

Staff Reporter

Illegal border crossing and human trafficking through different border points with India and Myanmar are going on despite strict vigilance by the members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Sources at the BGB headquarters said 2,556 Myanmar nationals and 103 Indians, trespassed into Bangladesh through Bangladesh-Myanmar and Bangladesh-India borders during the last seven months till July 31.

Besides, 1572 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested by the paramilitary force from different frontier areas on charge of making attempts to cross border illegally during the period.

A total of 489 women and 173 children were also rescued by the BGB members while being trafficked to the neighboring countries during the period. Twelve suspected traffickers were also arrested in connection with human trafficking.

Among the detained Myanmar nationals, one was handed over to local police station while rest others were pushed back to Myanmar territory, according to the sources.

Besides, they said, 45 Indian nationals were pushed back to their own country and the rest 58 were handed over to their local police stations.

Earlier in 2013, BGB members detained 6,386 Myanmar nationals and 157 Indian citizens. Of them, 6,350 Myanmar nationals were sent back to their country and 36 others handed over to their nearest police stations, while 64 Indian citizens were handed over to Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and the rest 93 handed over to their local police stations.

A total of 2,906 Bangladeshi nationals were detained by the BGB members from different frontier areas on charge of illegal border crossing last year. They all were handed over to local police stations.

Meanwhile, the border guards seized various smuggled goods, including contraband drugs worth about Tk 467.19 crore, during their anti-smuggling drives from across the country during the seven months. A total of 866 suspected people were also arrested in connection with the recovery of the smuggled goods during the period.

The contraband drugs included 2,54,032 bottles of Indian Phensidyl syrup, 9,57,151 Yaba tablets, and 1,35,669 bottles of foreign liquor.

The BGB members seized smuggled goods, including contraband drugs, worth about Tk 566.76 crore from different frontier districts in 2013.