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PEOPLE PUSHED INTO BANGLADESH TOP 1,500

The number of people that India has pushed into Bangladesh since May 7 has exceeded 1,500, with 54 more cases reported in five incidents on Saturday.

The 54 people, pushed into Bangladesh by Indian Border Security Force on Saturday, include 12 Rohingyas and four Indians. The BSF pushed them into Bangladesh through five border points in Moulvibazar, Thakurgaon, Panchagrah and Lalmonirhat districts. With the latest push-ins, the number of people, including Rohingyas and Indians, pushed into Bangladesh by India since May 7 reached 1,511.

On Saturday, 12 Rohingyas were pushed through a border point in Moulvibazar, 16 including four Indians were pushed through two border points in Panchagrah, 23 were pushed through a border point in Thakurgaon and three were pushed through a border point in Lalmonirhat, according to the officials of the Border Guard Bangladesh and the police.



The Indian BSF pushed 12 Rohingyas through Natunpallathal border point under Borolekha upazila in Moulvibazar district Saturday morning, New Age Staff correspondent in Sylhet reported.

BGB-52 Battalion commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Ariful Haque Chowdhury said that they detained the 12 Rohingyas, including four women and seven children, at the Natunpallathal border point at about 9:30am on Saturday. ‘We have handed them over to Borolekha police,’ the BGB official said.

Borolekha police station sub-inspector Mofizul Islam said that they would hand over 25 Rohingyas, including the Friday’s detained 13 ones, to

the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner in Cox’s Bazar after verification. With this, the Indian BSF pushed at least 147 Rohingyas, including 50 registered with the UNHCR in India, into Bangladesh.

Indian BSF pushed 16 people, including four Indian nationals into Bangladesh through two bordering points namely Mistripara and Peddiagach under Sadar and Tentulia upazilas respectively in Panchargah district Saturday morning, New Age correspondent in the district reported.

BGB officials said that 11 people, including four Indians, were pushed into Bangladesh through a border point under Sadar upazila and five were pushed through another border point under Tentulia upazila. BGB-18 Battalion in Panchagrah commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Monirul Islam said that the BSF pushed 16 people, including four Indians into Bangladesh.

■Source: newagebd.net

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Exclusive interview of Lt. Gen (retd) Mahfuzur Rahman

BANGLADESH HAS NOW BECOME PART OF GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION

Prothom Alo : You were once a senior military officer. How would you assess the role the army played in August last year?

Mahfuzur Rahman: The majority of the Bangladesh Army has made the right decisions at the right time and stood by the people at every critical juncture in the country’s history. Last August stands as a testament to that. I commend the army for being sensitive to the chain of command, the will of the majority of the force, and the aspirations of the broader student and public community. It acted in line with the principles of a people-oriented armed force as guided by defense directives.

I believe that to prevent the misuse of the military by individuals or groups for political purposes in the future, the military itself needs to undergo reforms to eliminate the remnants of past misdeeds committed by a small segment.

Prothom Alo : Since the mass uprising, the army has also been deployed to maintain law and order. There is a concern in society about the law and order situation. Do

you think the armed forces are failing in this role?

Mahfuzur Rahman: In the past, when the military was deployed to control law and order, noticeable improvements followed. However, despite the armed forces being deployed after the uprising, the expected sense of security has not returned, which has raised concerns.

The armed forces previously enhanced the effectiveness of law enforcement by acting as a support to the civil administration. Currently, the police and Ansar forces are yet to become fully effective. This situation has allowed criminals to increase their activities.

The military can deploy around 30,000 personnel after fulfilling its own duties. It’s difficult for 30,000 troops to fulfill the effectiveness of 200,000 police members. Identifying serious criminals and preempting crimes relies heavily on the police, RAB (Rapid Action Battalion), and intelligence agencies—who are also not fully active in the field.

In the past, intelligence support came readily from DGFI (Directorate General of Forces Intelligence) and NSI

(National Security Intelligence) during such deployments, but it seems they are now acting conservatively and are on the backfoot.

The armed forces also appear to be cautious about exercising magisterial powers to avoid its misuse. Given these constraints, it’s normal to observe an insufficiency in public satisfaction.

Prothom Alo : Poor law and order situation can affect the economy negatively. What should be done to manage both crises?

Mahfuzur Rahman: Both the economy and law and order are vast issues. The economy is influenced by both domestic and global factors, and law and order is no longer just a domestic issue.

At this moment, what’s needed is consensus among all those involved in protecting national interests. The head of the government must ensure a “unity of command”. The National Security Council must be made effective. Given the nature of the current government, a consultative decision-making process should be adopted.

■ Source: en.prothomalo.com