

Indian tribesmen seem adamant to disrupt survey

Over 500 armed Khasia men enter Bangladesh thru' Protappur point

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Over 500 Indian Khasia tribesmen armed with bows and arrows entered about 150 yards into Bangladesh territory through Protappur border on Tuesday evening, causing serious turmoil in the area.

The intruders, however, returned to the other side of the border shortly afterwards as over a thousand Bangladeshi people of bordering villages chased them away.

Three Bangladeshis sustained injuries from arrows during the incident.

Against the backdrop of the untoward incident, officials of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at an emergency flag meeting yesterday agreed to maintain status quo on Protappur-Padua border and others areas on Sylhet-Meghalaya borders to ensure smooth run of the ongoing survey in the troubled frontier.

Lt Col Khairul Quadir, commanding officer of the 21 Battalion of BDR, Sylhet, and Shekhar Gupta, commandant of the 1 Battalion of BSF, took part in the one to one meeting held near border pillar No 1270/2S, close to Pantumai village near Protappur-Padua border. After the one-hour meeting that ended at 1:30pm, both the officials visited the trou-

bled areas.

"The BSF official expressed sorrow for Tuesday's incident. I requested him to keep the tribesmen and the BSF under control to help successful completion of the ongoing survey on the adversely possessed lands in the region. We also assured them of remaining on our own positions," Lt Col Quadir told this correspondent after the meeting.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of several villages including Pantumai, Baburkona and Protappur are now passing days amid worry.

"A tense situation has been prevailing on the Protappur-Padua borders since Tuesday night as the BDR and BSF have strengthened their positions and increased patrol on the border," Md Nozir Ali, 60, of Pantumai village said.

"Only a few years ago, we used to cultivate the lands, but now we cannot even graze our cattle due to interference by the Indians. Indian Khasia tribesmen and the BSF men asked us not to go there. Often they pick up our goats and cows," said Moksud Miah, 25, of nearby Uttar Protappur village.

Visiting Protappur-Padua border yesterday afternoon, this correspondent saw BDR and BSF on alert position on

the different outposts and observation posts along the border.

Tuesday's incident is seen as a break into the calm that prevailed since beginning of India-Bangladesh joint survey on about 20 kilometre border from Sonarhat to Dibir Haor in Gowainghat, Kanaighat and Jaintapur upazilas in Sylhet district on December 7.

Officials yesterday visited some points on Protappur-Padua border for survey.

Contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev) Dr Abul Hasan, who is heading the Bangladesh survey team, said, "The survey teams from both sides saw different documents and discussed it. The survey will remain suspended till Monday due to holidays. It is scheduled to continue till December 31. There may be an extension, if needed."

Meanwhile, little work was done for survey on the much-talked Dibir Haor border in Jaintapur upazila yesterday.

Earlier the Indian tribesmen had opposed the survey, claiming about 50 acres of Bangladesh lands as belonging to them.

The Indians also pressed for suspending survey on Sonarhat-Lankhat border, where about 80 acres of Bangladesh lands had been in the Indians' possession for the last few years.



Swapno Siri, a monument designed in a set of steps to quickly recall our history of movement from 1952 to 1971, was inaugurated at Lalmonirhat Govt College premises yesterday.

Swapno Siri, a work with a difference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

To keep alive the memories from the Language Movement in 1952 to Liberation War in 1971, a monument named "Swapno Siri" has been set up at Lalmonirhat Government College.

Captain (ret.) Azizul Haque, Bir Protik, inaugurated the monument on the college campus yesterday morning.

College source said, principal of the college Professor KMA Bari took the initiative which inspired the teachers of the college to build such a monument with a difference on the college campus.

Prof KMA Bari said young students and the new genera-

tion lack the precious memories of different movements in the country that took place in 1952, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

To keep alive the memories of these years I took this initiative, he said.

"Students must understand the values of these times. When they will see this "Swapno Siri" on the college campus, they will recall our history in a moment," he said.

Shapla Roy, a student of the college said, "Most of the students know well about 1952 and 1971 while few know all about our history. The monument "Swapno Siri" on our college campus will always tell us to know details about the historic moments of Bangladesh, he added.

রঙের তুলিতে আঁকা লাল সবুজের পতাকা আর বিজয়ের সঠিক ইতিহাস
প্রতিধ্বনিত হোক প্রতি প্রজন্মে



বিজয় দিবসে
বিজয়ের শুভেচ্ছা সবাইকে

Southeast Bank Limited
a bank with vision
www.southeastbank.com.bd



PIRATES OF SHIPBUILDING

WE ARE THE TRUE PIRATES
CAPTURING THE GLOBAL
SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.
SOMALI PIRATES BEWARE.
RETURN OUR BELOVED SHIP
MV JAHAN MONI.

Today, on the 40th year of independence, it is a new Bangladesh. We build the ships that rule the water - from the Pacific Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea.

Five years ago Ananda Shipyard was the first to achieve the ocean going shipbuilding order from Europe. This success marked the beginning of a 20 billion dollar export industry.

On this Victory Day we congratulate everyone for winning over the oceans.



ANANDA SHIPYARD & SLIPWAYS LTD.

www.anandagroup.biz