

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

12 October 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Nahid Islam stands with India's youth, calls for release of detained protesters:** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam today expressed solidarity with young protesters in India and called on Indian authorities to release those detained for exercising their democratic rights. Nahid called on the authorities to disclose the whereabouts of protest organisers and the legal grounds for their detention, respect the right to peaceful assembly, and allow journalists to report without intimidation or seizure of equipment. "From Dhaka, we stand with you as friends bound by a common demand for accountable power, democratic institutions, and human dignity," the NCP leader said in a statement titled "Statement of Solidarity with the Youth of India", posted on his Facebook account. The statement expressed concern over the detention of protesters and journalists in New Delhi, as well as internet suspension and restrictions around Jantar Mantar. **Drawing parallels with Bangladesh's July 2024 uprising, Nahid recalled how protests over public service job quotas grew into a nationwide movement against the then Awami League government. "Hindutva majoritarianism, fascism, and every form of religious supremacy must not define the future of South Asia," the statement said, calling for greater communal harmony, social justice and protection of minority rights** (*The Daily Star*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Four held over defacing of Tagore graffiti in Dhaka:** Police have detained four people, including a woman, over the defacement of a graffiti of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore outside the Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka. They are being interrogated by the Detective Branch (DB) of police. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Ramna Division Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Zahidul Islam confirmed the matter to the Dhaka Tribune on Saturday evening. Earlier on Saturday, Shahbagh police detained A N M Ayas, member secretary of the Rashtra Sanglap Forum, in connection with the incident. **Two other people, including a woman, were also detained at the same reason. The incident, which took place in Segunbagicha ahead of Sharadiya Durga Puja, has raised concerns over the possibility of unrest during the religious festival. However, police have yet to establish whether the defacement was linked to any planned provocation.** Several videos circulating on social media show a woman using a brush to smear black ink on Tagore's mural. A police officer from Shahbagh Police Station intervened and moved her away from the spot. Following a commotion involving the woman and her associates, police detained them and took them away in a van. They were heard chanting slogans during the incident (*Dhaka Tribune*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Two crude bombs thrown in front of Prime Minister's Office at midnight:** Miscreants threw two crude bombs in front of the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon, in the capital. One of them exploded, while the other was defused. The incident took place at around 1:15 am on Friday night. **A bomb disposal team of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) defused one of the crude bombs.** Ibne Mizan, deputy commissioner (DC) of the DMP's Tejgaon division, told Prothom Alo on Saturday morning that two motorcyclists arrived at the scene and stayed there for two to three minutes. During that time, they surveyed the surrounding area. They then threw the two crude bombs and left (*Prothom Alo*, [10 October 2026](#)).



- ◆ **10 injured as BNP, Awami League activists clash in Fatullah:** At least 10 people were injured in a clash between local activists of Awami League, whose activities remain banned, and BNP, allegedly over control of the brick kiln business in Fatullah, Narayanganj. The clash broke out around 12:00pm today in Akbarnagar village under Baktaboli union, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Tarek Al Mehedi. **According to police and local residents, the clash involved activists loyal to Samed Ali, a union Awami League activist, and those aligned with Halim Azad, organising secretary of the Baktaboli union BNP. The two sides had been at odds over establishing local dominance and controlling the supply of labour and soil to brick kilns along the Dhaleshwari river** (*The Daily Star*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Houthi attack in Saudi Arabia is a 'sinister act' says, Jamaat chief:** Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, the leader of the opposition in parliament, has condemned an attack by Yemen's Houthi group on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Returning to Bangladesh on Sunday after performing Umrah, Shafiqur told waiting journalists at Dhaka's Shahjalal International Airport that the attack was "unacceptable" and "sinister". Shafiqur had travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah after completing a two-day visit to Turkey. Shafiqur travelled to Turkey on Oct 7 to attend a conference at Istanbul University. He arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday morning to perform Umrah. **After landing at the airport on Sunday, Shafiqur briefed reporters on his visit to Turkey. He said discussions there covered a range of issues, including education exchange programmes, skill development programmes, expansion of the defence industry and the Makkah Pact. According to Shafiqur, he attended several high-level meetings with Turkish government officials, while a number of meetings were also held at the private-sector level** (*bdnews24.com*, [11 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BNP seeks unity in local government elections:** The BNP wants to contest the upcoming local government elections united, avoiding internal rivalries and divisions within the party. To this end, the party is emphasizing the selection of a single candidate in each area, giving priority to grassroots opinions and resolving potential disputes in advance. The party's highest policymaking body, the National Standing Committee, also discussed the need to complete administrative and organizational preparations before the elections. The issues were discussed at a committee meeting held at the BNP chairman's political office in Gulshan, Dhaka, on Saturday night. Chaired by BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, the meeting also discussed security arrangements for the upcoming Durga Puja and various organizational matters. **Party sources said leaders exchanged views on competition among potential candidates at the grassroots level, the risk of votes being split among party members and election preparations.** The possibility of internal disputes arising from multiple candidates contesting the same position received particular attention. Since local government elections will not be held under party symbols, more than 1 BNP leader may contest for the same post, potentially splitting votes and prolonging local rivalries after the elections. To avoid such a situation, the party has emphasized resolving differences through discussions in advance and selecting a single candidate for each position. **According to party sources, the BNP wants to ensure a fair and impartial electoral environment so voters can cast their ballots for candidates of their choice. At the same time, the party is prioritizing unity among its leaders and activists to ensure they work together during the election campaign** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **NCP to launch week-long mass outreach on 23 Oct, Shahbagh protest on 30 Oct:** National Citizen Party (NCP) will observe a week-long mass outreach programme in Dhaka starting 23 October to protest against the law-and-order situation, rising fuel prices, soaring prices of essential commodities, public safety concerns, recruitment corruption, and graft. The party will also hold a protest programme at Shahbagh in the capital on 30 October over the same demands. These decisions were taken at a meeting of NCP political board on Sunday evening, according to a press release issued by the party's media cell. The meeting was presided over by Nahid Islam, convener of NCP and opposition chief whip, and conducted by Akhter Hossain, member secretary. **The meeting also decided to deploy leaders of the party and its associate and affiliate organisations at various puja mandaps in Dhaka and across the country to ensure security and maintain communal harmony during the upcoming Durga Puja.** Additionally, top leaders will visit puja mandaps in their respective electoral constituencies and exchange greetings with members of the Sanatan community (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [11 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Security forces need more preparation before local polls, says parliamentary committee chief:** Security forces are not yet fully ready for Bangladesh's local government elections, the parliamentary committee chairman overseeing the ministry says, urging authorities to give them more time to prepare. **AKM Selim Reza Habib, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on the local government ministry, however, expects the polls to be held early next year.** He made the remarks after the committee's first meeting at the parliament complex on Sunday. Habib described local government elections as more complex and risky than national polls, citing candidates' personal interests and attempts to exert influence. **The meeting also recommended investigations into alleged irregularities and corruption in "unnecessary" projects financed by domestic and foreign sources during the Awami League-led government.** The committee stressed that public-interest projects should take priority over unnecessary schemes (bdnews24.com, [11 October 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Shahe Alam says Forex reserves rise to \$37bn despite economic challenges:** State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam today said the country's foreign exchange reserves had increased by US\$11 billion over the past seven months to reach US\$37 billion despite various economic challenges. He also said that the country's overall debt burden had declined from 37 percent to 32 percent during the period. "Foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$20 billion when the then autocratic government was ousted on August 5, 2024, following the mass uprising," he said. Shahe Alam said the interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus had increased foreign exchange reserves to US\$26 billion over two years, followed by a further rise of US\$11 billion in the past seven months, bringing the total to US\$37 billion. Referring to a call by an opposition party leader to halt remittance flows, he said the appeal had failed to disrupt the inflow of remittances (*BSS News*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Rooppur nuclear power plant begins fission, moves closer to electricity generation:** The first unit of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has begun a nuclear fission reaction, bringing Bangladesh's only nuclear power plant closer to starting electricity generation and supplying power to the national grid. **The reaction is the process through which nuclear energy is**

released and marks a crucial stage in the final preparations for electricity generation and supply. The plant is scheduled to supply 300 megawatts of electricity to the national grid in December. According to sources at the Rooppur plant, the process of generating energy through nuclear fission was initially scheduled to begin in September. However, the schedule was delayed after defects were detected during tests of safety valves. The valves were tested under high pressure in two rounds last week. After reviewing the test results, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) approved the start of the reaction last Thursday. Nuclear fission began at 3:34pm on Sunday (*Prothom Alo*, [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM invites Japan's Marubeni to invest in IT, AI, fertiliser, energy:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today invited Japanese business conglomerate Marubeni Corporation to invest in Bangladesh's information technology (IT), fertiliser and energy sectors, highlighting the government's efforts to harness the country's economic potential and attract domestic and foreign investment. The prime minister made the invitation when a high-level delegation led by Marubeni Corporation President and CEO Masayuki Omoto paid a courtesy call on him at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat this morning, said his Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin. **During the meeting, Tarique Rahman highlighted the longstanding business ties between Bangladesh and Marubeni in jute products. He stressed the need to expand the existing relationship and strengthen cooperation in new sectors, Shadhin said. The discussions covered investment opportunities in IT, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, fertiliser and energy, as well as the possibility of establishing a second Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) plant in Bangladesh. The two sides also discussed the potential of Bangladesh's IT sector, the development of skilled human resources and the country's prospects for becoming an international service hub.** Tarique Rahman highlighted the government's plan to enhance the IT and cybersecurity skills of Bangladeshi engineering graduates. Bangladesh could emerge as a major international service hub by leveraging its skilled workforce, technological capabilities and competitive service offerings, the meeting observed. The possibility of launching an AI-powered data centre in Bangladesh within the next 12 months also came up for discussion, along with potential investment and technological cooperation from Marubeni in the project (*The Daily Star*, [11 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh eyes Algerian LNG, LPG amid Middle Eastern supply crunch:** Energy minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood today held a meeting with Algerian ambassador in Dhaka to reach a prospective deal for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) amid Middle Eastern supply crunch, an official statement said here today. **"The discussions addressed potential MoUs (memoranda of understanding) on LNG and LPG cooperation, along with preparations for the Hon'ble Minister's (Tarique Rahman's) upcoming visit to Algeria," Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said in a statement.** It said during the meeting at his office Mahmood discussed with Algerian ambassador Dr Abdelouahab Saïdani discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the energy sector as they noted the shared commitment to strengthening the longstanding bilateral ties (*BSS News*, [11 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shipping Minister says Bangladesh drafting National Port Strategy in broader national interest:** Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam has said Bangladesh is formulating a National Port Strategy in the "broader national interest" amid protests over the decision to hand over the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to a foreign company. **"The National Port Strategy is being formulated with the broader national interest, economic progress and the expansion**

of international trade in mind,” he said at a seminar organised by the ministry at a Dhaka hotel on Sunday. A large part of Bangladesh's imports, exports and economic activities is linked to the management of seaports, river ports and land ports, he said. “Therefore, ensuring coordination, efficiency and effective strategies in port management is now a necessity.” At Sunday's seminar, the minister said no particular organisation or ministry should have its authority or responsibilities diminished in the process of formulating the National Port Strategy. Instead, the country's broader economic interests must take priority, based on the views of all relevant ministries, port authorities, government agencies, businesses, importers, exporters and experts, he said. **He said the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and relevant experts were assisting with the initiative** (*bdnews24.com*, [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh's foreign debt hits record \$114.98 billion after quarterly surge:** Bangladesh's foreign debt has climbed to a record \$114.98 billion, rising nearly \$4 billion in just three months as public-sector liabilities surged. The Bangladesh Bank released the figures on Sunday, showing that total external debt rose 3.65 percent from \$110.93 billion at the end of March. At the current exchange rate of Tk 123.20 per dollar, the outstanding debt is equivalent to about Tk 14.17 trillion. The total stood at \$113.52 billion at the end of December 2024 and \$113.58 billion a year earlier, at the end of June 2024. The increase was 1.29 percent over six months and 1.23 percent year-on-year. **Public-sector external debt rose from \$90.91 billion at the end of March to \$95.10 billion in June, an increase of about \$4.2 billion. Private-sector debt, by contrast, fell by \$140 million to \$19.88 billion** (*bdnews24.com*, [12 October 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Humaion Kobir says Bangladesh views Makkah Defence Agreement positively:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir today said Bangladesh was positively considering the Makkah Defence Agreement, with any decision to be guided by national interests and the potential contribution of the country's peacekeeping expertise to regional peace and stability. **“We are having positive discussions on the Makkah Defence Agreement. We are viewing it positively,” he said while addressing a national seminar at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital.** Kobir said Bangladesh could take a favourable decision if the agreement served its national interests and its peacekeeping expertise could contribute to the welfare of Muslim nations and help maintain peace and stability in the Middle East. **“If it falls within the national interests of Bangladesh and converges, and we feel that our peacekeeping expertise can add value in serving Muslim nations and keeping a stable, peaceful Middle East, then there is every scope to take a positive decision on the matter,” he said. ‘Bangladesh would not compromise with the security of holy places Makkah and Madinah. We are ready to give any support sought for the holy places,’ he said.** The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Center for Migration Studies of North South University (NSU) jointly organised the seminar titled “From Workforce to Strategic Partnership: Reimagining Bangladesh-KSA Relations.” The state minister also said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had accepted an invitation from Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince to visit the Kingdom. “He has accepted and will do so at some point very soon,” Kobir said (*BSS News*, [10 October 2026](#); *New Age*, [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Humaion says PM's Japan visit to prioritise economic partnership, investment:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaion Kobir today, Saturday said strengthening bilateral relations, deepening economic partnerships and increasing investment would be Bangladesh's main priorities during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's upcoming visit to Japan. **"Our main priorities during the Japan visit will be to strengthen bilateral relations, deepen economic partnerships and increase investment,"** he told journalists after attending a seminar titled "From Workforce to Strategic Partnership: Reimagining Bangladesh-KSA Relations". Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will leave for a four-day visit to Japan on 26 October. **Humaion Kobir said Bangladesh would prioritise trade, investment and development partnerships across various sectors during the visit, consistent with its approach to engagement with other countries. Bangladesh now seeks reciprocal investment partnerships with countries around the world in clearly defined areas of cooperation, he added** (*Prothom Alo*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mintoo says Bangladesh to resume talks with India on reopening elephant corridors:** Environment, forest and climate change minister Abdul Awal Mintoo on Saturday said that Bangladesh would soon resume talks with India to reopen border corridors for the free movement of wild elephants in the Garo Hills along the Sherpur-Jamalpur border. He made the remarks at a views exchange meeting at Madhutila Eco Park in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur. Mintoo said the talks would resume under the Bangladesh-India joint protocol on transboundary elephant conservation. **Bangladesh and India signed the Protocol on Transboundary Elephant Conservation on December 17, 2020, but it remained largely unimplemented for years** (*New Age*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh minister skips BIMSTEC's home ministers' meeting in Delhi:** Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed will not attend the first-ever meeting of home ministers from the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) in New Delhi on Tuesday. Instead, a Bangladesh delegation led by Home Affairs Senior Secretary Manzur Morshed Chowdhury will attend the meeting, reports *Bangla Tribune*. The two-day meeting will begin on Monday with senior officials from the home ministries of Bimstec member states. Home ministers and state ministers from the member countries will meet the following day, nearly three decades after the regional bloc was established. **The Bangladesh delegation will also include AKM Shahidul Karim, additional secretary for Saarc, Bimstec and other priority issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Rebecca Khan, joint secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Bangladesh assumed the Bimstec chairmanship in April 2025** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [11 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, UK strengthen cooperation to combat organised immigration crime:** Bangladesh and the United Kingdom have agreed on a new framework to strengthen cooperation against organised immigration crime, including visa and document fraud, and protect citizens from criminal networks exploiting people through fraudulent migration schemes. **The framework will enable the two countries to work more closely to identify, disrupt and tackle organised immigration crime and other criminal activities linked to irregular migration, according to a press release issued by the British High Commission in Dhaka on Sunday. Under the agreement, both countries will enhance information sharing and operational cooperation, hold regular meetings to review progress and discuss cases of mutual interest.** The partnership reflects the longstanding ties between Bangladesh and the UK and their shared commitment to

protecting Bangladeshi citizens from criminal networks that profit from unsafe and irregular migration routes (*Daily Sun*, [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh condemns Houthi attack on Riyadh airport that killed two nationals:** Bangladesh has strongly condemned the Houthi attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on 10 October that killed two Bangladeshi nationals and injured several others, many of them critically. **In a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Sunday, the government said the Bangladesh mission in Riyadh was in contact with Saudi authorities to obtain details of the deceased and injured Bangladeshis and provide necessary assistance to those affected.** The government extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved families, including those of the Bangladeshi victims, and prayed for the swift and full recovery of the injured. “Attacks endangering civilian lives and targeting civilian infrastructure are unacceptable and must cease immediately,” the statement said. Bangladesh also expressed firm solidarity with the government and people of Saudi Arabia following the attack. **Two Bangladeshis were killed and another 24 injured in an attack by Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi armed group at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The identities of all 26 Bangladeshi victims have been confirmed.** According to sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment, the two people killed were Shahed Ahmed and Nasrullah Badarpuri (*Daily Sun*, [11 October 2026](#); *Prothom Alo*, [12 October 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **BGB foils BSF push-in attempt along Meherpur border:** The Border Guard Bangladesh foiled an attempt by India’s Border Security Force to push four people, including a woman and a child, into Bangladesh through the Sheoratala border at Gangni upazila of Meherpur on Thursday, with the assistance from the local residents. In a press release issued on Friday, the BGB-47 Battalion said that the incident took place around 3:00am near border pillar 144/4-S, under the jurisdiction of the Sheoratala Border Outpost. **Members of the BSF’s 11th Battalion from the Bijoy Mathpara camp allegedly attempted to push two men, a woman and a child into Bangladesh. According to the release, intelligence information and the alert position of BGB patrol teams helped detect the attempt.** Following the incident, a flag meeting was held between the BGB and BSF at the company commander level, where the BGB strongly protested at the BSF actions. The battalion is also in the process of sending a formal protest letter to the BSF at battalion commander level, the release said (*New Age*, [10 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Locals detain Indian national after BSF shoots Bangladeshi farmer at Kushtia border:** A Bangladeshi farmer was injured when members of India’s Border Security Force opened fire following an altercation over fishing in the River Mathabhanga along Daulatpur border in Kushtia on Saturday. A patrol team from India’s 146 BSF Battalion allegedly opened fire at him, leaving him wounded by pellets from his waist to his ankle. A press release from the BGB-47 battalion said that a Bangladeshi citizen was injured in one of his legs when BSF personnel opened fire without warning. In protest, local Bangladeshi farmers working near the border detained an Indian national and handed him over to the Border Guard Bangladesh. In response to the firing, BGB personnel fired three blank rounds as a warning and in protest. The incident took place at about 9:30am near the Jamalpur border area under Daulatpur upazila

in the district. According to BGB and local people, Sahajul went for fishing in the Mathabhanga River in the morning, where an argument broke out between him and an Indian national near the zero line. **At least 12 Bangladeshi nationals were killed and 11 were injured in violence by the BSF in the first eight months of 2026, according to rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra data. At least 34 were killed and 38 were injured in 2025 in such violence by the BSF, while 30 were killed and 25 were injured in 2024, the data showed** (*New Age*, [10 October 2026](#); [11 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **BGB foils 2 more BSF attempts to push 10 people into Bangladesh:** The Border Guard Bangladesh foiled two attempts by India's Border Security Force to push 10 people into Bangladesh through the border along Kushtia and Meherpur on Sunday morning. With the latest ones, the BGB and local residents have foiled at least 75 push-in attempts since early May, following the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the recent West Bengal polls. Sunday's incidents took place near the border along Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila and along Rangmahal at Meherpur's Gangni upazila. In both cases, BSF members took the people back into the Indian territory after BGB patrol teams intervened, according to the BGB. At the Daulatpur border, the incident occurred around 7:45am, about 50 yards inside Indian territory from border Pillar Number 153/9-S under the Thotarpara Border Outpost where BGB 47 Battalion is posted. In another incident, BSF members attempted to push six people into Bangladesh near main border Pillar Number 137 along Rangmahal under Gangni in the early hours of Sunday (*New Age*, [12 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**]*