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India-Bangladesh Maritime Boundary and the Problem of Dwellers of the Indian Sundarbans

Arabindu Sardar

Assistant Professor, Department of History
Sarat Centenary College

Abstract: India and Bangladesh are closely attached in both historical and geographical contexts. History is the first and leading determinant of the foreign policy of Bangladesh towards India. Geologically, India and Bangladesh co-occupy approximately 180 k.m of maritime borderline. During the aftermath of the Bhola cyclone in 1971, a small island (New Moore/South Talpatti) unexpectedly emerged in the Ganges Delta region of the Bay of Bengal. The island emerged at the mouth of the Hariabhanga River, which is the border between Bangladesh and India; its geological location prompted both nations to claim the island under their jurisdiction, which is known as the Indo-Bangladesh maritime boundary dispute. Although Bangladesh went in for arbitration over the delimitation of maritime boundary under the United Nations Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS). The much-awaited verdict on the dispute regarding the delimitation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh on 7th July, 2014. It is possible, overcoming a 40 year-old maritime boundary dispute? Because The Government (Central & State), Border Security Forces (BSF), Coastal Security Guard as well as dwellers of the Sundarban faces a number of Threats and Challenges that originate from this dispute border line, which are mainly sub-conventional in nature. These threats and challenges can be categorized into various types:- maritime terrorism, piracy and armed robbery, smuggling and trafficking, infiltration, illegal migration and refugee. This paper focuses mainly an overview of the dwellers, which are frequently attacked by pirates. For this reason, the study emphasizes impact on the poor and marginalized people of the effected area. The pirates/gangs attack fishermen, hijack their boats, hold them hostage for months, demand ransoms, rob them of their catch and personal belongings and sometimes kill them.

Keywords: India, Bangladesh, Maritime boundary, Sundarban, Piracy, Dwellers, Migration.

India and Bangladesh not only share their border on land but also their coastline. India itself has a long coastline of 7,417 k.m among the eight