

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

13 October 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **GM Quader's residence in Uttara attacked and vandalised:** The residence of Jatiya Party (JaPa) chairman GM Quader in Uttara, in the capital, came under attack and was vandalised on Monday. A group of protesters under the banner of 'Anti-Autocracy General People' staged demonstration outside the Uttara residence of Jatiya Party (JaPa) Chairman GM Quader on Monday demanding his immediate arrest. The protesters staged a sit-in on the road in front of the house around 11:00am and chanted various slogans. They could not enter the residence but vandalised its windowpanes before leaving the scene ahead of the police's arrival, said witnesses. The Jatiya Party (JaPa) on Monday noon issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the government to detain suspects involved in an attack on party chief GM Quader's residence hours after the vandalism took place at the house in Uttara, Dhaka. If the law enforcers fail to identify and detain the suspects, the party would launch stringent street movement across the country, warned the party's Secretary General Barrister Shamim Haider Patwary at a press conference. Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Bangladesh JSD) has strongly condemned the attack and vandalism at the residence of Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader at Uttara in the capital. In a joint statement issued on Monday, Bangladesh JSD President Sharif Nurul Ambia and General Secretary Nazmul Haque Pradhan expressed deep concern over the incident. The leaders said political differences and disputes could never be addressed through violence, attacks or vandalism. They described attacks on a political leader or his residence as contrary to the principles of democracy and a tolerant political environment (*Prothom Alo*, [12 October 2026](#); *Dhaka Tribune*, [12 October 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [12 October 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Jamaat calls incident behind Ayas's arrest 'trivial', demands release of 4:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair has demanded the withdrawal of cases against Al Noor Mohammad Ayas, member secretary of Rastro Sanglap Forum, and three others detained with him, and their immediate release, describing the incident leading to their arrest as "trivial". Ayas along with Sakibul Hasan, Sujon Mia and Marzia Khandaker Rimi were detained over their involvement in an attempt to deface a graffiti of Rabindranath Tagore on a wall opposite the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka's Segunbagicha on Saturday. In a statement issued Monday, Zubair expressed concern over the cases filed against the four and their subsequent remand. He alleged that cases were being filed over "trivial incidents" to harass citizens and undermine forces aligned with the July Uprising (*The Daily Star*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Former army officers Debashish, Gulshan face interrogation on sedition charges:** Retired army officers lieutenant colonel Debashish Kumar Barua and lieutenant Gulshan Ara have been remanded for four days in a sedition case in Dhaka. The case also involves alleged violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Cyber Security Act. Metropolitan Magistrate Didarul Alam passed the order on Monday after investigators sought seven days of remand, said SI Saiful Islam of the police prosecution department. The case investigator, DB Cyber and Special Crime (South) division Inspector Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, alleged that the pair used WhatsApp groups named "Bangladesh Awami League Supporters Alpha" and "BBM Transparency" to raise



funds and produce digital content inciting violence. The remand petition also alleged that they maintained links with former army chief Aziz Ahmed and fugitive leaders of the banned Awami League through platforms named “Unity Care” and “Public Parliament”, with the aim of rehabilitating the party and plotting crimes against the state. They were also accused of using a Facebook page to spread content intended to incite violence and destabilise the country (*bdnews24.com*, [12 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tarique pledges equal rights, security for people of all faiths:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has pledged to ensure equal rights and security for all citizens, saying the government is working to protect people regardless of their religious identity. He made the remarks during a meeting with Hindu community leaders from his Dhaka-17 constituency at the Prime Minister's Office in the Secretariat on Monday, according to Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. "The government is doing its utmost to ensure the rights and security that everyone is entitled to as a citizen of this country, rather than on the basis of religion," Tarique said. "It is the government's responsibility to ensure the rights of every citizen." The prime minister said he would do everything within his authority to uphold those rights. "As a human being, you have certain rights and entitlements. As head of government, I have certain responsibilities, and I am trying to fulfil them," he said. "I will make every effort to fulfil my duties and obligations to ensure that every citizen receives what they are rightfully entitled to." **During the meeting, representatives of eight temples in Dhaka-17 invited Tarique to visit Puja venues during the Durga Puja celebrations. The Hindu community leaders praised initiatives taken by the BNP government for their welfare and thanked the prime minister for increasing Puja holidays and grants** (*bdnews24.com*, [12 October 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Chittagong port workers begin hunger strike against DP World deal:** The Chittagong Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad began a mass hunger strike in front of the port's One-Stop Service Building on Monday, demanding cancellation of the agreement with United Arab Emirates-based operator DP World to operate the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT). The protesters are also demanding job security for port workers and employees, along with the fulfillment of other basic demands. The peaceful hunger strike began at 11:30am and is scheduled to continue until 4pm. Humayun Kabir and Ibrahim Khokon, joint conveners of the Chittagong Port Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and the Chittagong Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad, took part in the program. (*Dhaka Tribune*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, WB, IMF reach policy consensus on reforms, govt focuses on investment:** Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir today said Bangladesh has reached broad policy alignment with the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on key economic reforms aimed at restoring stability, strengthening discipline in the banking sector, increasing tax revenue and creating employment. "The government is pursuing a comprehensive economic recovery and reconstruction strategy, with greater domestic and foreign investment, reopening closed factories, expanding social protection and addressing rising energy costs among its major priorities," he said. The adviser made the remarks while speaking to journalists ahead of the 2026 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group in Thailand, said a press release. Titumir said the government had a politically mandated roadmap to recover, restore and rapidly

rebuild the economy to put the country on a path to prosperity. The plan has been outlined in a five-year economic strategy, with several fundamental priorities aligning with the reform proposals of the World Bank and the IMF, he added (*BSS News*, [12 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **\$336m Chinese loan signed for Mongla Port upgrade:** China has agreed to provide a \$335.78-million concessional loan to expand and modernise Mongla Port, Bangladesh's second-largest seaport. **The Bangladesh government and the Export-Import Bank of China signed a loan agreement on October 10 in Dhaka for the project titled 'Expansion and Modernisation of Mongla Port Facilities', according to a press release issued by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance.** Alia Meher, joint secretary of the ERD, and Fengjun Tian, assistant general manager of the Chinese bank, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. The project will include the construction of two container terminals equipped with modern machinery, a container yard, a container delivery yard and a cargo handling yard, with financial support from China. **Under the agreement, the loan carries an annual interest rate of 2.0 per cent and is repayable over 20 years, including a five-year grace period** (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [13 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **IMF further cuts Bangladesh's FY27 growth forecast to 3.2pc, sees inflation surging to 10.9pc:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has further lowered Bangladesh's growth forecast for the fiscal year 2026-27 (FY27) to 3.2 per cent, down from its previous projection of 3.5 per cent made in July. The Washington-based lender unveiled the latest projections in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) on Tuesday in Bangkok, as part of the 2026 Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group. **The IMF also projected Bangladesh's inflation rate to rise to 10.9 per cent in FY27, up from its April forecast of 6.0 per cent.** During the first three months of the current fiscal year, headline inflation stood at 8.32 per cent, 8.26 per cent and 8.34 per cent, respectively. The IMF's latest projections came days after the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) issued weaker economic outlooks for Bangladesh for FY27 (*Financial Express Bangladesh*, [13 October 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **EU shares its 'Eastern Corridor Initiative' with Bangladesh:** European Union (EU) Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner on Monday met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam and presented the EU's "Eastern Corridor Initiative" that aims at combating irregular migration to the EU by engaging with countries of origin, transit and all stakeholders. Ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh Michael Miller was also present at the meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **The discussions covered cooperation on migration management, returns, combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The state minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to safe, orderly and regular migration and urged the EU and its Member States to expand opportunities for Bangladeshi skilled workers and professionals through practical, demand-driven and results-oriented mobility corridors as a way to incentivize regular migration** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh, EU agree to ease legal entry for workers:** Bangladesh and the European Union (EU) have discussed strengthening cooperation to curb illegal migration and human trafficking with a view to expanding legal employment opportunities for skilled Bangladeshi workers in

Europe. The issue was discussed at a meeting between Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and a high-level EU delegation led by Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner at the Home Ministry office in Bangladesh Secretariat today. **The home minister said Bangladesh had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal migration and was committed to working with the EU to prevent human trafficking, protect prospective migrants and promote safe and legal migration. He said Bangladesh wanted to create opportunities to send fully documented, skilled workers to European labour markets through legal channels.** Brunner praised the strategic partnership and cooperation between Bangladesh and the EU, saying that preventing human trafficking and closing irregular migration routes were priorities for both sides. Reducing illegal migration would help facilitate the legal entry of Bangladeshi workers into European labour markets, he added. The meeting also discussed accelerating legal migration under the EU's Talent Partnership initiative, particularly through internationally recognised training and certification for Bangladeshi workers (*BSS News*, [12 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh urges EU to expand skilled migration opportunities:** Bangladesh today urged the European Union (EU) to expand employment opportunities for Bangladeshi skilled workers and professionals through demand-driven legal migration pathways, while reaffirming its commitment to combating irregular migration and human trafficking. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam made the call when EU Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Magnus Brunner paid a courtesy call on her at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, said a ministry press release. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed strengthening cooperation on migration management, the return of irregular migrants, combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.** Shama urged the EU and its member states to establish practical, demand-driven and results-oriented labour mobility corridors to facilitate greater access for Bangladeshi skilled workers and professionals to European labour markets. She emphasised that expanding legal migration opportunities would help discourage irregular migration while creating mutually beneficial employment opportunities (*BSS News*, 12 October 2026).
- ◆ **Bangladesh ready to help protect Makkah, Madinah:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam today said Bangladesh would extend necessary assistance to Saudi Arabia if the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah faced any security threat amid the ongoing regional conflict. "If any threat emerges against Makkah or Madinah, Bangladesh will certainly not remain indifferent. We will extend a helping hand to protect the two holy cities," she told journalists. The state minister made the remarks after attending a seminar titled "Foreign Policy of Bangladesh: Navigating Pathways in a Shifting World", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in the capital. **Responding to a question about Bangladesh's willingness to assist Saudi Arabia in safeguarding the two holy cities, Shama said the issue carried deep religious and emotional significance for Muslims worldwide. "For Muslims, Makkah and Madinah are not merely matters of diplomacy. They are also deeply connected to our emotions and religious sentiments," she said.** She continued that Bangladesh, as a Muslim-majority country, shared the concerns of Muslims across the world regarding the security of the two holy cities. **The state minister, however, clarified that Bangladesh had not yet formally joined the proposed Makkah Pact** (*BSS News*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh discusses new long-term LNG supply with QatarEnergy:** Bangladesh has discussed the possibility of securing new long-term liquefied natural gas supply contracts with QatarEnergy to meet its growing gas demand. State minister for power, energy and mineral resources Aninda

Islam Amit held a bilateral meeting with Qatar's state minister for energy affairs and QatarEnergy president Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi on Sunday on the sidelines of the 17th International Energy Forum in Saudi Arabia, according to a press release. **The meeting focused on Bangladesh's growing gas demand, its existing LNG import arrangements and the possibility of securing new long-term supply agreements.** The two sides also discussed LNG supplies from QatarEnergy's international portfolio and the diversification of supply sources and routes. During a separate meeting with Saudi assistant minister of energy Nasser Al-Qahtani, Amit sought Riyadh's support for strengthening Bangladesh's energy security and achieving its energy targets by 2030. He also discussed establishing a framework for regular exchanges between the two countries and expanding long-term energy cooperation, including the development of LNG terminals and offshore and onshore gas exploration. The Saudi minister expressed optimism about strengthening ongoing cooperation with Bangladesh, describing it as a brotherly country, according to the press release (*New Age*, [12 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM seeks Canadian cooperation in energy, health and agriculture:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today, Monday sought Canadian cooperation in education, health, energy and agriculture, alongside food security, technical education and climate financing, to strengthen bilateral ties and expand development cooperation. He made the call when a delegation led by Canada's Secretary of State for International Development Randeep Sarai paid a courtesy call on him at the Prime Minister's Office at the Secretariat here, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin. **During the meeting, the two sides discussed strengthening bilateral relations, expanding economic cooperation and exploring new avenues for strategic partnership, alongside the Rohingya crisis and other development priorities.** The Prime Minister said Bangladesh looked forward to cooperation from friendly countries like Canada in key sectors, including health and education. **On energy**, the Canadian side expressed interest in supporting Bangladesh's energy supply, particularly in oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG). **In health and skills development**, Canada expressed interest in expanding cooperation in technical and vocational education and training, including nursing education. The Canadian side also indicated interest in supporting nursing training institutions and developing skilled nurses, building on its existing activities in the sector. **In agriculture**, the discussions covered cooperation in pulses and oilseeds, food security and data-driven agricultural planning. The Canadian side also briefed the prime minister on its ongoing activities through the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) (*Prothom Alo*, [12 October 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **'Smuggler' killed in BGB firing after attack on patrol in Mymensingh:** A young man was killed in firing by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a border area of Haluaghat upazila in Mymensingh early Monday. The incident occurred in the Jaljalia area. The BGB said its patrol team opened fire in self-defence after coming under attack during an anti-smuggling operation. A BGB member was injured in the incident and is receiving treatment. The deceased, Md Ruman, 32, was a resident of Jaljalia village in Bhubankura union of Haluaghat upazila. **According to the press release, an anti-smuggling operation was conducted in the Jaljalia area at around 5:45am, approximately one kilometre inside Bangladesh from the zero line. A four-member BGB patrol team seized smuggled goods. While returning with the seized goods, the team came under attack by an organised group of smugglers armed with locally made weapons. The**

BGB said the attackers were initially given verbal warnings, followed by warning shots to bring the situation under control. However, the attackers continued their assault with locally made weapons, injuring a BGB member. In these circumstances, BGB personnel opened fire in self-defence to protect their lives and government property, the press release said (*Prothom Alo*, [12 October 2026](#)).

- ◆ **9 crude bombs recovered, defused in Dhaka Udyan:** The Special Response Battalion (SRB)-2 has recovered and defused nine crude bombs found in an abandoned vanity bag in Dhaka Udyan area of Mohammadpur in Dhaka. The SRB-2 media department confirmed the information on Monday. According to SRB-2, its intelligence sources had indicated that several crude bombs had been stored in Dhaka Udyan for sabotage. Acting on the information, an SRB-2 team conducted a special search operation in the area and found nine cocktails inside an abandoned vanity bag. The SRB bomb disposal unit later arrived at the scene, recovered the cocktails and safely transported them to Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals Memorial, where they were defused following proper procedures. SRB-2 has intensified patrols in Dhaka Udyan to ensure public safety. The battalion said intelligence surveillance was ongoing to identify and bring to justice those involved in acts of sabotage using crude bombs and attempts to spread panic among the public (*Dhaka Tribune*, [12 October 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Nearly 10,000 BGB members to be deployed for Durga Puja security:** Nearly 10,000 members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be deployed nationwide from October 16 to 22 to ensure security during Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindu community. Lieutenant Colonel Md Mahbub Murshed Rahman, director of operations at BGB headquarters, disclosed the deployment plan. He said the BGB had adopted a comprehensive security plan to ensure peaceful and festive celebrations, focusing on regular patrols, intelligence surveillance and close coordination with local administrations, police and Puja celebration committees. “The plan prioritises early identification of potential risks, vigilance against rumours and communal incitement, and a swift response to any untoward incidents,” he said. The BGB will provide security assistance at 2,727 puja mandaps, including those within eight kilometres of the border and near battalion headquarters, he said (*Dhaka Tribune*, [13 October 2026](#)).

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