

BSF kills 37 on southwestern borders in 9 months

70 abducted, 45 of them in Indian jails

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

At least 37 Bangladeshis were killed and over 150 others injured by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) on different borders in southwestern region in last nine months.

BSF also allegedly abducted at least 70 Bangladeshis during the period from January 1 to October 7.

Of the abducted, about 45 are still in different Indian jails as BSF did not hand over them to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR). The rest were released after flag meetings between BDR and BSF.

Last year, 74 Bangladeshis were killed and at least 60 abducted by BSF on the same borders.

In last nine months, at least 50 incidents of exchange of fire between BDR and BSF took place on southwestern borders.

According to information available from BDR, police and newspaper reports, seven Bangladeshis were killed in January this year, one in February, five in March, three in

April, four in May, six in June, three each in July and August and four in September and one in last six days of October.

Twelve of the victims were cattle traders.

Kushtia border is the most troubled spot where at least 16 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF. Ten of them were cattle traders.

BDR Sector Commander in Kushtia Lt. Col. NM Noor Islam led the 13-member Bangladesh team while BSF commander in Kakdanga border point in Krishnanagar C Marandi led the 20-member Indian team.

According to Lt. Col. NM Noor Islam, two sides discussed different issues including killing of Bangladeshis nationals by BSF, smuggling of explosives, firearms and drugs from India, sheltering miscreants and other cross-border crimes.

"We urged our counterparts to show tolerance on different issues, particularly where civilians are involved," Col. Noor told the Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Incidents of killings and abduction continued while BSF signed an

accord with BDR not to shoot Bangladeshis and agreed to resolve "major disputes through discussion."

"But BSF continued killing Bangladeshis," Lt. Col. NM Noor Islam said.

This correspondent visited different border areas in Kushtia and Meherpur several days ago and talked to local people.

They said BSF has created a panic on the border. Even farmers are afraid of cultivating their lands close to borders, they said. "BSF picked up my son Basir when he was working on our field on March 22. Indian authority returned him back after three months", farmer Paran Ali of bordering Rinkhishnupur village in Daulatpur said.

"Smugglers on both sides of the border are active at different border points. This is also responsible for BSF firing," a BOP (Border Observation Post) commander at Thotarpa border point in Bangladesh said.

Cross-border movement of smugglers proves not only BSF but also BDR to fire, he said.

BSF agreed on the issue and an



Death anniversary of SM Sultan observed in Narail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The 13th death anniversary of eminent artist SM Sultan was observed in Narail yesterday.

Narail district administration and SM Sultan Foundation chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

The programme included placing of wreath at his grave, offering of fateha, milad mahfil, Quran khwani and art competition for children at 'Shishu Shargo', discussion on life and work of the artist and prize distribution ceremony.

Sharif Atiar Rahman, a retired district education officer (DEO) presided the discussion while it was attended by

Narail deputy commissioner (DC) Abdul Kayyam Sarker as chief guest.

In his address, Narail DC said SM Sultan was a people's artist. His art portrayed reality, sorrow and sufferings of people. He called upon people to honour the artist who earned laurel at home and abroad for his artwork.

Other speakers urged the government to preserve the work of SM Sultan including 'Shishu Shwarga' which he founded for children.

It is the moral responsibility of government to preserve memory of the great artist who got 'Ekushey Padak' in 1982, 'Swadhinata Padak' in 1993 and recognition of government as Resident Artist in 1984 for outstanding achievement in the field of art, they said.

SM Sultan died at Jessorah Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on October 10, 1994. He was laid to rest at his native village Machimindia in Narail.

RU ADMISSION

Date extended till Oct 29

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have extended the last date for submission of admission forms upto October 29, campus sources said.

The date has been extended due to ensuring Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja, they said.

Earlier, the last date for submission of admission forms was October 8.

Forms will be available at RU web site www.ru.ac.bd and it can be downloaded for free.

Admission tests for first year honours courses under the 2007-2008 academic session will begin on November 12.

The decision was taken at the admission committee meeting held with vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain in the chair on Sunday.



THE JOY OF LEARNING: Youngsters immersed in reading at the library at Rahmatpur village in Khoksha upazila.

A little effort, great job

A library at a remote Kushtia village spreads the light of education

STAR NATIONAL DESK

It is a different scene at remote Ramanathpur village in Khoksha upazila in Kushtia. Unlike in other villages, people there have developed the habit of reading, thanks to a local philanthropic organisation.

A library in the village gives villagers the scope to spend time with books and other reading materials. They flip through different kinds of books, periodicals and journals--both in Bangla and

English--and can also read news papers.

The collection of books draws all classes of people, from school children to elders.

Set up by Mollah Foundation in 2003, the library also gets books and other reading materials from Asia Foundation now.

Books in English language provided by Asia Foundation are now very helpful for students, the beneficiaries said. It has so far donated 150 books.

Individuals in the area

also donate books to the library.

Mollah Foundation was established in 2003 after Shamsuddin Mollah, a philanthropist. Then Deputy Commissioner in Kushtia Talukdar Shamsur Rahman inaugurated activities of the foundation.

Since then, it is providing around Tk 30,000 as stipends to meritorious students in Khoksha upazila a year.

The decision was taken at the admission committee meeting held with vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain in the chair on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL NOTICE

INVITATION

POWER-CELL

POWER DIVISION

MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES

GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

NOTICE FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SPONSORS

FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A

330-450 MW GAS-FIRED POWER PROJECT

ON A BUILD OWN OPERATE (BOO) BASIS

AT SIRAJGANJ, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Having been authorized by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Power Cell, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources intends to select a potential sponsor (the Sponsor) through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) based on a Request for Proposal (RFP) and negotiate the Agreements under which a Gas fired 330 MW to 450 MW combined cycle Power Plant at Sirajganj, on a site owned by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), will be implemented, for a twenty two (22) year term, on a Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis.

Power Cell, seeks to pre-qualify interested sponsors who have previous international experience in implementing power generation projects and invites "Qualification Statements" from them. The pre-qualification document that contains the required "Qualification Statements" form and evaluation criteria will be available at a cost of Tk. 35,000.00 (Thirty five thousand) or US dollars 500.00 (Five hundred), payable by an international or local bank draft made payable to "Director General, Power Cell" from October 11, 2007 during office hours from the Power Cell office.

The Sponsor, selected from the pre-qualified applicants, will be required to arrange the necessary financing and come to Agreement on the Implementation, Power Purchase, Land Lease, Gas Supply, and other Agreements required for the Project.

The closing date for receipt of completed Qualification Statements will be 1300 Hours BST (Bangladesh Standard Time) on or before December 11, 2007. Completed Qualification Statement and any requests for additional information and/or questions concerning this Pre-Qualification Document shall be submitted in writing to:

Director General

Power Cell, Power Division

Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Biddut Bhawan (10th Level)

1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

Bangladesh.

Fax No. : 880-2-9572097

E-Mail : dg@powercell.gov.bd

Tel. No. : 880-2-9551261

Eid celebrations elude 5 lakh people in Kobadak basin

Persistent water-logging affects livelihood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The joy of coming Eid-ul-Fitr seems to elude over five lakh people of 16 unions under seven upazilas in Jessorah, Khulna and Satkhira districts as standing crops were damaged due to persistent water-logging in the Kobadak basin.

The perennial water-logging has worsened this year as rain water and water from the silted river Kobadak inundated vast areas.

Most farmers and day labourers are passing hard days and Eid shopping is far beyond their means.

Water-logging affects over five lakh people living in Tala, Kalaroa and Assasunni upazilas in Satkhira, Manirampur, Keshabpur and Jhikargachha upazilas in Jessorah and Paikgachha upazila in Khulna districts.

"People of these areas, mostly dependent on agriculture, face hardship due to lack of work in the agriculture sector as lands remain uncultivated due to persistent water-logging. This year price hike of essentials has added to their hardship. Farmers and day labourers cannot buy food, let alone new cloths," advocate Kamruzzaman, Nehalpur UP chairman in Manirampur upazila, said.

"Farmers and day labourers in the Kobadak basin areas cannot think of Eid shopping this year because the farmers could not cultivate crops due to water-logging," said Matiar Rahman, chairman of Sarulia UP in Tala upazila.

As this correspondent visited different markets in the upazilas on the Kobadak basin, several traders said sale is very dull ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

"Only families of government and non-government service-holders are coming to markets for Eid shopping," said Akbar Ali, a



A boy uses a raft for movement from his waterlogged house at Kashipur village in Tala upazila in Satkhira district.

garment shop owner at Manirampur upazila headquarters.

"I went to market with the money got from selling a small goat but could not buy cloths for all the family members as the prices are high," Farmer Abdur Razzaq of village Jhapa in Manirampur upazila in Jessorah said.

Encroachment by land grabbers and raising of bamboo barriers by so-called fish farmers have hastened the death of Kobadak that is

drying up and reduced to water pockets at many points and flooding occurs every year with spiraling ferocity as a result, said Anwarul Islam, chairman of Deara union parishad (UP) in Kalaroa upazila.

"The Kobadak is the lifeline of over 50 lakh people of these districts. Gradual silting up of the river is resulting in more unemployment in the area. The river cannot be allowed to die to serve the interest of a few," he said.

Housing & Building Research Institute (HBRI)

Darus-Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.

Office of the Project Director

Project : "A study on Eco-Housing, Ferrocement floating house and Polymer in cement concrete using indigenous material."

Invitation for Tender

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| 01. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Housing & Public Works |
| 02. | Agency | Housing & Building Research Institute (HBRI) |
| 03. | Name of Procuring Entity | Director, Housing & Building Research Institute (HBRI) |
| 04. | Procuring Entity Code | Not applicable |
| 05. | Procuring Entity District | DAHKA |
| 06. | Invitation for | A) Construction of Eco-house (Urban type- 01) One unit. B) Construction of Eco-house (Rural type- 02) Four units. C) Construction of Eco-house (Rural type- 03,04,05,06) Four units. |
| 07. | Invitation Ref No | Memo no. |
| 08. | Date | 09-10-2007 |
| 09. | Procuring Method | Open Tendering method (OTM) |
| 10. | Budget and Source of Fund | GOB |
| 11. | Development Partners | Not applicable |
| 12. | Project / Programme Code | Not applicable |
| 13. | Project / Programme Name | Study on Eco-Housing, Ferro-cement Floating house and polymer in cement concrete using indigenous material. |
| 14. | Tender Package No. | STP/04/2007-2008 |
| 15. | Tender Package Name | Not applicable |
| 16. | Total group Nos | 3 (Three) |
| 17. | Tender Publication Date | 11-10-2007 |
| 18. | Tender last selling Date | 11-11-2007. (during office hour.) |
| 19. | Tender closing date & time | 12-11-2007. up to 12.00 A.M. |
| 20. | Tender opening date & Time | On 12-11-2007. at 12.30 P.M. (All tenderer may remain present at the opening time of the tender document) |
| 21. | Name and Address of the Office selling tender document | Assistant Accounts Officer, HBRI, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. |
| 22. | Name and Address of the Office receiving tender document | Project Director, Study on Eco-Housing, Ferrocement floating house and Polymer in cement concrete using indigenous material, HBRI, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. |
| 23. | Place opening tender document | Office of the Project Director, HBRI, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. |
| 24. | Pre-Tender Meeting (Place/ Date/Time) | Not applicable |
| 25. | Eligibility of tenderer | As per regulation No.12 of Public Procurement |