

ANDAMAN TRAGEDY

BSF hands over 49 Bangladeshis rescued from sea

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday handed over 49 Bangladeshi nationals who were rescued from sea near the Andaman island last December to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) through Benapole checkpost.

BDR sources and the victims said Indian coast guard rescued 105 Bangladeshis from the sea while they were going to Malaysia. They set out for Malaysia through some middlemen.

Thai navy caught them in their territory as the middlemen left them in the mid-sea in six trawlers.

Thai police kept them confined for 15 days and after taking off the engines of the trawlers set them drifting in

the deep sea. After floating in the sea for 12 days, they were rescued by the Indian coast guard and navy.

Bangladesh government identified 49 out of 67 who claimed themselves Bangladeshis as its citizens from the list the Indian government sent them.

Atique, a victim, said, the middlemen took Tk 13,000 from each of them and sent 405 Bangladeshis to Malaysia. Of them, 300 drowned in the deep sea. His two brothers also died in the sea, he said.

Another victim Syed Amin alleged that the middlemen assured them of lucrative jobs in Malaysia.

Most of the returnees hail from Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts.



India hands over 49 Bangladesh nationals to BDR through Benapole border yesterday after the Indian navy and coast guards rescued them from sea near the Andaman. Along with others, they were trying to sail illegally to Malaysia.

PHOTO: STAR

Gates sees 'significant military success' in Iraq

AFP, Washington

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates yesterday touted military success in Iraq, and stressed he did not expect changes to US troop drawdown plans there.

Asked if the United States will have achieved victory when it withdraws from Iraq, Gates said "we have had a significant success (on) the military side," while acknowledging "the political side is still a work in progress in Iraq."

"Frankly, I think before you start using terms like 'won' or 'lost' or 'victory' or 'defeat,' those are the kinds of things that I think historians have to judge," he told NBC television.

President Barack Obama on Friday ordered an end to US combat in Iraq within 18 months, by August 31, 2010.

The announcement, politely received by an audience of Marines, fulfilled Obama's pledge to pull troops out of a conflict that has killed over 4,250 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis.

The new US leader said up to 50,000 US troops, down from the current 142,000-strong force, would remain in Iraq under a new mission until

the end of 2011, nearly nine years after his predecessor George W. Bush ordered an invasion to topple late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Asked about the projections for the troop levels of an interim force, which angered many Obama supporters eager for a full withdrawal, Gates said: "I don't think it was a concession (to commanders)."

"I think that there was a lot of analysis of the risks that were involved. I think that if the commanders had had complete say in this matter that they would've preferred that the combat mission not end until the end of 2010," he said.

So "it was really a dialogue between the commanders in the field, the joint chiefs here myself, the chairman and the president, in terms of how you mitigate risk and how you structure this going forward," Gates said.

"Having a somewhat larger residual, or transition, force, mitigates the risk of having the combat units go out sooner," he explained.

Gates acknowledged the picture was anything but uncomplicated and rosy.

"Mozul is a problem. The Arab/Kurd tensions are a problem. The need to get an oil law is a problem. So, there are problems," he said. "We have the concerns associated with a national election at the end of

this year as one of the reasons why (General US military commander in Iraq General Ray) Odierno wanted to keep those troops there as long as possible. Or a significant number of troops."

While "there has been real progress on the political side ... there is clearly unfinished business in that arena, as well."

The US defense chief also said he did not see the drawdown schedule as likely to be changed.

"I would characterize the likelihood of significant adjustments to this plan as fairly remote," said Gates.

The timeline Obama laid out Friday will unfurl at a slightly slower pace than his promise to remove all US combat troops from Iraq within 16 months from his inauguration in January.

The transitional force will take on a new mission of training, equipping and advising Iraqi security forces, to protect US civilian personnel in Iraq, and to conduct targeted counter-terrorism operations on its own and in conjunction with the Iraqi forces, Obama said.

Speaking privately, officials earlier refused to definitively rule out changes to the status of forces agreement, agreed with Iraq by the former Bush administration, that could entail US troops remaining beyond 2011.

Iran has enough materials to make nuclear bomb

Says US admiral

AFP, Washington

Iran has enough fissile material to build a nuclear bomb, top US military officer Admiral Mike Mullen said yesterday, marking the first time the United States has made such an assessment.

"We think they do, quite frankly," Mullen told CNN when asked if Iran had enough nuclear material to manufacture an atomic bomb.

"And Iran having a nuclear weapon, I've believed for a long time, is a very, very bad outcome for the region and for the world," said Mullen, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While the United States and European allies have expressed concern previously that Iran could soon have sufficient enriched uranium to manufacture a nuclear weapon, Mullen's more definitive comments went a step further.

The admiral's remarks came in the wake of a report by the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that said Tehran had made strides in its uranium enrichment work.

Some analysts have said Iran may soon have sufficient material to make a nuclear bomb.

According to the IAEA, Tehran now has 1,010 kilograms of low-enriched uranium hexafluoride from its enrichment activities at a plant at Natanz.

That "is sufficient for a nuclear weapons breakout

capability," according to David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security and an expert on Iran's nuclear program.

A breakout capability is when there is sufficient low-enriched uranium, which is used for nuclear fuel, to turn into highly-enriched uranium needed for nuclear weapons.

Iran denies its atomic work is designed to build a nuclear arsenal and says it wants to develop nuclear technology to generate electricity for a growing population.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates meanwhile struck a more cautious note on Iran's nuclear project in an interview broadcast Sunday on NBC television.

"I think that there has been a continuing focus on how do you get the Iranians to walk away from a nuclear weapons program? They're not close to a stockpile. They're not close to a weapon at this point."

"And so, there is some time," Gates said.

He said diplomacy carried a greater chance of success now that oil prices had dropped, enhancing the effect of economic sanctions on Iran -- which relies heavily on oil revenue.

"Our chances of being successful, it seems to me, are a lot better at 35 dollars or 40 dollars" than 140 dollars a barrel, Gates said.

"Because there are economic costs to this program. They do have economic challenges at home."

Saarc to strengthen anti-terrorism mechanisms

PTI, Indo-Asian News Service, Colombo

Saarc member states on Saturday have agreed to establish a high-level panel of 'Eminent Experts' to strengthen the group's anti-terrorism mechanisms as it underlined its resolve to combat the menace in the region.

"We reiterate our commitment to implement measures against organising, instigating, facilitating, financing, fund raising, encouraging, tolerating and providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities", the Declaration on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism stated at the end of the two-day deliberations of the 31st Saarc Council ministers meeting here.

The foreign ministers of the region agreed to step up efforts to ratify and effectively implement the "Saarc Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters."

"We agree to urgently ratify

and effectively implement the Saarc Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at the 15th Saarc Summit in Colombo last year," it said.

"We have discussed this matter. Extradition is matter in terms of bilateral treaties and agreements. But, as a group, there is nothing to prevent us from advancing and graduating into a level within the region for us to view the extradition," Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said.

"This is something that we are pursuing. But there has to be certain fundamental principles associated and the parity in terms of many a legal system that could address this," Bogollagama told reporters at the end of the two-day session 31 of the Council of Ministers here.

Claiming that the mutual legal assistance agreement that the Saarc entered into in August 2008 has now become operationalised, Bogollagama said it has several provisions

'in terms of areas including criminal activities leading to terrorism being included in terms of the country-wise reciprocation'.

Pointing out the existence of the Commonwealth extradition arrangement, Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona said although the Saarc has given 'thought for an exclusive (extradition) arrangement, it has not gone very far'.

"There are lots of things that need to be considered before we come to a conclusion," Kohona said.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, E. Ahamed, is representing India at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) ministerial meeting from February 27-28.

According to the declaration on terrorism, the Saarc would establish a 'High-level Group of Eminent Experts' to review and make proposals to further strengthen Saarc anti-terrorism mechanisms, including for pragmatic cooperation.

Boucher calls PM, pledges US support

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina sought the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) assistance in investigating the BDR mutiny to identify the real culprits and punish them.

She sought the assistance when US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher, on behalf of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, phoned her yesterday morning to express their support at this trying time, the foreign ministry said.

During the talk, the PM observed that the February 25-26 BDR incidents might be part of a "conspiracy".

Boucher stressed the importance of national unity during this crucial time and encouraged all to work together to overcome this "national tragedy".

"He lauded government's efforts to assist the survivors, honour those who were killed, and bring those guilty to justice," said a release from the American Center.

He emphasised, in particular, cooperation between the government and the opposition to resolve the crisis.

Boucher also reiterated his country's willingness to render all possible assistance to the government.

In addition, Commander of the United States Pacific Command Admiral Timothy Keating wrote to Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed on February 28 to express condolences for the loss of life, as a number of army officers in command of BDR, were killed in the incident.

US Ambassador James Moriarty spoke with General Moeen on February 28 to applaud his leadership of the military in support of the newly elected government at this crucial time.

The flag at the US Embassy in Dhaka was at half-mast for the three-day national mourning in condolence to the families who have lost loved ones in the violence and to the people of Bangladesh.



Office of CMES (Army) Chittagong

Chittagong Cantonment
Chittagong

Notice for Invitation of Tender

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Defence. | | |
| 2 | Agency | Military Engineer Services. | | |
| 3 | Procuring entity name | CMES (Army) Chittagong. | | |
| 4 | Procuring entity district | Chittagong. | | |
| 5 | Invitation for | As per Ser No 18. | | |
| 6 | Invitation Ref No & date | 6000/Adv/217/E-6 Dated: 15 Feb 2009. | | |
| 7 | Procurement method | Open tendering method (OTM). | | |
| 8 | Budget and source of funds | Revenue budget and Govt. of Bangladesh (GOB). | | |
| 9 | Tender publication date | 03 Mar 2009. | | |
| 10 | Tender last selling date | 17 March 2009. | | |
| 11 | Tender closing date and time | 18 March 2009 at 1200 hours. | | |
| 12 | Tender opening date and time | 18 March 2009 at 1230 hours. | | |
| 13 | Name & address of the office(s) selling, receiving and opening tender document | CMES (Army) Chittagong, Chittagong Cantonment, Chittagong. | | |
| 14 | Eligibility of tenderer | MES enlisted 'D' & 'E' class contractors and enlisted with other govt./semi-govt./other organisation having security clearance from DGFI. | | |
| 15 | Brief description of goods or works | As per Ser No 18. | | |
| 16 | Brief description of related services | NA. | | |
| 17 | Price of tender document (Taka) | As per Ser No. 18. | | |
| 18 | Name of work & location | Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from schedule bank in favour of CMES (Army) Ctg Cantt. (Taka) | Price of tender document (non-refundable) (Taka) | Completion time in weeks/months |
| a. | Repair/maint for office buildings, residential buildings, other buildings/structures, drain including decoration works and cleaning of septic tank at Alikadam Garrison under SDO I/C Alikadam of AGE (Army) Bandarban (yearly) | 19,000/- | 500/- | 12 (twelve) months |
| 19 | Name of official inviting tender | CMES (Army) Chittagong. | | |
| 20 | Designation of official inviting tender | Superintending Engineer. | | |
| 21 | Address of official inviting tender | Chittagong Cantonment, Chittagong. | | |
| 22 | Contact details of official inviting tender | Tel. Mil: No. 3046 | Fax No: NA | E-mail: NA |
| 23 | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. | | | |
| 24. | If the date of selling, submission and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day at same time and same place will be applicable for the same respectively. | | | |

ISPR/Army/09/2024
Date: 15 Feb 2009
GD-994

CMES (Army) Chittagong



Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Ref. No. BSFIC/PD-1/Renwick/124/2008

Date: 15-2-2009

Invitation for International Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers/manufacturers on CFR(C), Chittagong/Benapole delivery basis as defined in the tender documents & as per terms & conditions stated below:

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Industries. |
| 2. | Name of procuring entity | Bangladesh Sugar & Food Ind. Corporation. |
| 3. | Procurement method | Open tendering method. |
| 4. | Source of fund | Own source/cash foreign exchange. |
| 5. | Tender No. & date | BSFIC/PD-1/Renwick/124/2008 dated 15-2-2009. |
| 6. | Time for completion of delivery | As specified in the tender documents. |
| 7. | Eligibility of tenderers | Bonafide suppliers/manufacturers. |
| 8. | Name and address of the office for selling tender documents | General Manager (Cash), BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. |
| 9. | Name and address of the office for dropping & opening of tender | Secretariat Division, BSFIC, Chinishilpa Bhaban (4 th Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. |
| 10. | Last date & time for selling tender documents | On all working days from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm up to 06-4-2009. |
| 11. | Last date and time for submission of tender | Up to 11.00am on 07-4-2009. |
| 12. | Date and time for opening of tender | At 11.05am on 07-4-2009. |
| 13. | Name & address of the official inviting tender | Md. Sanwar Miah, Chief (Purchase), Bangladesh Sugar & Food Ind. Corporation, Chinishilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. |
| 14. | Special instruction | (a) The Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. If there is govt. holiday or unavoidable situation arises on the date fixed for tender dropping/opening, in those cases, the next normal working day will be considered valid date for dropping/opening of the tender at the same time. (b) All other terms & conditions as per tender documents. |

| Description of materials | Amount of tender security money | Cost of tender documents |
|--|---|--|
| A) Hard Cock | (a) Tk. 4,56,000.00/US\$ 6,600.00 (Taka four lac fifty-six thousand/US dollar six thousand six hundred) only. (b) Tk. 4,56,000.00/US\$ 6,600.00 (Taka four lac fifty-six thousand/US dollar six thousand six hundred) only | Tk. 2,000.00 (Taka two thousand) only (non-refundable) |
| B) Pig Iron | (c) Tk. 1,10,000.00/US\$ 1,600.00 (Taka one lac ten thousand/US dollar one thousand six hundred) only (refundable) | |
| C) (i) Ferro Silicon (ii) Ferro Manganese (iii) Ferro Chromium | | |

S-F-352
GD-967Md. Sanwar Miah
Chief (Purchase)