that the party's image is not damaged by the conduct of leaders and activists while the party was in government (*Prothom Alo*, [05 October 2026](#)).

◆ **No reconciliation with Awami League without justice, says deputy speaker:** There can be no reconciliation with the ousted Awami League, whose political activities remain banned, without justice and accountability, Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal said today. National reconciliation without justice is not peace but "simply a pause between conflicts", he said while

speaking at a session titled “Justice, Accountability, and National Reconciliation” at the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026 in Dhaka. He said transition from autocracy to democracy is often threatened by institutional remnants of former regimes. “Transitional justice requires far more than symbolic gestures or premature calls for unity. It demands forensic, systemic dismantling of impunity,” he said. He said reconciliation had at times been used around the world as a political shield to protect perpetrators of state violence from legal consequences. **Referring to Bangladesh’s political transition following the July-August uprising of 2024, the deputy speaker said the events culminating on August 5 represented more than a change of government. Those responsible for abuses under the previous government must be brought to justice, he said, arguing that accountability was necessary not only as punishment but also to prevent authoritarian rule from recurring.** Kayser Kamal rejected calls from some quarters at home and abroad for reconciliation with the former regime (*The Daily Star*, [05 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Khelafat Majlis hosts diplomats, calls for ‘balanced’ foreign policy:** Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer Maulana Mamunul Haque has called for a foreign policy based on national interests, mutual respect, and balance, saying Bangladesh is not aligned with any particular power or bloc. He made the remarks at a dinner hosted by the party for diplomats from different countries at the Grand Ballroom of Sheraton Dhaka on Monday. Mamunul said Bangladesh, as an important South Asian country, had its future closely linked to regional stability and prosperity. **“Relations with neighbouring countries should be built on mutual respect, fair trade and humanitarian dialogue,”** he said. The Khelafat Majlis chief outlined his party’s policies on moral values, the rights of religious minorities and women, judicial independence, the economy and foreign policy. He said the party, founded in 1989, was rooted in Islamic values and did not harbour hostility towards any community or state. **On minority and women’s rights, Mamunul said the party’s charter guaranteed the religious, cultural and political rights of minority communities and committed to protecting women’s legitimate rights and dignity.** An independent judiciary and a free media were essential to ensuring a just state and an accountable government, he said. Diplomatic representatives from Russia, Japan, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Norway, Argentina, and Brunei also attended the event (*The Daily Star*, [05 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **HRW slams arrest of Jasad supporters:** Human Rights Watch has criticised the arrest of around 290 supporters of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasad) at a meeting in Dhaka on September 26, describing it as the “latest incident in the Bangladesh authorities’ ongoing assault on civil and political rights”. **In a press release issued yesterday, the organisation said police detained the supporters after members of the Jubo Dal, the BNP’s youth wing, alleged that the gathering was a “secret” meeting of the Awami League, whose activities are banned. A court later remanded 27 of those arrested after they were accused of chanting “Joy Bangla”, a slogan associated with the Awami League, it said.** Jasad was part of the 14-party alliance led by the Awami League, which governed Bangladesh from 2009 until the government was toppled in 2024 following student-led protests. The rights group also cited two other incidents involving alleged Awami League gatherings (*The Daily Star*, [06 October 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Montenegro may recruit 50,000 Bangladeshi workers annually:** Montenegro may recruit more than 50,000 skilled workers annually from Bangladesh under government-to-government arrangements to meet labour demand in several sectors, a visiting Montenegrin parliamentarian said today. Montenegrin lawmaker Gordan Stojovic said this during a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam at her office here, said a foreign ministry's press release here. Stojovic said Montenegro requires more than 50,000 workers annually and responded positively to the possibility of recruiting Bangladeshi manpower under government-to-government agreements. He identified tourism, construction, hospitality and medical care giving among the sectors where Bangladeshi workers could find employment opportunities. Shama said the government of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was working to expand legal migration opportunities for skilled Bangladeshi workers (*BSS News*, [05 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh eyes LNG, fertiliser import from Algeria under G2G deal:** Bangladesh and Algeria have set in motion a government-to-government (G2G) initiative for long-term imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fertiliser. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed disclosed the plan after a meeting with Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdelouahab Saidani at his ministry office on Monday. He said Bangladesh will import LNG and fertiliser from Algeria under the G2G framework. Salahuddin also urged Algeria to widen the trade basket in Dhaka's favour, saying Algiers could increase imports of Bangladeshi garments and pharmaceutical products. Salahuddin further called on Algeria to hire skilled workers from Bangladesh, including doctors and nurses. Beyond trade and energy, the two sides discussed maintaining peace and order, security cooperation, preventing and combating human trafficking, migration management, and expanding economic and commercial ties. They laid particular emphasis on specialised training to improve the efficiency and professionalism of security forces, joint workshops, and the exchange of legislative support (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Sarah Cooke says UK, Bangladesh share interest in free and open Indo-Pacific:** Highlighting the importance of broader security cooperation, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke has said Bangladesh and the UK share a common interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific and recognize Bangladesh's responsibilities in the Bay of Bengal, a region of increasing strategic importance. She said contemporary security challenges, including economic security, cybersecurity and climate-related insecurity, require coordinated responses extending beyond traditional boundaries. Speaking at the Bay of Bengal Conversation in Dhaka, the High Commissioner described Bangladesh as a "strategic and trusted partner" of the United Kingdom. She said relationship has evolved from predominantly development cooperation into a modern strategic partnership reflecting Bangladesh's growing global role. "Today, our relationship has matured into a much more modern strategic partnership, one that reflects Bangladesh's growing global role," she said while addressing on the second day of the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026 organized by the Centre for Governance Studies

(CGS). She also highlighted strong economic ties, saying the UK is one of the largest investors in Bangladesh (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Kobir says PM never ruled out visiting India through proper bilateral framework:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Monday expressed optimism that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will pay a bilateral visit to India at a convenient time, stressing that the prime minister has never ruled out visiting the country through a proper bilateral framework. **“To maintain relations with another country, bilateral engagement is required. We will do it directly. The visit will be bilateral, and we will talk,”** Kobir told reporters after delivering his speech at the Bay of Bengal Conversation in Dhaka. **Kobir said there were challenges in Bangladesh-India relations but expressed optimism that they could be addressed through dialogue. He praised Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi for trying to understand Bangladesh’s current context and said Dhaka hoped New Delhi would give due importance to his assessments. Bangladesh wants to pursue a foreign policy based on strategic autonomy, national interest and balanced engagement with all countries, he said, stressing that Dhaka will not compromise its national interests while maintaining open channels with its partners** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Kobir says Bangladesh’s interest to guide Ganges treaty decision:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir today said the government would take whatever decision best serves Bangladesh’s national interest regarding the future of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India. **“Whatever is best for Bangladesh’s interest will be done,”** he told journalists after addressing the concluding day of the Bay of Bengal Conversation at Hotel Sonargaon here. Asked whether the treaty would be renewed or replaced by a new agreement, Kobir said Bangladesh would act solely on the basis of its national interest and security. **Asked whether any guarantee clause could be incorporated into a future arrangement, Kobir did not spell out a specific formula, reiterating that Bangladesh’s national interest and security would guide the government’s position.** On the state of Bangladesh-India dialogue, the state minister said discussions were continuing at the official level. He said any top-level dialogue would depend on a visit and that an appropriate environment would first have to be created through official-level engagements (*BSS News*, [05 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **National interest must anchor Bangladesh foreign policy:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir today said Bangladesh must pursue a principled, pragmatic and forward-looking foreign policy firmly anchored in the country’s national interest as he addressed a National Defence College (NDC) course. **“Bangladesh’s foreign policy must be confident without being confrontational, open without being dependent, and pragmatic without compromising our national interests,”** he told the participants of the course at NDC at Mirpur. He said the government’s “Bangladesh First” policy does not mean isolation, but rather placing the country’s interests at the centre of diplomacy while safeguarding sovereignty and expanding partnerships based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Kobir said the rapidly changing global environment, intensifying geopolitical competition, evolving security challenges, economic vulnerabilities, technological transformation, climate change and transnational threats demand a more strategic approach to foreign policy. **The state minister stressed the need for stronger regional connectivity, deeper economic integration and practical cooperation with neighbouring countries. He said Bangladesh’s relations with**

major powers, including China, India, Japan, the United States and the European Union, should be pursued with balance and clarity. Each of these relationships, he said, presents distinct opportunities and challenges that require careful and interest-based engagement (BSS News, [05 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Sheikh Hasina's activities in India main challenge to PM's Delhi visit:** The “principal challenge” in planning Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India is the activities of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leaders of her party currently staying there, Foreign Affairs State Minister Humaiun Kobir has said. He made the remarks in an interview with Indian newspaper The Hindu on Monday. Responding to questions from The Hindu on the sidelines of the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in Dhaka, **Humaiun Kobir said India needed to realise “the challenges facing the newly elected government” in Bangladesh.** He also said the activities of leaders of the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned in the country, while in exile would not be helpful to India. Urging India to restrain Sheikh Hasina and her exiled party leaders, Humaiun Kobir said in the interview that the visit will be bilateral, but there are some challenges, and both sides will overcome them through dialogue. According to him, Bangladesh was not asking for too much when it comes to the main challenge. “Sheikh Hasina and her team are staying in Delhi and they are trying to destabilise another country from there. This is not helping India either.” **Describing relations with India as a priority for Dhaka, Humaiun Kobir told The Hindu, “We are seeing some positive signs as India is trying to restrain them. That is the norm between two countries. If they (Hasina and her team) are restrained, then there will be no problem in the [bilateral] relationship”** (*Prothom Alo*, [06 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Hafiz Uddin Ahmad takes charge as IPU Asia-Pacific Group chairman:** The Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad speaker, Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, on Monday assumed the chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Hafiz formally took charge from Speaker of Bhutan Tashi Dorji at a ceremony in Arusha, Tanzania, according to a statement issued on Monday by Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat secretary Md Golam Sarwar Bhuiyan, who is accompanying the parliamentary delegation led by the speaker on his Tanzania visit. **The Asia-Pacific Group comprises 37 member countries. The Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat expressed hope that Hafiz Uddin Ahmad's assumption of the APG chairmanship would further strengthen Bangladesh's representation and role in the international parliamentary arena** (*New Age*, [06 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh Army chief holds bilateral talks with US, Australian army officials:** Chief of army staff general Waqar-Uz-Zaman held separate bilateral meetings with senior army officials from Australia and the United States in Perth, Australia, on Monday. The meetings were held on the sidelines of the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition and Chief of Army Symposium 2026, according to a Facebook post by the Bangladesh Army on Tuesday. **The Bangladesh Army chief met chief of the Australian army lieutenant general Susan Coyle and deputy commanding general of the United States Army Pacific lieutenant general Joel B Vowell. During his meeting with Coyle, they discussed military cooperation, training, capability development and welfare initiatives. The meeting also covered the introduction of training courses at the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training with**

funding from the Global Peace Operations Initiative, and increasing the participation of US military personnel in courses at the National Defence College and Defence Services Command and Staff College in Bangladesh (*New Age*, [06 October 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BSF 'shoots' two Indians, dumps them inside Bangladesh:** India's Border Security Force (BSF) shot two citizens of the country claiming they were "illegal Bangladeshi cow traders" along the Kurigram district border on Sunday noon, and then dumped them inside Bangladesh territory in an unconscious state, according to one of the victims. **Ismail Hossain, 35, alleged that the BSF fired on them even after they had verbally asserted that they were Indian citizens, and noted that their cows were legal assets. The other victim, Abdul Alim, 39, sustained worse injuries on body parts including his belly, and was unable to speak. Both the victims hail from Borokalia village in Sukhcar, South Shalmara-Manakchar district of Assam, India.** Locals rescued them from an area in Doikhawa village, Saheber Alga Union, Ulipur village of Kurigram and rushed them to the local "Jatrapara health centre," where the facilities were inadequate. Afterwards, locals admitted them to a private clinic in Rangpur and left them around 9pm on Sunday. **Meanwhile, police received intelligence about the Indian trespass in Kurigram** (*Daily Sun*, [05 October 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**]*