

Clash erupts again on disputed Thai-Cambodia border

6 killed in heavy exchange of gunfire

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai and Cambodian soldiers fought with rocket-propelled grenades and guns on their disputed border yesterday in a clash that killed six soldiers in the first major flare-up since a shaky ceasefire in February.

Both countries evacuated thousands of villagers and accused each other of firing first in the thick, disputed jungle around Ta Moan and Ta Krabei temples in the northeastern Thai province of Surin, about 150 km southwest of the 900-year-old Preah Vihear temple, which saw a deadly stand-off in February.

The fighting is the most severe since three Thais and eight Cambodians were killed and dozens of people wounded over February 4-7 in the bloodiest fighting in nearly

two decades.

As part of a ceasefire deal, Thailand and Cambodia agreed on February 22 to allow unarmed military observers from Indonesia to be posted along their border.

But that arrangement -- brokered by a meeting of Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers in Jakarta -- has yet to be put in place.

"Cambodia started attacking our temporary base with artillery fire and we responded to defend ourselves," said Lieutenant General Thawatchai Samutsakorn of the Thai army.



Cambodian military spokesman accusing Thailand of attack

Three Thai paramilitary rangers were killed and 13 wounded, said Thai army spokeswoman Sirichan Ngathong, adding that fighting began after Cambodian troops altered a bunker in the area and moved closer in violation of a ceasefire pact.

"When warned, Cambodian troops stepped closer and started firing," she said.

Cambodia suffered three fatalities, with six soldiers wounded. Defence ministry spokesman, Lieutenant General Chhum Socheat said at a news conference that Thai artillery shells

had hit four Cambodian villages and Cambodian troops responded with rocket-propelled grenades.

Soon after the clashes subsided, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council in New York, accusing Thailand of launching a "blatant" and "large-scale attack."

A witness in one Thai village said occasional gunshots and shelling could still be heard hours after the clash. The heaviest fighting that broke out around daybreak had stopped after three hours, Chhum Socheat added.

As a precaution, Thailand's government evacuated about 7,500 villagers, while Cambodian authorities moved several thousand people out of the area.

Border clash



PHILIPPINES LANDSLIDE 3 dead, dozens missing

AFP, Davao

Three people were killed and dozens were missing after a night-time landslide ravaged a small gold mining town in a mountainous area of the Philippines yesterday, authorities said.

The landslide hit at about 3am, ripping through shanty homes while miners and their families were sleeping and destroying poorly constructed tunnels where the unregistered workers extract gold using hand tools, they said.

Three bodies had been recovered by early yesterday afternoon while 10 people had been pulled from the debris alive, according to Susan Madrid, duty officer of the region's National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council.

"But the number of dead will probably go up," she told AFP.

US, China to hold human rights talks

AFP, Beijing

China and the United States will hold human rights talks in Beijing next week, the State Department announced yesterday, amid a Chinese crackdown on government critics that has drawn US condemnation.

Authorities in China have launched their toughest clampdown on dissent in years since anonymous online appeals emerged in February calling for weekly protests to emulate those that rocked the Arab world.

The State Department said the discussions next week would focus on "human rights developments, including the recent negative trend of forced disappearances, extralegal detentions, and arrests and convictions."

Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner will head an inter-agency delegation to Beijing on April 27-28 for the US-China Human Rights Dialogue, it added in a statement.

The dialogue is held intermittently, depending on the state of relations between China and the United States. It took place last year, in 2008 and before that in 2002.

US drone kills 23 after Taliban assault on Pak army

AFP, Miranshah

A US drone strike targeting Taliban in north-west Pakistan killed 23 people including three civilians yesterday, officials said, after 16 security forces died in an insurgent attack.

It was the first missile strike to hit North Waziristan tribal district since a diplomatic furore erupted between Pakistan and the United States over a drone attack on March 17, which killed 39 people including civilians.

The attack came after 16 security officials were killed on Thursday in Taliban attacks on a checkpoint in the far north of the troubled region bordering war-torn Afghanistan, a military official said.

Around 200 armed militants had surrounded the post in the Kharkai area of Lower Dir, a district bordering Afghanistan's eastern Nuristan province.

The pilotless aircraft targeted two compounds in Spinwam, 40 kilometres north-east of Miranshah, the main town in North Waziristan.

"The drones launched two successive attacks. In the first strike they fired two missiles and in the second they released three more," a military official in the area said.

Military officials in Peshawar said the death toll had risen from 20 to 23, with two women and one boy among the dead, although that could not be independently verified.

Narendra Modi allowed 2002 Gujarat riots

BBC ONLINE

A senior police officer's sworn statement to India's Supreme Court alleges that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi deliberately allowed anti-Muslim riots in the state.

More than 1,000 people were killed in the violence in 2002.

Sanjiv Bhatt says he attended a meeting at which Mr Modi is alleged to have said that the Hindus should be allowed to vent their anger.

Modi has always denied any wrongdoing. The riots began after 60 Hindu pilgrims died when a train carrying them was set on fire.

Sanjiv Bhatt was a senior police officer in the Gujarat intelligence bureau during the 2002 riots.



Narendra Modi

Danger

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The court directed the authorities to immediately remove the unauthorised billboards on streets and roofs in the capital to save lives and property of citizens.

Two people were killed and eight others injured when a loosely mounted hoarding on Gulshan Shopping Centre at Gulshan-1 collapsed on March 15, 2009. One got crushed under a billboard near Shahjalal International Airport on May 6, 2009.

A number of illegal billboards at a filling station on Kuril Biswa Road collapsed and killed two people on June 16, 2006. Security guard Hazrat Ali also lost his life in a similar accident on Pragati Sarani.

Although there is no exact log of illegal rooftop billboards, Rajuk sources said the number is no less than 4,000. Rajuk (Zone-1) identified 600 illegal rooftop hoardings in Dhanmondi, Lalmatia, Panthapath, Green Road, Manipuri Para and Sutrapur areas in 2007.

Till last year, the number of DCC-authorized billboards was 846 -- 294 on DCC land, 200 on private land and 352 on central reservations of roads, said DCC Chief Town Planner Sirajul Islam, adding that, the rest -- a several thousand -- are illegal.

He said, "DCC can demolish only three to eight hoardings during a drive."

Rajuk officials said any kind of rooftop structure including billboards is a violation of Building Act.

In 2007, Rajuk issued a notice asking land owners and advertisement firms to remove all unauthorised billboards from roofs. In reply, Rafiqul Islam, president of Outdoor Advertisement Owners' Association, filed a writ petition in September that year challenging Rajuk notice and the HC stayed implementation of the notice.

The stay was extended in October and since then advertising firms went on setting up hoardings.

On Thursday, Rafiqul Islam said Rajuk should have pulled down illegal rooftop billboards and that the association has no reason to demolish any.

DCC collects tax for any existing billboard, he claimed.

William and Kate get blessings from Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's transgender community has sent blessings to Prince William and Kate Middleton ahead of their wedding and offered to send someone to the ceremony.

Transgender people in Nepal, mostly men living as women who are known as "hijras" or eunuchs, are considered auspicious at weddings in South Asia, where they are often paid to sing, dance and give blessings to the couple.

"Following this tradition, we are offering blessings to Prince William and Kate Middleton for their happy conjugal life," said Pradeep Khadka, programme officer of the gay rights group Blue Diamond Society.

The group has sent a letter to the British embassy in Kathmandu proposing to send someone for the April 29 extravaganza that will be one of the biggest royal occasions in 30 years.

Nepal has made large strides on gender and gay issues in recent years to guarantee the rights of transgender, gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

Victims still homeless

FROM PAGE 20

complete list of the affected people as soon as possible.

The district administration is distributing some relief but many in need of those have received none, locals said.

Kapil Molla, a day-labourer of Purba Bara Pilak, said he was not listed even though he was attacked during the clash and cannot go to work because of his injury since. He said his five-member family is starving.

Nurul Wahab, another affected from Kacubaunti Para, blamed a group of "influential people" for his not being on the list although his house was vandalised. He would not say who those influential people are.

Mongsi Marma is a farmer of North Chankhola Para. Attackers coming out of the blue burnt down his house. He, too, is out of the list.

LIVING IN PANIC

Five days on, people in Ramgarh are still in panic. Section 144 was still in place in the area yesterday.

Some of the otherwise busy and crowded spots like Guimara Bazar, Bara Pilak Bazar and Ramsu Bazar of the upazila looked deserted when this correspondent went to visit the area yesterday morning.

Dulal Ahmad, a trader at the bazar, said a few hundred indigenous people gather there every day but not a single of them came to the market since the violence.

The first terminal examination at Bara Pilak Junior High School was suspended after it started on Saturday, as students, most from indigenous families, are not coming to the school.

Of the 150 students in the school, 94 are indigenous.

"We cannot resume the exam, as students remain absent since the violence," said Moazzam, the headmaster of the school.

People are not coming out of their home for fear, said Chaiti Chowdhury, chairman of Hafchhari Union Parishad under Ramgarh upazila.

Rumors also add to their panic.

Thuichai Marma of Chankhola Para, for example, heard from neighbours around 10:30 pm on Wednesday that a group of Bangalee settlers were on their way to attack them, which later proved to be false.

On the same night, Anwar of Bara Pilak Bazar came to know that police recovered two bodies of Bangalee settlers from Reangmarang. When he called Guimara police, they termed it a rumour.



A Nepalese model gets ready to display a creation made of paper and leaves to mark Earth Day in Kathmandu yesterday. Earth Day which is celebrated on April 22 in many countries to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth's environment.



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Operations Wing
Establishment & Common Services Division
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INVITING TENDER FOR PURCHASING VEHICLE

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from authorized agents/dealers/importers/suppliers for supply of 10 (ten) units Brand New or Reconditioned Car and 02 (two) units Jeep along with associated peripherals for Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited:

Sl. No	Particulars of Cars and Jeeps	Sl. No	Particulars of Cars and Jeeps
1.	Brand New or Reconditioned	9.	Audio System : Radio (all waves i.e. SW, MW, FM) Cassette & CD
2.	Quantity 10 (ten) units Car and 02 (two) units Jeep.	10.	Engine (For Car, petrol/octane, and for Jeep, diesel or petrol/octane)
3.	Colour- White/ Silver/Pearl etc.	11.	Car, 1500 CC and Jeep, category maximum 3000 CC
4.	Made in Japan	12.	Central Lock
5.	Year of Manufacture, 2008 to 2010	13.	ABS
6.	Transmission- Auto/Manual	14.	Power Mirror
7.	Power Steering and power window	15.	Spare Wheel (Big), Alloy rim
8.	Built-in-AC	16.	All standard fitting and accessories

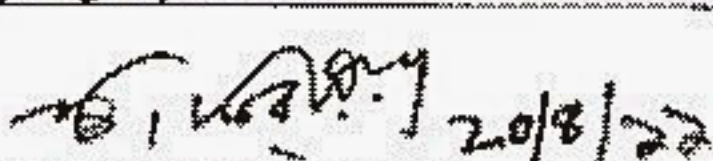
Other Terms and Conditions :

- The quotation is to be submitted on the letter pad of the quotationers.
- Rate should be quoted in Bangladeshi Taka in figures and in words.
- The quotation along with Earnest Money @ 2.5% of the quoted amount through Payment Order from any scheduled Bank (Preferably from Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.) drawn in favour of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited will be dropped on **3rd May, 2011 up to 11:35 a.m. at 7th floor** of Islami Bank Tower and will be opened at **11:40 a.m. on the same day** in presence of the quotationers or their representatives (if any).
- The supply of the vehicles must be made within 30 (Thirty days) from the date of placement of the Work Order.
- Colored Catalog of the vehicles along with quotation must be submitted.
- The value of the Vehicles, Registration Cost, VAT, AIT & canopy/Body Making Cost (Approximately) are to be mentioned separately.
- The Bank will not entertain any incomplete quotation in any way.
- The Bank Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the quotations or part thereof without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Bank is not bound to accept the lowest quoted rate.
- VAT, AIT, Tax etc. will be deducted from the bills as per Government rules.



DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH (BADAS)
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Shahbag, Dhaka – 1000
INVITATION FOR TENDERS

01.	Procuring Entity Name	Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
02.	Nomenclature of Tender	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Medical Equipment & other items (Group- 'C' 'D' & 'H') for Hundred Bedded Women & Children Diabetes, Endocrine & Metabolic Hospital at Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
03.	Invitation Ref. & Date	BADAS/P/Re-tender/01/2011 dated 23 April, 2011.
04.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
05.	Source of Fund	Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB)
06.	Tender Package Number	Three Packages
07.	Price of Tender document (Non-Refundable)	Taka Two Thousand Five Hundred (2,500.00) Only
08.	Place of Sealing of Tender Document's	Room No.208, 1st floor of OPD building, BIRDEM, 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka.
09.	Date & Time of Selling of Tender Document	Tender documents will be available from 26.04.2011 to 24.05.2011 on all working days (9.00 am to 1.00 pm)
10.	Last Date of Selling of Tender Document	24 May, 2011 upto 1.00 pm
11.	Last Date & Time of Dropping of Tender	25 May, 2011 upto 12.00 Noon
12.	Tender Opening Date & Time	25 May, 2011 at 12.30 pm (In presence of the tenderer's or their authorized agent, if there be any).
13.	Place of submission of Tender	BADAS Secretariat (4 th floor of BIRDEM Hospital) 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka.
14.	Eligibility of Tenderers:	(a) The tenderers should be manufacturer or their authorised supplier/distributor or dealer of brand. (b) Tenderers shall have a minimum five (05) years of experience in supplying of similar Medical Equipment in Bangladesh or in any country of Asia. (c) Tenderers shall submit their price quotation either for individual package or all packages and prices shall be quoted 100% of the item and quantities specified for each package. (d) The tenderers shall have valid trade licence, TIN, VAT & Income Tax Certificate and other requirements as mentioned in the Tender Document
15.	Tender Security	2% of quoted amount will be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order from any schedule commercial bank in favour of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
16.	Time for completion of the works	Three (03) months
17.	Designation of Official inviting tender	Director (Development & Project), BADAS
18.	BADAS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	



Md. Golam Kibria Bhuiyan
Director (Development & Project)