

DAILY BANGLADESH WATCH

20 August 2026

Takeaways

Politics

- ◆ **Satisfaction with govt stands at 54pc, PM at 66pc: Survey:** A survey conducted to mark the six-month anniversary of the BNP government asked how well or badly Prime Minister Tarique Rahman was doing his job. **In response, 66.30 per cent of respondents said the Prime Minister was doing his job well.** This assessment was almost identical across groups based on age, sex, schooling and household income. **Even among supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami, the main opposition party in parliament, 65.50 per cent said the Prime Minister was doing his job well.** The figure was 65.80 per cent among supporters of the opposition National Citizen Party (NCP) and 52.50 per cent among supporters of the Awami League, whose activities have been banned. The findings were revealed in the Approval Rating Survey 2026 conducted by Doppler Opinion Research and released at an event at the Multipurpose Hall of the BIDA Building in Agargaon, Dhaka, on Wednesday afternoon. **The majority of voters in the country support the activities of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his government, but are divided over the country's present direction, according to a survey report.** Worryingly, however, less than half the respondents supported the direction the country has taken under the BNP government. **Almost 48.6% respondents said they believed the country was headed in the right direction, but 35.6% said the opposite, while 15.8% others declined to respond. The share of "no responses" was highest on the question over the country's direction among all the questions presented in the survey.** Furthermore, the gap between supporters of BNP and other major parties was also the biggest on this issue. Most of the respondents said they are doing worse during BNP's six months in office, compared with the previous year, and only 38.1% people believe the situation would improve in the next 12 months. The survey asked how Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, the Leader of the Opposition, and NCP Convener Nahid Islam, the Chief Whip of the Opposition, were doing their jobs in parliament. In response, 47.70 per cent gave a positive rating to Shafiqur, while 39.80 per cent gave a positive rating to Nahid. While 52.90 per cent of men rated Shafiqur well, the figure was 42.80 per cent among women (*Prothom Alo*, [19 August 2026](#); *Daily Sun*, [19 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Questions raised over appointment of former judge as ACC Chairman:** After the posts of chairman and commissioners at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) remained vacant for five and a half months, the BNP government has appointed new officials to the positions. Retired Justice AKM Asaduzzaman was appointed ACC chairman on Monday night. Jahangir Alam Khan and Md Sajjad Hossain Bhuiyan were appointed commissioners. **The appointment of a retired judge as ACC chairman has raised questions. Some constitutional experts say the appointment is not consistent with the Constitution, as it imposes constitutional restrictions on the appointment of retired judges to lucrative positions in the service of the Republic.** Legal experts say the ACC is neither a judicial nor a quasi-judicial institution. Similarly, the position of ACC chairman is neither a judicial nor a quasi-judicial office. This is why the appointment of retired Justice AKM Asaduzzaman as ACC chairman has sparked questions and controversy (*Prothom Alo*, [19 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **3 months spent just tackling the crisis, progress on solutions remains slow:** Three months have passed within the government's first six months in addressing the energy crisis. The war in the Middle East began just 10 days after the government was formed, and March-April was spent trying to keep the supply of fuel oil stable. And now, for almost a month, there has been a gas crisis, accompanied by severe load shedding. **Although some initiatives have been taken by the government to handle the situation, the implementation pace is slow. People involved with the energy sector say that it is true that the current government is not responsible for the energy crisis. The crisis has been escalating for a decade and a half.** And from the beginning of their tenure, the war in the Middle East has put the government in a difficult position. Recently, this has been compounded by an LNG terminal accident. However, a lack of maintenance on the government's part has also been seen in addressing the crisis, with no effective measures taken for a swift resolution (*Prothom Alo*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Restoring law and order, police morale still major challenges:** Restoring law and order even six months after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government took office with a clear electoral mandate has remained a major challenge for the agencies concerned. Mob violence, political clashes, mugging, attack of police and violence against women among other crimes have continued to raise concerns about public safety since the tenure of the interim government following the fall of the authoritarian regime of Sheikh Hasina in the face of a student-led uprising in August 2024. Experts said the government's key challenge was to turn its stated priority of improving law and order into sustained actions by reducing crimes, preventing political violence, strengthening law enforcement agencies and, above all, restoring public confidence in the rule of law that had suffered most during the 15-year Hasina regime. **Official data showed that 99,992 criminal cases were filed across the country between February and July 2026, up 8.4 per cent from 92,211 in the same period last year. However, cases of murder, violence against women and children, attacks on police and kidnapping declined slightly. Rights activists said the crime figures did not fully reflect public perceptions of safety, particularly amid a sharp rise in mob killings and political violence** (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Mirza Fakhrul can vote, but Oli Ahmad cannot:** The 23rd presidential election is to be held today (Thursday), with the Election Commission (EC) completing all preparations for the vote. The EC has finalized a voter list of 349 members of parliament, which includes BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. **As an elected MP, Fakhrul can vote in the presidential election, including for himself. However, Oli Ahmad, the candidate of the 11-party alliance led by Jamaat, cannot vote as he is not a member of parliament.** Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmanuel Masud told Bangla Tribune that Fakhrul would be able to vote because he is an MP, while Oli Ahmad would not be able to cast a ballot because he is not on the voter list. Masud also said Fakhrul's membership in parliament would automatically cease if he were elected president. After taking the oath of office, he would no longer be an MP and would consequently lose his right to vote in parliament. **Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin, who is also the election officer for the presidential election, said on Wednesday afternoon that 349 MPs are eligible to vote. For the first time in 35 years, a new president will be chosen through a ballot. The last presidential vote was held in 1991** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Fix cracks, field single candidate in local polls:** Leader of the House and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday instructed party lawmakers to minimise internal divisions ahead of the upcoming local government elections and field a single candidate in each constituency to prevent

the party vote from splitting. **While chairing the ruling BNP's parliamentary party meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the BNP chief noted that growing gaps were emerging between party leaders and some MPs in their constituencies and urged them to bridge the gaps. Noting that the BNP had lost several seats in the national election because of internal divisions, he said rebel candidates could again divide supporters and hurt the BNP's performance.** In the February 12 national polls, the BNP expelled around 72 rebel candidates. BNP's presidential candidate Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir bid an emotional farewell to his colleagues at the meeting. "I will miss all of you. If I have made any mistakes while carrying out my responsibilities, please forgive me," Fakhrul told party lawmakers (*The Daily Star*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **NHRC draft law draws criticism over weakened authority, appointments:** The National Human Rights Commission Bill 2026, cleared by the Cabinet on August 10, has drawn concerns over two key issues—the mechanism for investigating allegations of human rights violations by law enforcement agencies or their members, and the process for appointing its chairman and members. The draft law has been formulated following the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government, after assuming power through the February 12 national elections, repealed a 2025 ordinance enacted by the interim administration vesting the commission with investigative and enforcement powers, and restored the NHRC Act 2009. **Regarding the latest draft NHRC law, rights activists have expressed concern particularly about Section 19 that lays out the extent and limits of the commission's authority related to investigating allegations of gross rights violations against law enforcement agencies.** They allege that the section does not explicitly vest the commission with power to independently investigate any allegations linked to enforced disappearances, torture, custodial deaths and extrajudicial killings, among other gross rights violations. Saying that the now repealed NHRC 2025 ordinance gave the commission authority to initiate investigations into such rights violations against law enforcement agencies, rights bodies and individuals called for the inclusion of the same provision in the new law, too (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Info Minister says Media enjoying highest freedom:** Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon today said the media is currently enjoying the highest level of freedom in independent Bangladesh. **"No restrictions have been imposed on journalists in carrying out their professional duties during the tenure of the current government. ---our government has ensured an environment where journalists can work independently. The media has never enjoyed such a level of freedom in independent Bangladesh before,"** he said. The minister made the remarks while addressing an event marking the 5th founding anniversary of the Sangbadik Surokhha O Kallayan Foundation (Journalists' Protection and Welfare Foundation) at the Information Bhaban in the capital. However, the minister urged everyone to remain cautious so that the opportunity provided by this freedom is not misused to create a culture of yellow journalism or blackmailing (*BSS News*, [19 August 2026](#)).

Economy

- ◆ **Cabinet body okays Tk 368.20cr palm olein purchase, 3 LNG cargoes:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) on Wednesday approved the purchase of 2 crore liters of refined palm olein in 2-litre PET bottles at a cost of Tk 368.20 crore to help maintain a stable supply of edible oil in the domestic market. In a meeting held at the National Economic Council

with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair, **it also recommended the purchase of three LNG cargoes from Aramco Trading Singapore Pte Ltd at a price of \$23.93 per MMBTU.** The palm olein will be procured through the Open Tendering Method (OTM), following a proposal from the Ministry of Commerce. Shabnam Vegetable Oil Industries Limited was recommended as the bidder, offering the oil at Tk 184.10 per liter. The total procurement cost has been estimated at Tk 368.20 crore. Meanwhile, the LNG cargoes were proposed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division through the international Request for Quotation (RFQ) process under Rule 105(3)(a) of the Public Procurement Rules 2025. **The three cargoes are scheduled for delivery for the periods of August 26-27, August 29-30 and September 1-2, 2026** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 August 2026](#)).

◆ **CCGP approves LNG, fertiliser imports proposals:** The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) approved proposals for importing 115,000 tonnes of fertiliser and procuring the country's 44th LNG cargo of 2026, aiming to ensure uninterrupted supplies of key agricultural inputs and natural gas. The decision was taken at the CCGP meeting held here with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair. **Of the fertiliser imports, 40,000 tonnes of MOP fertiliser will be procured from Canada's Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) at US\$377.63 per tonne.** The fertiliser will be imported under an agreement between CCC and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). **The committee also approved the import of 35,000 tonnes of MOP fertiliser from Russia's JSC "Foreign Economic Corporation (Prodintorg)" at US\$377.63 per tonne, also under an agreement with BADC.** Besides, the government will import 40,000 tonnes of granular urea fertiliser from Saudi Arabia's SABIC Agri-nutrients Company at US\$430 per tonne for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Thus, the three approved fertiliser consignments will bring a total of 115,000 tonnes of MOP and urea fertiliser into the country. Meanwhile, the committee approved procurement of the 44th LNG cargo for 2026 through international Request for Quotation (RFQ) procedures under the Public Procurement Rules 2025 (*BSS News*, [19 August 2026](#)).

◆ **LNG terminal halts production again:** One of the country's two LNG offshore terminals halted supplies to the national grid on Wednesday afternoon, only about four days after recovering from a major technical glitch that had caused an acute countrywide energy crisis. **The LNG terminal, operated by the US-based Excelerate Energy, halted production around 3pm on Wednesday as its fuel stocks ran out, worsening the country's continuing energy crisis, said sources at the Petrobangla and Energy Division.** It is worth noting that the country has a daily natural gas demand of 3,800 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), 2,700 mmcf of which is supplied to the grid, including 1,100 mmcf from the two offshore LNG plants. The two LNG terminals are run by Excelerate Energy and the domestic company Summit Energy off the coast of Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar, supplying 600 mmcf and 500 mmcf respectively. Therefore, the production halt at the Excelerate-run LNG terminal trims 600 million cubic feet from the daily supply potential, bringing the total supply to 2,200 mmcf and incurring a daily supply-demand gap of 1,600 mmcf. **No new LNG cargo is expected to reach the terminal before 23 August, mounting pressure on the already strained gas market** (*Daily Sun*, [19 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Govt sets five-year plan to clean up banking sector:** The government has set out a five-year plan to clean up the banking sector, with a focus on recovering bad loans, tightening supervision, improving governance and restoring depositor confidence. The plan comes as banks grapple with record non-performing loans (NPLs), weak governance, political interference and lending to politically connected businesses. These problems have eroded both capital and

profitability of many banks, with state-owned lenders particularly exposed. By December last year, NPLs in the country's banking sector reached Tk 5.57 lakh crore, equivalent to 30.6 percent of total loans, according to official data. Over the same period, banks' return on equity fell from 9.42 percent in 2016 to minus 16.11 percent in 2025. **The five-year framework, titled "Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development (July 2026-June 2031)", was prepared by the General Economics Division of the Planning Ministry and approved by the National Economic Council on May 18. It was released yesterday.** The government will roll out the reforms in three overlapping phases. Those are containing immediate risks in the first year, rebuilding banks over the next two years and pursuing deeper reforms in years three to five (*The Daily Star*, [20 August 2026](#)).

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Jaiswal says India remains hopeful of Bangladesh PM's visit despite extradition row:** India has said it remains hopeful of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visiting New Delhi, while calling for "mutuality of interest and reciprocity" in ties with Bangladesh. Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal made the comments on Tuesday at a regular media briefing, responding to Dhaka's demand for Sheikh Hasina's extradition as a condition for Tarique's possible visit, *The Hindustan Times* reports. **Jaiswal said India wants "positive, constructive and forward-looking relations based on mutual interests and reciprocity". He said India's position on extradition requests remains unchanged, with requests from Bangladesh for Hasina and other fugitives being examined through established processes** (*bdnews24.com*, [19 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **PM Tarique's India visit remains uncertain amid diplomatic tensions:** Dhaka and New Delhi have been in communication over Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to India since before August 5, with discussions covering a bilateral meeting between the two prime ministers and the agenda for the visit. The date was close to being finalized, but former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's August 5 press conference in Delhi, following her conviction for crimes against humanity, created uncertainty over the planned visit. **Diplomatic and Foreign Ministry sources said no final decision had yet been made. Diplomatic analysts say Tarique's visit would test efforts to rebuild trust between Bangladesh and India.** Relations have come under strain since the fall of the Awami League government during the August 2024 uprising and Sheikh Hasina's subsequent refuge in India. **The BNP has historically maintained some distance from India. Tarique's visit could therefore signal Dhaka's intention to base ties with New Delhi on practical interests rather than ideology. For Delhi, losing Bangladesh would also be strategically costly. Dhaka remains important to India in countering Chinese influence, ensuring security in the northeastern states and facilitating transit. The Modi government has consequently shown an interest in working with the Tarique Rahman government** (*Dhaka Tribune*, [20 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Veena Sikri terms Bangladesh foreign ministry's statement as 'very rude, arrogant':** Former Indian high commissioner to Dhaka Veena Sikri has expressed surprise at Bangladesh linking prime minister Tarique Rahman's proposed India visit with its request for the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, describing a recent Bangladesh Foreign Ministry statement as 'very rude' and 'arrogant'. Speaking to ANI on 18 August Sikri said the two governments were still discussing the dates of Tarique's proposed visit to India and preparations were underway. **She**

said there had been no indication from the Bangladesh government that Tarique would not visit India. Sikri said making public statements on such sensitive issues was 'quite unacceptable' and questioned whether there were internal differences within Bangladesh's foreign ministry. She said the ongoing discussions between the Indian and Bangladeshi governments showed that the proposed visit remained under consideration. **The former diplomat also criticised what she described as a lack of response from Dhaka to two invitations extended by Indian prime minister Narendra Modi to Tarique.** Sikri said the proposed bilateral visit could take place only within a short window, making the current situation more significant. She questioned whether Tarique intended to avoid visiting India for the next two or three years because of the extradition issue. **She argued that the extradition process is a legal matter and can take years to complete.** Citing India's experience with extradition requests involving London and other countries, Sikri said such processes could continue for years and might still require a final signature even after the legal proceedings were completed. Against this backdrop, she described linking Tarique's visit to Hasina's extradition as 'quite unnecessary' and 'non-diplomatic', saying it was not consistent with the purpose of an extradition request (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **PM's India visit after achieving 'mutual trust':** Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir has said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to India could take place once an appropriate environment is created based on mutual trust, confidence, respect for sovereignty, diplomatic dialogue and a dignified invitation. "There is no justification for rushing into a top-level visit by going beyond the national interest," he told BSS in an interview at his official residence on Minto Road on August 17. **Kobir said although Indian media have been speculating about the Prime Minister's possible visit ahead of the BRICS Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, Bangladesh has adopted a policy of not rushing into such a visit without clearly defined national interests.** "However, if an appropriate environment is created in the meantime on the basis of consensus between the two countries, Dhaka will express a positive attitude towards participation in the upcoming BRICS Summit," he said. **He said the future course of bilateral relations and a top-level visit by Bangladesh's head of government would depend on a change in the "mindset" or approach of India's current leadership.** "The neighbouring country must properly understand the reality of Bangladesh's July Mass Uprising, which took place through the sacrifices of more than 1,500 people," he said. Kobir said it was necessary to ascertain what kind of relationship India wanted to build with a government in Bangladesh elected with a two-thirds mandate. The foreign affairs adviser expressed deep resentment over convicted and fugitive individuals being allowed to use Indian territory for political activities or media exposure. "After the fall of autocratic rule through the July Mass Uprising, in which more than 1,500 people sacrificed their lives in Bangladesh, providing political or media space in India to fascist Sheikh Hasina, who fled there and took shelter as a criminal, is contrary to India's democratic etiquette," he said. **The adviser said allowing Indian territory to be used for any destabilising activity against Bangladesh, or providing space to any convicted person, terrorist or murderer, had deeply angered millions of Bangladeshis.** He said New Delhi could not justify such activities under international diplomatic norms, nor could they be defended on the grounds of freedom of expression (*BSS News*, [20 August 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Shama seeks MSF support to keep Rohingya focus:** State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Wednesday reiterated that the "safe, voluntary and dignified" repatriation of the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) to their homeland in Rakhine State

remains the only durable solution to the crisis. She sought Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF's) continued support in keeping the Rohingya situation on the international humanitarian agenda. The issues were discussed when a delegation from MSF, led by International President Dr Javid Abdelmoneim, met the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation briefed the state minister on MSF's activities within the Rohingya camps, including outpatient and emergency care, WASH-related services, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, and mental health services - a significant share of which also reaches the host community, said the Ministry. The state minister appreciated MSF's medical humanitarian services in the Rohingya camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 August 2026](#)).

Security

- ◆ **690 prisoners, including two militants, remain at large after July Uprising jailbreaks:** A total of 690 inmates who escaped from prisons during the July Uprising in 2024 remain at large, according to Inspector General of Prisons Syed Md Motaher Hossain. Speaking at the Department of Prisons on Tuesday, he said 2,247 inmates had escaped during the Uprising, with 166 still unaccounted for. All 166 are from Narsingdi District Jail, Motaher said, adding that the department has no information on their whereabouts. More than a dozen prisons, including those in Gazipur and Narsingdi, came under attack during the 2024 movement. **Nine militants were among those who escaped. Motaher said two militants remain at large following the arrest of a militant identified only as Juwel.** The prisons chief also said Bangladesh's jails are holding more than twice their intended capacity. The 60 district jails and 15 central jails have room for 45,000 inmates, while 98,000 people are now behind bars, he said (*bdnews24.com*, [18 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Govt sends IG Prisons to Bangladesh Army:** The government on Thursday sent back Inspector General of Prisons (IG Prisons) Brigadier General Syed Md Motaher Hossain to Bangladesh Army. The ministry of public administration issued a notification in this regard saying that the order published for public interest will come into effect immediately. It said the government sent IG Prisons Brigadier General Syed Md Motaher Hossain to armed forces division of the Bangladesh Army (*Daily Sun*, [19 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **BGB brings back 24 Bangladeshi fishermen detained by Arakan Army:** Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Wednesday brought back 24 Bangladeshi fishermen who had been detained by Myanmar's Arakan Army in the Bay of Bengal. A BGB delegation received the fishermen from the Arakan Army at the zero line of the Naf River and later brought them to the Teknaf jetty. The returning fishermen are currently undergoing identity verification and other necessary formalities in coordination with the local administration and law enforcement agencies. They will be handed over to their families after completion of the procedures, BGB said in a press release. According to the BGB, the fishermen had inadvertently crossed into Myanmar waters while fishing in the Bay of Bengal at different times in 2025 and 2026. The Arakan Army subsequently detained them and kept them in areas under its control inside Myanmar (*Dhaka Tribune*, [19 August 2026](#)).
- ◆ **14 Myanmar nationals surrender to BGB after entering Bangladesh illegally:** A total of 14 Myanmar nationals have surrendered to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after entering the country illegally through the Alikadam border in Bandarban. The men, of varying ages, voluntarily surrendered at the Killaipara checkpoint on Aug 18, Lt Col Abdullah Al Mehedi, commanding officer of the 57 BGB Battalion, said in a statement on Tuesday. They were then

taken into BGB custody and handed over to Alikadam Police Station (bdnews24.com, [20 August 2026](#)).

◆ **ARSA commander among two arrested in Ukhiya Rohingya camp:** Law enforcement forces have arrested a commander of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and his associate during an operation in a Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. **The arrestees have been identified as ARSA commander Mohammad Alam alias Musa, 40, and his associate Abdul Hafez, 22. They were apprehended from the Camp 6 area of the Ukhiya Rohingya refugee camp at around 9pm on Wednesday based on a tip off.** Mohammad Siraj Amin, the commanding officer (Additional DIG) of 14 Armed Police Battalion (APBN), who is tasked with maintaining law and order in the Rohingya camps, confirmed the development. He added, "Based on secret information, we learned that ARSA commander Mohammad Alam alias Musa and his associate Abdul Hafez were staying in the Camp 6 area. Upon receiving the news, a drive was conducted there and the two were arrested. During primary interrogation, they confessed to being active members of ARSA's armed organisation." According to APBN sources, Musa is the named accused number 29 in a murder case registered with Ukhiya Police Station. He also faces multiple cases at the Ukhiya Police Station on various charges, including murder, narcotics, and weapons (*Daily Times of Bangladesh*, [20 August 2026](#)).

◆ **Indian national among 5 pushed into Bangladesh:** India's Border Security Force allegedly pushed five people, including a person claiming to be an Indian national, into Bangladesh through the Benipur border in Chuadanga's Jibannagar upazila early Wednesday. With this, at least 2,371 people, including 126 Indian nationals, have been pushed into Bangladesh from India since May 7, 2025, according to police and Border Guard Bangladesh. The five were allegedly pushed across the border about 6:00am when local people caught them while they were heading towards Jibannagar town and handed them over to police. **Four of the five were initially identified as Bangladeshi nationals, while the other claimed to be an Indian citizen.** Jibannagar police station officer-in-charge Solaiman Sheikh said the five had been taken to the police station and that their identities, nationalities and the circumstances surrounding their entry into Bangladesh were being verified. Asked whether any of the detainees was an Indian national, the police official said, 'One of them speaks Hindi and claims to be an Indian citizen. The matter is being verified.' Maheshpur Battalion 58 commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Rafiqul Alam, however, said he was not aware of the incident and was looking into the matter. 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, according to BGB officials (*New Age*, [20 August 2026](#)).

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