

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

In the latest such incident in Sathkira, Bangladeshi cattle trader Khalid Hossain was shot dead by BSF at Kakkanga border point in Kalaroa upazila on Saturday (October 7).

BDR said the Indian border guards opened fire on Khalid when he along with the cattle he purchased in India was returning to Bangladesh at about 4:00 am.

"It was an unprovoked shooting by BSF," a high official of BDR told this correspondent yesterday seeking anonymity.

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.'

A day-long sector commander level meeting between the two border guards was held at the rest house of 32 Rifles Battalion at Mirpur in Kushtia on July 4.

BDR Sector Commander in Kushtia Lt. Col. NM Noor Islam led the 13-member Bangladesh team while BSF commander 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 Bangladeshi 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.

BSF agreed on the issue and an

accord was also signed, he said.

"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 Rmrkshnapur 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.



Death anniversary of SM Sultan observed in Narail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

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 Kayyum 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 art work.

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 Jessore Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on October 10, 1994. He was laid to rest at his native village Machindia 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 ensuing 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.

Eid celebrations elude 5 lakh people in Kobadak basin

Persistent water-logging affects livelihood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

The joy of coming Eid-ul-Fitre seems to elude over five lakh people of 16 unions under seven upazilas in Jessore, Khulna and Sathkira 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 Assasuni upazilas in Sathkira, Manirampur, Keshabpur and Bhikargachha upazilas in Jessore 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 Sarulla 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-Fitre.

"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 Sathkira 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 Razzak of village Jhapa in Manirampur upazila in Jessore 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 recurs every year with spiralling 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.

JALALABAD GAS

Dist court upholds CBA leader's punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Sylhet has upheld a lower court punishment awarded to Mashuk Ahmed, a CBA leader of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems Ltd.

The judge of the court, Binoy Kumar Majumder, on Tuesday rejected the appeal of Mashuk Ahmed, his wife Hasna Begum and manager of their business firm Amor Sutrodhar.

Earlier on July 5, First Class Magistrate Abdul Hye Al Mahmud awarded seven years imprisonment to Mashuk.

In the same case, the magistrate sentenced Mashuk's wife Hasna Begum and manager of their business firm Amor Sutrodhar to three years' imprisonment. Each of the convicts was fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer imprisonment for five months more.

The convicts filed appeal with the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court against the judgment on July 29.

Joint forces caught Mashuk, his wife, and the manager of their business firm from different places in the city on February 26.

The next day, the law enforcers seized a jeep, gas pipes and other materials of Jalalabad Gas worth Tk 30 lakh from the business firm Dipshikha in Hosnabad area.

Later, police framed charges against the three persons for misappropriation of government materials.



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 NATION 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 newspapers.

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. The 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.

It also does research on violence against women.

2,159 legalise Tk 267cr income in Rajshahi division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A total of 2,159 people of eight districts in Rajshahi division have legalised their Tk 267 crore undisclosed income by paying Tk 32 crore tax, official sources said.

They legalised their income taking advantage of extended time limit of September 30.

Officials said, 917 people legalised money in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts. They paid Tk 8,70,50,000 by disclosing income amounting to Tk 93,21,41,912.


In Naogaon, Joypurhat and Bogra districts, 758 people legalised Tk 123,88,12,859 by paying Tk 18,08,52,899 tax.

As many as, 484 persons legalised undisclosed income in Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts. They paid Tk 5,56,32,569 tax by disclosing undisclosed money amounting to Tk 49,83,82,885.

However, income tax officials believe about two thirds of defaulters are yet to disclose their undisclosed money. Action will be taken against them soon, they said.



A large pothole on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in Satkania remains a nuisance for tourists and commuters.



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 (BPDDB), 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
Biddyt Bhaban (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

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

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	DHAKA
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 Regulation-2003 and Public Procurement Act-2006 tenderers having Trade license, Registration of VAT & TIN, Prior Experience in same type of works mentioned in the group list Financially solvent and bonafide tenderers are eligible to submit these tenders.
26. Brief Description of Works	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. At HBRI campus Darus-salam, Mirpur, Dhaka -1216.
27. Brief Description of Related Services	Not applicable
28. Price of tender documents	500/- per set for each group (Non refundable)

Lot no	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security
1.	Construction of Eco-house (Urban type- 01) One unit.	HBRI campus Darus-salam, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216.	25000 Tk
2.	Construction of Eco-house (Rural type- 02) Four units.	HBRI campus Darus-salam, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216.	45000 Tk
3.	Construction of Eco-house (Rural type- 03,04,05,06). Four units.	HBRI campus Darus-salam, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216.	30000 Tk

29. Completion time (Days) : 165 (One sixty five) from signing of the contract

30. Name of Official Inviting Tender : Md. Reaz Uddin Sarker

31. Designation of Official Inviting Tender : Senior Research Engineer.

32. Address of Official Inviting Tender : Office of the Project Director, HBRI, Darus-Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.

33. Contact No of Official Inviting Tender : Telephone No. 9000821/9000822/8034095

34. Special Instructions :

1. Attested photo copy of the following documents will be submitted by the tenderer. Security in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order shall be submitted along with the tender documents by the tenderer.
- a) Registration of VAT.
- b) Certificate of TIN 2005-2006
- c) To be qualified as per PPR-2003 & PPA-2006
- d) Trade license.
- e) Experience Certificates executed for same type of works.
2. Final decision will be taken as per recommendation of TEC

35. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without explaining any reason.

(Md. Reaz Uddin Sarker)
Project Director
Eco-Housing, Ferrocement floating house and Polymer in cement concrete Project
& Senior Research Engineer
Housing & Building Research Institute
120/3 Darus-Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
Phone-9000821

GD-3561