

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

29 September 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Nahid demands home minister's removal:** National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam on Monday said restoring law and order in the country would not be possible as long as Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed remains in office as he has “failed to fulfill his responsibilities”. **“We believe he has already failed. If a person has failed, he cannot and should not remain in charge,”** Nahid said at a press briefing following a meeting at the party office in the capital. He said the home minister should step down to set an example of accountability within the government. **“We have already seen a few reshuffles in the cabinet. So, now he should be removed. An example needs to be set that if someone fails in their duties, they must step down and make way for a successor,”** he said. **“This will send a message to everyone including the government officials working under him,”** he added. Nahid accused the government of failing to rein in its party activists. Referring to the recent demolition of the Radda MCH-FP Centre in Mirpur and the attack on content creator Salman Muqtadir's studio, he said the incidents reflected the deteriorating law and order situation. He alleged that law enforcement agencies remained inactive during the attacks, raising questions about the government's ability to ensure public safety. **The National Citizen Party on Monday decided to hold nationwide protests against what it described as a deterioration in law and order, extortion and land grabbing** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [28 September 2026](#); *New Age*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **NCP plans major reshuffle and structural change:** The National Citizen Party is preparing a major reshuffle of its central organisation, with several senior posts set to be abolished and responsibilities redistributed, while its top leadership is expected to remain unchanged, party sources said. **Under the proposed structure, the posts of chief organiser, chief coordinator and spokesperson will be scrapped. New senior positions and around 30 secretarial portfolios are also being considered, while the posts of convener and member secretary are expected to be retained, two NCP leaders told The Daily Star.** The proposed changes were discussed at a meeting of the party's Political Council, its highest policymaking body, yesterday. The meeting also discussed organisational responsibilities and preparations for the upcoming local government elections (*The Daily Star*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shafiqur says Radda attack impossible without govt shelter:** Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami amir and leader of opposition Shafiqur Rahman on Monday remarked that the attack on the Radda health centre in Mirpur area was impossible without the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party sheltering the perpetrators. **While talking to reporters in the afternoon after visiting the Radda MCH-FP Centre, a facility for maternal and child health and family planning services, Shafiqur demanded the immediate arrest of the accused and exemplary punishment for the attackers. He also called on the government to take steps to prevent recurrence of such incident.** Expressing concern, Shafiqur said, ‘Attempts could be made to implicate the opposition in such incidents.’ Shafiqur also expressed concern over the recent law and order situation, claiming that countrywide mob violence was going on under the government's patronisation. **Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has announced a Tk 50 lakh donation for the re-**



establishment of Radda MCH-FP Centre in Mirpur, Dhaka, which was damaged and vandalised in an attack on Thursday night (*New Age*, [28 September 2026](#); [29 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Dhaka rally, tougher programmes: Jamaat alliance plans time-bound ultimatum:** Once street allies against Awami League for decades, the ruling BNP and opposition Jamaat-e-Islami are now heading towards confrontation over reforms, the sidelining of opposition voices and the politicisation of state institutions. **The growing divide has pushed the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance into a new phase of street mobilisation, with plans for a grand rally in Dhaka on 14 November after its ongoing long march. At the rally, the alliance is considering giving the government a time-bound ultimatum over its demands and preparing for tougher programmes if those demands are not addressed, according to senior alliance leaders.** Jamaat's street programmes, launched just months after the formation of the BNP government, have created unease within the ruling party. While Jamaat has criticised BNP over what it says is a failure to implement July National Charter and meet public expectations. **If Jamaat continues its street campaign, BNP and its affiliated organisations are also preparing to remain active with counter-programmes. Political analysts warn that prolonged confrontation between the two sides could increase tensions** (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt to review draft cyber law amendment amid concerns:** The government has decided to review the proposed amendments to the Cyber Security Act amid concerns raised by journalists to ensure that the media and journalists are not harassed under the law. The decision was taken at a consultation meeting with media stakeholders to review the draft of the 'Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026' at the Secretariat on Monday. **Home minister Salahuddin Ahmed, immediately after the meeting, said that the review committee would make appropriate recommendations regarding the media.** 'The draft will then be uploaded on the website for public opinion,' he said. 'We have not taken the initiative to amend the Cyber Security Act to target the media. We also do not want any journalist to fall victim to it, nor do we want this law to be misused,' he said (*New Age*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **2 UPL employees handed over to police, detained for 2hrs for selling Mujib's memoir:** A group of people claiming themselves Bangladesh Nationalist Party activists handed two University Press Limited employees to police for selling the country's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's autobiography 'The Unfinished Memoirs' at Banglabazar in Old Town on Monday afternoon. UPL senior assistant manager Raihan Taharat Leon said the two sales representatives were picked up around 5:30pm, taken first to Lalkuthi Ghat and later handed over to police at the Banglabazar police outpost. **'They were released from the police outpost at about 7:45pm,' he said. 'The people claimed they were BNP activists and picked up our sales representatives,' he added.** Sutrapur police station officer-in-charge Md Motiur Rahman said that they asked the UPL men not to sell the books, saying it might create tension (*New Age*, [29 September 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Cabinet approves draft VAT, Supplementary Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026:** The Cabinet today gave in-principle and final approval to the draft Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, bringing back the provision for

submitting VAT returns within 15 days of the end of each tax period. The approval was given at the 22nd meeting of the Cabinet held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair, said the Cabinet Division in a press release. The draft was placed by the Internal Resources Division to amend Section 64 of the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012, with a view to making the field-level revenue collection process more dynamic. **Under the proposed amendment, the provision of submitting returns within 15 days after the end of every three tax periods will be replaced by the requirement to submit returns within 15 days after the end of each tax period** (BSS News, [28 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Pakistan discuss health cooperation:** Bangladesh and Pakistan discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the health sector during a meeting between High Commissioner Imran Haider and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain on Monday. **The discussions focused on finalizing the proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU), pharmaceuticals and capacity building for health professionals. Haider briefed the minister on proposals for cooperation between Bangladesh's health sector and Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI&RC) and Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in organ transplantation.** GIMS has offered to train Bangladeshi doctors in liver transplantation, support them during subsequent surgeries in Bangladesh and provide post-procedure care through telemedicine. The two sides also discussed enhancing trade in surgical equipment and pharmaceutical products. Sakhawat said Bangladesh could increase exports of vaccines and cancer medicines to Pakistan. He also invited Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities in Bangladesh's health sector (Dhaka Tribune, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistan clearance delay pushes Russia's Rooppur fuel delivery into October:** A uranium fuel shipment for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has been delayed after Pakistan did not grant permission for the flight carrying it to use its airspace. The shipment was scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh on Sept 24 to refuel the plant's first unit. Science and Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam said on Monday, **"Pakistan did not provide the clearance. The route involves several countries -- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and then India. "Since clearance from Pakistan was given previously, they will grant it again. Perhaps there was a gap or oversight, and they didn't issue it. [It] will come through. "They have rescheduled it and informed me that [Russia's state nuclear agency, Rosatom] will bring it during the first week of October.** In the meantime, they will carry out their necessary work." The minister said it was Rosatom's responsibility to deliver the uranium and that minor delays could occur. Earlier, he told Indian news agency ANI that the exact reason Pakistan had not granted the airspace clearance was unknown (bdnews24.com, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh among 20 nations exempt from US specialty drug tariffs:** The US will not impose an ad valorem tariff on certain specialty drugs and associated ingredients imported from Bangladesh and 19 other jurisdictions. **The US Department of Commerce has listed Bangladesh among the jurisdictions eligible for the tariff adjustment, which takes effect on Tuesday. On Apr 2, US President Donald Trump issued a proclamation imposing tariffs on imports of patented pharmaceuticals, biologics and associated ingredients as part of efforts to encourage domestic production. The zero-tariff treatment applies to specified categories of specialty pharmaceuticals, rather than all medicines exported from Bangladesh.** The other eligible jurisdictions are Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, North Macedonia, South Korea,

Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Vietnam (bdnews24.com, [29 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Prime Minister to inaugurate Tk1,542cr projects in Feni:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to inaugurate several development projects worth a total of Tk1,542.16 crore, including the rehabilitation (Phase I) of the Muhuri-Kahua Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation Project in Parshuram upazila of Feni. The prime minister's visit was originally scheduled for September 17 but was later postponed and rescheduled for 1 October. **The project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on 16 June at an estimated cost of Tk1,542.16 crore. Under the project, rivers and water bodies will be re-excavated, flood-control embankments rehabilitated, riverbanks protected and irrigation infrastructure renovated** (*Daily Sun*, [29 September 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Bangladesh, Pakistan discuss enhanced regional, int'l cooperation:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir and Pakistan High Commissioner Imran Haider today exchanged views on strengthening regional and international cooperation during a meeting at the foreign ministry. **The two also discussed ways to deepen Bangladesh-Pakistan ties in trade and investment, education, health, connectivity and people-to-people contacts, according to a foreign ministry press release.** Haider congratulated Kobir on assuming office and recalled their previous meetings when Kobir served as an adviser to the Prime Minister (*BSS News*, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM, UAE envoy discuss expanding trade, investment & employment opportunities:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulla Ali Abdulla Alhmoudi today discussed expanding trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh and increasing employment opportunities for skilled Bangladeshi workers in the United Arab Emirates. The discussion was held when UAE ambassador paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat this afternoon, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu. **During the meeting, they discussed ways to expand trade and investment, including attracting more UAE investment for Bangladesh and creating more employment opportunities for Bangladeshi skilled workers in the UAE. They also discussed strengthening cooperation in energy, infrastructure, aviation, information technology, railways and logistics sectors** (*BSS News*, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **President urges exporters to send skilled manpower to KSA:** President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir today urged the Bangladeshi manpower exporters to give importance on sending skilled and well-educated manpower to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). **He urged the manpower exporters to utilize the vast opportunities and potentials in Saudi Arabia in the health, education and infrastructure sectors. The President made the call as a seven-member delegation of the Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Ashraful Haq Chowdhury paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban this afternoon.** President's Press Secretary Md. Sarwar Alam said the delegation apprised the President of the effective participation of Bangladeshi businessmen and entrepreneurs in the huge development activities of Saudi Arabia. They also highlighted extensive economic activities, infrastructure construction and high demand for skilled manpower in Saudi Arabia around Vision 2030, World Expo and the FIFA World Cup 2034 (*BSS News*, [28 September 2026](#)).

- ◆ **State minister says No hidden agenda behind Boeing deal:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Monday said there is no hidden agenda behind the latest agreement with Boeing, reiterating that Bangladesh will continue to expand Biman's fleet based on needs as the country eyes becoming an aviation hub. **"We need to expand the fleet to become an aviation hub. There is nothing....there is no hidden agenda. Bangladesh does it on the basis of needs. We need to expand our fleet,"** he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **while responding to a question.** Kobir laid emphasis on a mixed fleet in the interest of the country's aviation sector. The state minister described the just-concluded visit of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to the 81st session of the UNGA as "successful and meaningful," with extensive engagements with the international community during his four-day stay in New York (*Dhaka Tribune*, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Bangladesh prioritises technology diplomacy for US ties:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam has identified science and technology diplomacy as foreign policy priorities, calling for technology transfer, workforce development and stronger ties between Bangladeshi institutions and US research networks. She made the remarks at the Bangladesh-Silicon Valley Technology Dialogue, organised by the Bangladesh Consulate General in Los Angeles at Stanford University on September 27, according to a foreign ministry press release issued today. **A delegation sent by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman met technology professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors, including members of the Bangladeshi diaspora, under the theme "Technology, Talent and Partnerships for Bangladesh's Future."** Shama Obaed said sustained engagement with Bangladeshi professionals in the global technology industry could help connect the country's institutions with the US research and innovation ecosystem. Such cooperation should also address practical needs at home, including agriculture and food security, she said (*BSS News*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Shama highlights Bangladesh-US education cooperation in California:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam highlighted opportunities to deepen Bangladesh-US cooperation in education, science, research and technology during talks with Arizona State University (ASU) representatives in California. **A Bangladesh delegation led by Prime Minister's Adviser for Finance and Planning Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir met the ASU representatives at the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley on September 27,** said a foreign ministry's press release here this morning. **The talks focused on linking engineering education, research, workforce development, industry and investment to build a semiconductor ecosystem in Bangladesh. Potential areas of cooperation included microelectronics curricula, faculty training, applied research and partnerships between universities and industry** (*BSS News*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Humaiun seeks forward-looking, mutually respectful ties with India:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir today reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to working with India in a forward-looking and mutually respectful manner on issues of shared interest and for the benefit of both peoples. He made the remarks when Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on him at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to a press release. The high commissioner congratulated Kobir on his appointment. **They also discussed bilateral issues and regional and international developments, including the recently concluded 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York** (*BSS News*, [29 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM seeks wider trade, investment ties with China:** Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday expressed interest in strengthening bilateral relations and expanding trade and investment with China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to separate press releases. He made the

remarks during separate meetings with the Chinese and UAE ambassadors at his office at the Bangladesh Secretariat. Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen paid a farewell call on the PM. At the start of the meeting, the envoy congratulated the prime minister on his participation in the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly and programmes in New York. **The prime minister stressed the need to further expand trade, investment and development cooperation between Bangladesh and China, as well as cooperation on issues of mutual interest, including the Rohingya crisis. Yao Wen said China would continue to support Bangladesh's development efforts and expressed hope that bilateral relations would be further strengthened** (Daily Sun, [29 September 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **Over 20 crude and petrol bombs recovered from old trade fair venue:** More than 20 crude and petrol bombs have been recovered from the old trade fair venue at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka. The bombs were recovered during a raid conducted by the Special Response Battalion (SRB) on Monday afternoon based on a tip-off. **The entire area has since been cordoned off for security reasons. The police Bomb Disposal Unit has arrived at the scene and is defusing the crude bombs.** Squadron Leader Nifaz Rahman of SRB-2 confirmed the matter to Prothom Alo. He said the explosives were recovered during a raid at the old trade fair site following a tip-off. Some of the recovered explosives have already been defused, while efforts are underway to neutralise the rest. **The SRB could not say how the explosives came to be at the site or who was involved** (Prothom Alo, [28 September 2026](#)).
- ◆ **15 banned Chhatra League activists arrested in Uttara:** Police on Monday arrested 15 leaders and activists of the banned Chhatra League during a raid at the Uttara residence of former Awami League lawmaker Shawkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon in Dhaka. **A team from Uttara (West) Police Station under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) conducted the drive around 5:30 p.m. at a house on Road 20, Sector 7 in Uttara, following reports that the group was gathering to plot subversive activities aimed at destabilizing the country.** DMP Deputy Commissioner (DC - Media) Akhtar Hossain confirmed the arrests (Daily Sun, [29 September 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**]*