

**Bengali soldiers for their own existence, potentials, skill and rights.** This sense underlies the existence of Bangladesh Rifles, the independent organisation.

The most glorious part of the history of this country is the Liberation Movement of 1971. The most abhorable genocide of the world occurred in the then East Pakistan East Bengal on March 25, 1971. And all the Bengalis who experienced movements to realise their rights during last 25 years put in their total efforts to emancipate the motherland. The movement was not limited to any circumference. It is neither the success of a group, force or any organisation. The war spontaneously participated by the military, para-military, civil forces, political parties, farmers, labourers, students, youths all united to bring about the valiant war which took only nine months to uncloud the sun of liberty after a two and a quarter centuries of dependence. The contribution of Bangladesh Rifles made in the glorious independence of the country by their unique valour, patriotism and sacrifice amazes everyone. The step motherly attitude of the Pakistani rulers and military officers towards the Bengali personnel in the EPR, deliberate inconsistencies in salaries, wages, rights, powers and dignity for them angered them against the Pakistanis. This wrath finally persuaded them to move for realising their rights and dignity. Resultantly, the deceived and repressed Bengali EPR personnel with their petty traditional arms made coup and fell with their lives in war against the Pak forces being inspired by unfathomable patriotism and self confidence, they proved their worth in wards against the enemies in many areas. In the Liberation was 817 EPR personnel sacrificed their lives. After the liberation, the newly formed government awarded the "Bir Sreshtho" to two martyred EPR personnel. They are lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf and Lance Naik Sheikh Nur Mohammad. Besides, Bangladesh Rifles attained a glorious prestige by obtaining 9 Bir Uttam, 40 Bir Bikram and 90 Bir Pratik awards for their unique contribution in the

## BANGLADESH RIFLES-HISTORY AND ONWARD MARCH

**Liberation war.** Item has passed in its own course. The responsibility of leading the BDR has been reposed on eligible and skilled Director Generals one after another and each of them, by means of full hearted sincerity and efforts has built up the BDR as one of the greatest ponders of the nation. Today's BDR is widely acclaimed as a well-organised, disciplined and responsible force. It has earned huge appreciation of the nation by making successful efforts in defending the borders, curbing smuggling, reducing illegal activities in border areas and maintaining internal law and order situation. This force, since its inception has achieved vast experience, skill and glory through its relentless services in bringing down chaos, revolts and tyranny and thereby resorted regional peace and discipline. In 1971 this force actively participated in the liberation war and earned glorious acclamation.

The BDR personnel are now the proud sons of the soil since then are safeguarding the bordering territory from any external attack. Bangladesh has about 4,427 Kilometres of area bordering with Burma and India, in that 4156 Kilometres arc with India and 271 Kilometres with Burma. The BDR men have been constantly ready to defend the borders of the country. They are courageously dealing with innumerable proclivity in border areas. Besides, smuggling from India, the BDR during the last one decade, had to tackle various problems including push in, Ruhinga refugee influx, activities of Shantibahani, pirates and miscreants, while performing this responsibility, many dutiful and patriotic jawans of the BDR had to sacrifice their lives.

To have assessment of success of BDR in curbing smuggling and other fields, we and observe the following charts.

Year	Value of incoming goods	Value of outgoing goods	Total Value	No. of registered cases	No. of arrested persons
1990	42,04,69,212/-	9,69,69,842/-	51,78,69,054/-	11,767	3,811
1991	60,78,99,668/-	13,92,12,161/-	74,67,11,819/-	13,252	3,318
1992	62,16,52,045/-	17,14,14,101/-	79,30,66,154/-	18,655	2,770
1993	76,69,94,647/-	8,76,28,861/-	85,46,11,508/-	23,619	1,811
1994	52,86,50,392/-	6,78,42,061/-	59,64,92,453/-	22,785	1,073

(Up to Nov. 15)

### OTHER SUCCESSES

**Year Incident**

**1988 Flood**

**Description of successes**  
a) The flood of 1988 was devastating and unprecedented. Its devastations surpassed all previous records. The BDR under the leadership of the president of the country and in cooperation with people and various organisations activity participated in relief and rehabilitation activities.

b) The relief and rehabilitation activities carried out by the BDR are different from those of other organisations. It had carried out the activities directly its our initiative and out of its our resources. The BDR distributed the rice produced in pilkhana, the money earned from files produced in BDR owned ponds, medicines from its hospitals and goods from its strong amount the flood victims. Besides these, rationally goods and medicines collected from various BDR battalion, Company and BP checkpoints were distributed among the flood victims.

From the health personnel of the BDR were engaged in rendering medicare to the flood victims. It has also mobilised its own speed boats throughout the country in relief activities. Different kinds of transports safe water carrying vehicles of the BDR were also engaged in the work.

**1990 Incidents relating to Babri Mosque demolition**  
The BDR, with utmost patience dutifulness and allout efforts, successfully handled, the tumultuous situation in different parts of the country arisen out of the of the Babri

Mosque in demolition Ajotha.

**1991 Parliament Election**  
The parliament election held in

1991 is an important national event for the people of Bangladesh. It has been acclaimed as a free and fair election through the world. To hold the election free and fair and mutual the BDR personnel played a key role.

**1991 Cyclone**

The devastating cyclone of 1991 is an unprecedented natural calamity in the history of Bangladesh. In post cyclone period the BDR played an important role in reshaping the devasted area and rehabilitating of homeless people.

**1992 Push in Activities**

The Indian government, on september 13, in 1992, began to oppress the Bengali speaking Muslim citizens of India on the pretext of Operation Push-in. Afterwards, the Push-in Operation was renamed as Operation Deport.

As the BSF stepped up its Push in activities, the BDR intensified its border patrolling and resisted the vile design of the BSF.

**1994 Plague**

Plague broke out epidemically in Surat town of Gujrat, India in September'94 and spread fast to New Delhi and Malda district. Bangladesh Government took up elaborate precautionary measures so that plague could not spread to

Bangladesh. In this connection a national committee for preventing plague was formed. The BDR played an important role in executing the guide lines of the committees.

Despite different, limitations of BDR personnel arc combating smuggling, curbing border crises and undoubtedly safeguarding the frontier of the nation. For this acts of courage and competences, the BDR deserves to be acknowledged as a symbol of confidence and pride of the nation.

## BANGLADESH RIFLES IN EDUCATION

— Major Abul Bashar

G-2 Education

Bangladesh rifles is a para-military force with an old and prestigious tradition. Its functions have not been confined to its chief professional responsibilities of keeping national economy firm and unharmed through smuggling prevention and border security maintenance. As it is a major duty of every citizen to grow up as befitting person for nation building activities, service to nation and national welfare, Bangladesh Rifles that symbolises the nation's valour and prowess

has been endeavouring to educate people simultaneously with its professional duties. Bangladesh Rifles firmly believes the proverb "Educated citizen is developed nation". Hence, keeping pace with their professional education and training, BDR troops are playing the role as architects of man with educational programmes in schools and colleges. It can be added to its glory that Bangladesh Rifles is gradually advancing with fame in educational arenas too. Education lends greatness to

man as it helps flourish human qualities to bloom him into a perfect man. Education lends man self-conscience through arousing a clear sense to distinguish the right and just from the wrong and unjust. With that it roots feelings of patriotism and national ethos in human mind. Like the spinal chord that fits man to stand on his feet, education provides the potential force and spirit to the nation to attain self-reliance. That is why education is termed as the backbone of a nation. Bangladesh Rifles is sincerely striving to cement this backbone through dispensing education, BDR is now skillfully maintaining a good number of schools and colleges at different sectors around the country including its headquarter at Peelkhana. Sincere and disciplined management, high-standard of teaching system, charming atmosphere and creditable results made these institutions praiseworthy. Specially, the two institutions at the Peelkhana headquarters compared with the top educational institutions in the capital city. Most of the people did not know about these institutions because of their locations inside the highly restricted areas of BDR. But by the passage of a few years, successful results both in the fields of academic, sports and cultural competitions attracted the notice of the city dwellers. It is hoped that all the BDR-Administered academic institutions would, one day, top the list of the best institutions of the country.

### Results in Combined Merit List

Year	Group	Position	Name
1982	Humanities	6th	Shahnaz Sinha
1992	Science	19th	Mohiuddin Abdul Qadir
1993	Humanities	1st	Nadia Rowshan
1993	"	4th	Farhana Ahmed
1994	"	20th	Mansoorah Khatun

**Credit in literature & Culture:** A good number of students won medals and prizes in the Arts and Cultural competitions including the Essay competition 1978 of Bangladesh Association,

### Feats in Sports

Year	Events	Position	Name
1989	Junior Badminton	Champion	Russel Kabir
1989	Inter-School Kabady	Champion	School Boys Group
1991	National Level Cycling	Champion	Zahid Hassan
1992	National Level Cycling	Champion	Zahid Hassan
1993	Inter-school Kabady	Champion	School Boys Group
1993	Inter-College & University hall Women's handball	Runner-up	College girl students Group
1994	National Table Tennis Cycling	Champion	Emsdal Amir Khan

See Page 11

Bangladesh Rifles is a name that embodies tradition and glory of two centuries. This force came into being on tremendous labour and sacrifice of the predecessors. Glory and dignity were achieved through numerous avenues of struggle under various names since its history dawned in 1794 as the Frontier protection Force.

Bangladesh Rifles is the oldest and biggest organisation in the country. It has transformed into a well-organised, potential, effective and patriotic force as per the demand of the day through the gradual evolution of time and leaving behind a for trail of distance.

**Rangarh Local Battalion:** Frontier Protection Force was renamed as Rangarh local Battalion when it was assigned to protect Rangarh in 1795. Formed with only 486 troops, this force was posted in Hill Tracts. It had armoured (canon) and horse wings too.

**Frontier Guards:** Rangarh Local Battalion was renamed as Frontier Guards in 1861 when the Police force of the eastern region was reorganised. Comprised of 1454 members, Frontier Guards had its head quarters at Chittagong. This force quelled the Lusai rebellion in 1871.

**Special Reserve:** After Lusai events, this force was brought under control of the Frontier Guards at the North East border of India and renamed as special reserve in 1879. It was posted in Dhaka with the responsibility to protect the eastern borders.

**Bengal Military Police:** The force assumed another

## BANGLADESH RIFLES IN BORDER PROTECTION

Md Azizur Rahma  
Public Relation Officer

name Bengal Military Police Battalion in 1891 as divided into four companies which were posted in Dhaka, Dumka, Bhagalpur and Sangtak.

**Dhaka Military Police:** The force was retitled as Dhaka Military Police after the division of the Bengal in 1912. The force took part in the first World War at the North West frontier and Mesopotamia.

**Bengal Battalion of Eastern Frontier Rifles:** Military Police appeared to be renamed as Bengal Battalion of Eastern Frontier Rifles in 1920 with 16 platoons for border protection and internal security.

After the division of India in 1947, the force was again titled as Eastern Pakistan Rifles. A contingent of Calcutta Armed Police, many Bengalis and thousands exsoldrs of the then West Pakistan joined Eastern Pakistan Rifles in 1953 to potentialise its manpower. EPR personnel fought a valiant and bloody war in 1971 to establish the independent and sovereign Bangladesh and afterwards, the force got its final identity: Bangladesh Rifles on March 03, 1972.

The role of the Rifles in the war of Independence is unforgettable. The Occupation force made their first target on the Rifles. Unique credits go to the Rifles troops who with their petty and limited arms subdued the enemies having

most modern and heavy arms. They made a dominant role in the war. About 8,000 Rifles personnel with the spirits of patriotism put in their best efforts in the Liberation War. In recognition to the stamps of peerless gallantry and supreme sacrifice, two of them were awarded Bir Sreshtho, 9 Bir Uttam, 40 Bir Bikram and 90 Bir Pratik. The episode of their outstanding contribution will remain ever-fresh in the history of this nation.

After the Independence, infrastructural reforms were made to its by naming it Bangladesh Rifles and was reorganised to befit an independent state. Each and every member of BDR is ever-ready to force the challenges with unique patriotism, hard labour and improved training. The force has three main responsibilities perform as these are: i) Border security, ii) Smuggling prevention and iii) Assistance to the Police force in maintenance of law and order.

The force has been akin to its duties with utmost integrity since its birth. Every member of the force is ever-ready to ensure border security. Neighboring countries engulf three sides of our border. BDR personnel are contributing to prevention of smuggling across these borders. Smuggling across the 4343 Kilometre border with India and 365.33 Kilometre border

Myanmar is mainly to be checked by the BDR personnel. Despite limited manpower and insufficient number of border check-posts, ill border communication system and scarcity of informers, BDR personnel are contributing to national economy by preventing smuggling and seizing smuggled goods worth crores of taka and nabbing the smuggler. Besides smuggling, the force plays an important role in checking various crimes taking place at border areas such as murder, kidnap, dacoity, undue trespass, push-in bids etc. Peace keeping, border posts maintenance and other relevant functions are also performed with skill by BDR.

Apart from the functions cited above, BDR personnel are exerting contribution in the areas of sports and culture. It earned supremacy in some national sports events. They have commendable contribution in handball, volley-ball, kabady, boxing etc. Moreover, Rifles members are making headway in the cultural areas too. Bangladesh Rifles, apart from their scheduled responsibilities, participate in various welfare programmer like facing emergency situation during natural disasters, cyclone, floods etc. They play significant role in other social welfare programmes. The honesty, skill, valour, heroic sacrifice and giving away lives for their homeland, the undaunted and sleepless border guards BDR have occupied a perennial room in the hearts of our people.

সৌজন্য -



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