

## Bangladesh carries out raids on Indian separatists' camp

A squad of Bangladesh's high-profile anti-crime force, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), demolished a secret camp of the Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), a separatist outfit active in West Bengal, says Prothom Alo, a Dhaka-based daily.

The early morning swoop took place May 21 in the dense forests of Kalachara - a border point between Fatikchari and Mirsari sub-districts in Chittagong district of southern Bangladesh.

'In ten separate dens, the RAB could not find anybody as all of them fled to safety sensing the arrival of the personnel of law enforcing agency. At least 50 rounds of firing were exchanged between both sides,' said the paper quoting RAB sources.

The RAB is quoted as having said that from the household items inside all the dens, it appeared KLO militants used to visit these camps and make night halts on a regular basis.

RAB members found two locally made guns and booklets at the spot.

According to Bangladeshi authorities at least 10 to 12 Indian militants fled to safety during the heavy exchange of fire and could have possibly fled 20 km and across the international border to Tripura.

Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta told IANS that he had no specific information of this particular raid carried out by the RAB but was trying to gather more information.

'I need to get some more information of the time and date of the raids,' he said.

The KLO has been struggling for making an independent and sovereign homeland - Kamatapuri State - comprising several northern districts of West Bengal. The leader of the outfit is Jibon Singh.

Two years back India handed over a list of 176 camps of various insurgent groups like United Liberation Front of Asom, National Liberation Front of Tripura, All Tripura Tiger Force, National Democratic Front of Bodoland and the KLO in Bangladesh.

However, Bangladesh has repeatedly denied presence of Indian insurgents within its territory, despite [New Delhi](#) submitting a fresh list of militant camps and hideouts.

India's Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles have discussed various problems on the border between the two countries, including infiltration, smuggling and terrorist activities.

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