

EMERGING TREND OF TRANSNATIONAL THREATS IN THE REGION AND THE ROLE OF BORDER GUARD BANGLADESH (BGB)

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Introduction

“With transnational threats, States have no choice but to work together. We are all affected – whether as countries of supply, trafficking or demand. Therefore, we have a shared responsibility to act”

-Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General.

Today the international community is confronted with an increasing level of transnational threat in which criminal conduct in one country has an impact in another or even several others. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, computer crimes, global terrorism, small arms proliferation, extremism and a host of other transnational security threats can involve actors operating outside the borders of a country which might have a significant interest in stemming the activity in question and prosecuting the perpetrator. Bangladesh faces a series of transnational security threats that jeopardize its growing economy and destabilize social and political development. Bangladesh is geo-strategically significant for a number of reasons: (1) It is world’s 7th most populous nation with more than 161 million people; (2) It is also the third largest Muslim nation in the world in terms of demographic strength; (3) It sits in close proximity to two would be superpowers- China and India. As such, if unchecked, the transnational problems facing Bangladesh will have serious consequences for this entire region. Law enforcing agencies like Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is combating transnational security threats with their limited resources and capabilities. Besides, porosity of border, trans-border linkage of crime organizations, limitations of national and international legislation, heterogeneous platforms of national interests in the region etc needs to be adequately addressed to formulate an integrated action plan for BGB in combating transnational security threats.

An Overview of Transnational Threats

The term “transnational” means a phenomenon that cuts across national borders and often is not directly controlled by national governments. Some of the major criminal activities, as identified from the opinion of the stakeholders, that falls within the perimeter of transnational threats are explained below:

- **Human Trafficking:** According to ILO yearly estimation, at least 2,450,000 persons were exploited as victims of human trafficking in 2005 alone¹. ILO estimated the global economic costs suffered by all victims of forced labour to be US\$21 billion in 2009².
- **Forced Migration:** The UN estimated that in 2005 there were about 200 million international migrants worldwide, including about 9 million refugees. The number of international migrants has more than doubled in just 25 years, and about 25 million were added in only the first five years of the 21st century
- **The Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons:** The value of the documented global authorized trade in firearms has been estimated at approximately US\$1.58 billion in 2006, with unrecorded but licit transactions making up another US\$100 million or so³.
- **Drug Trafficking:** In ‘Annual Drug Report-2015’, the UNODC has estimated that almost a quarter of a billion people between the ages of 15 and 64 years used an illicit drug in 2013. With some 27 million people (range: 15.7 million to 39 million), or 0.6 per cent of the population aged 15-64, estimated to suffer from drug-related diseases.
- **Wildlife and Forest Crime:** Once an emerging threat, wildlife and forest crime today has transformed into one of the largest transnational organized criminal activities alongside trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings.
- **Global Terrorism and Religious Militancy:** Since post 9/11, religious militancy has become the single-most transnational threat of the modern world. The Islamic State (IS) and other forms of extremism are on the rise in the region and the threat has reached in the door of Bangladesh, a country of 161 million people.

1. ILO, A Global Alliance Against Forced Labour, Geneva, 2005.

2. ILO, The Cost of Coercion; Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Conference, 98th Session 2009, Geneva, 2009.

3. Small Arms Survey, 2009, Shadows of war, Geneva, Switzerland: July 2009.

- **Maritime Piracy:** Since 2008- 2009, piracy has become a major concern for maritime trade, due almost entirely to the dramatic increase of piracy off the Coast of Somalia. In 2008 alone, the average ransom was estimated between US\$500,000 to US\$2 million.
- **Cybercrime:** It is estimated that, the losses to cybercrime have been as much as 1 trillion US dollars in 2008, although these sorts of figures are highly contested.
- **Counterfeit Products:** According to the International Chamber of Commerce: “Counterfeiting accounts for between 5-7% of world trade, worth an estimated US\$600 billion a year”⁵. Similarly, the OECD tentatively estimated the value of counterfeit and pirated goods to about 2% of the world trade, or US\$176 billion, in 2007.⁶
- **Financial Crime:** The December 2015 GFI report, “Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013,” finds that developing and emerging economies lost US\$7.8 trillion in illicit financial flows from 2004 through 2013, with illicit outflows increasing at an average rate of 6.5% per year - nearly twice as fast as global GDP.

Challenges to National Security

Transnational threats are often magnified due to the inefficiency of border security agencies guarding their national boundary. Low salaries and poor living conditions are identified as two prime conditions that make members of the border patrol prone to corruption. The magnitude of threats of organized crime can be best described under two headings:

Direct Impacts: For some markets, like drug trafficking or migrant smuggling, most of the parties are willing participants. In addition, the impact of transnational organized crime is often realized in a different country than that where the profits accrue, internet is the perfect gateway tools to spread pornography, each of which represents an act of human trafficking and a crime against the most basic moral

4. This includes losses due to intellectual property theft, and involves losses to companies, rather than gains to cybercriminals. See: http://www.mcafee.com/us/about/press/corporate/2_009/20090129_063500_j.html.

5. International Chamber of Commerce-Commercial Crime Services, Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau.

6. Dryden, J. Counting the Cost: The Economic Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy Preliminary Findings of the OECD Study, January 2007. Dryden emphasized that this estimate “does not include the very large volumes of fakes produced and consumed within economies, where in some sectors, like music, “domestic” counterfeiting and piracy appear to predominate.

principles. Manufacturing of counterfeit medication not only hastening the death of its victim, can also contribute to the generation of drug-resistant strains of the most deadly pathogens.

Indirect Impacts: In effort to monopolize their control, organized crime groups gradually undermine the authority of the official government. In areas where the official state structures are inadequate, organized crime groups may appear relatively attractive. Most transnational trafficking requires smuggling, and the surest means of smuggling is through corruption. In poorer states, the corruption can go straight to the top, and the highest authorities can quickly become manipulated by traffickers.

The Border Environment of Bangladesh

The 4427 km of land border that Bangladesh shares with India and Myanmar has a distinct and diversified geographical character that in turn resulted in multidimensional solicitude of border crimes. The general character of the border is summarized in subsequent paragraphs.

Topographic Character of the Border: The physical geography of Bangladesh can be generalized as under:

- **Porous Border and Peculiarity of the Boundary:** The existing peculiarities and porousness of India- Bangladesh border initiates number of border conflicts that ostensibly resulted in mistrust, misunderstanding and encourages cross border criminal activities.
- **Dense Mangrove Rainforest to the South-West:** The presence of the world's largest Mangrove rainforest' the Sundarban, offered unhindered movement of personals due to the presence of numerous channels crisscrossing its entire length.
- **Open and Flat Territory to the West and North:** Almost the entire length of western border (bordering West Bengal) is open and flat. Besides the Indian border fencings and inadequate presence of border forces, the entire length of the border is prone to illegal cross-border movement.
- **Hill Range at the Junction of the Northern and North-Eastern Border:** The Garo, Khasia and Jainta Hills denoted the northern and north-eastern border with India. Location of these ranges that extended firstly from west

to east and then from north to south has also created a kind of geographical barrier between the two countries.

- **Dense Tropical Rainforest with Rugged Hill Range to the South-Eastern Corner:** The entire length of Chittagong Hill tracks and its border is physically subdivided due to the presence of a number of hill ranges that all runs from north to south.
- **Riverine Areas along the Border:** This unique configuration of river systems contributed to the creation of un-contiguous river-boundaries in many areas of western, northern and part of south-western borders of Bangladesh.
- **Open Sea to the South and South-East:** The Bay of Bengal constituted the entire southern part of the country and has also facilitated almost unhindered maritime movements all along the south.

Trans-border Activities along the Border: The bordering territories of Bangladesh possess the elements of almost every categories of transnational threats that are describes in the previous paragraph. A general overview of the trans-border activities along Bangladesh border can be summarized as under:

- **Smuggling Network:** That includes; Daily Commodities, Narcotics and small arms with IEDs.
- **Terrorist & Separatist Organizations:** General characterization of these organizations will include; Religious based Organizations, Ethnic based organizations and trans-border Criminal Networks.
- **Illegal Migration:** Inbound flow of ethnic ‘Rohinga’s from Myanmar and outbound flow of tribal and Bengali communities seeking for better fortune.
- **Padua and Boroibari Border Conflicts with India:** On 18 April 2001, at village Boroibari of Kurigram district, BSF illegally entered inside and were pushed back after a severe conflict resulting 3 BDR soldier and 18 BSF Jowans dead.
- **Border Conflicts with Myanmar:** On 28 May 2014, Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) opened on a BGB patrol that led to the killing of Naik Mizanur Rahman resulting about a week-long military deployment along Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

- **Presence of Insurgents and Extremist Organization along Bangladesh Border:** The separatist and insurgent groups that believed to have presence along the Bangladesh-India-Myanmar border include; Indian based groups or IIG, Myanmar based groups or MIG and home-grown groups i.e. tribal and religious extremists.

Recent operational achievements of BGB are shown below:

Table 1: Gold Recovery (Jan to Mar 2016)					
SL/No	Month	Recovered Gold (KG)	Arrest	Case Files	Comment
1	Jan	1.311	01	01	
2	Feb	00	00	00	
3	Mar	9.714	01	01	
	Total	11.025	02	02	

Table 2: Recovered Narcotic Items (Jan to Mar 2016)								
Month	Phensidyle (Bottle)	Gaza (KG)	Foreign Wine (Ltr)	Local Wine (Ltr)	Beer (Bottle)	Heroine (KG)	Yaba (Pieces)	Narcotic Injection (Pcs)
Jan	21808	1340.65	19897	417.5	3562	3.93	2319947	179
Feb	25363	1709.47	20878	220	9090	1.47	616290	1435
Mar	22154	1953.36	18.225	586	9102	0.71	1745546	1120
Total	69325	5003.47	40793.23	1223.5	21754	6.12	4681783	2734

Table 3: Recovery of Arms and Ammunition (2016)				
Arms and Ammo	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Various Types of Pistol	04	06	02	12
Various Gun	02	00	00	02
Ammunition	07	85	07	99 Rds
Cocktail	00	00	00	00
Gun Powder	00	9.9	00	9.9 Kg
Magazine	00	04	03	07

Table 4: Apprehension of Illegal Migrants from Myanmar (2016)			
Ser No	Name of Month	People Apprehended	Remarks
1.	January	226	Forced Migration
2.	February	497	do
3.	March	612	do
4.	April	703	do
5.	May	530	do
Total		2568	

Effects on Bordering People: The populations those who live within the bordering territories are eccentrically the worst suffers of all. Some of the negative impact of such crimes can be summarised as; is appended below:

- Threat of Life.
- Living under fear and anxiety.
- Negative effect on business and commerce.
- Addiction to Drugs.
- Addiction to the Crime Itself.

Action Plan of BGB in Curbing Transnational Threats: Over the years the BGB soldiers have developed their own means to deal with transnational threats. These methods that have evolved in conjunction of theoretical training and on the field experience may not be casted as ‘ideal’ by international standard, but definitely ‘effective’ that’s for sure. A general method of operation that BGB forces on ground frequently adopts to counter border –threats can be summarised as under:

- Identify major smuggling routes/access points for cross-border movement. Identify buyers and underworld markets.
- Identify smuggling/trafficking syndicates and their networks, support bases vulnerable groups (being trafficked or ‘carriers’) and key personalities.
- Increase border patrol along the suspected crossing sites, sensitize and close cooperation with the counterpart border security organ, identify and monitor venerable groups on both side of the border.
- Close cooperation with Police and local law enforcement agencies to process the legal channel after apprehending the criminals.

Action Plan of other Border Security Forces

Indian Perspective: The general strategy used by Indian law enforcement agencies to counter the threat of transnational crimes are summarized as under⁷:

- **Controlled Delivery:** Allow illicit product to pass through to identify the entire syndicate.
- **Electronic Surveillance.**
- **Undercover Operations.**
- **Immunity Systems:** Exempting from prosecution of potential witness.
- **Witness and Victim Protection Program:** Ensure independence of evidence given by the witnesses without any influence from the police.

Afghanistan Perspective: In early 2000, special units to combat trafficking in persons were created within the police departments in all provinces in Afghanistan. In practice, these units so far have dealt mainly with kidnapping. A new anti-trafficking section within the Criminal Investigation Directorate was established as a coordinating body in 2007. The general lawlessness in almost every part of the country drastically limited effectiveness of their law enforcement agencies in dealing with even petty crimes.

Myanmar Perspective: In 2012-2013 Myanmar government has established 'Border Liaison Office (BLO)' under the direct supervision of their 'National Advisory Committee'. A BLO is a coordinating office for national law enforcement agencies which facilitates and promotes greater cross-border cooperation to counter transnational organized crimes. These offices are located near recognized border crossings, and act as a centralized clearing house for information received from the vicinity of border areas and as a point where joint actions can be taken and coordinated⁸.

Pakistan Perspective: The "Pakistan National Action plan for Combating Human Trafficking (NAPCHT)" was adopted in 2006. The "National Action Plan for Children (NAPC)" also includes elements dealing with trafficking of children. A specific anti-trafficking unit within the Federal Investigation Agency

7. "Transnational Organized Crime: The Indian Perspective" A paper by Shankar Pratap Singh, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Anti-Corruption Cell-III, Central Bureau of Investigation, India

8. UNODC-Myanmar (United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime- Regional Office Myanmar) Press Release; Myanmar advisory committee looks to the future of its Border Liaison Offices (BLO), 03 July 2015, at: <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/myanmar/2015/07/blo/story.html>

was established by the national action plan. In addition, an Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) consisting members from all the law enforcement agencies was established in 2005 to deal with the transnational threats.

Border Management System of USA with Mexico: The US Border Patrol's '2012-2016 Strategic Plan'⁹ is developed on the basis of three fundamentals; Information, Integration and Rapid Response. The Strategic Plan has two interrelated and interdependent goals. In the first goal, the Border Patrol will work with its Federal, state, local, tribal, and international partners to secure the border using Information, Integration and Rapid Response in a risk-based manner. The second goal of the Strategic Plan represents an investment in people and organizational capabilities.

Military Relationship between India-Israel, with Particular Importance to Border Related Issue: Israel is India's second largest arms supplier after Russia, and Israel- India military cooperation extends to technology upgrades, Joint research, intelligence cooperation and even space (in 2008, India launched a 300 kilogram Israeli satellite into ORBAT). Israel has up-graded India's soviet-era armour and aircraft and provided India with Sea-to-Sea missiles, radar and other surveillance systems, border monitoring equipment, drone, night vision devices and other military advisory support.

Lacunae in the Present Action Plan and Arenas Suitable for Restructuring

To overcome the challenges of organized crime will require a very effective, coordinated and multilateral response across a range of sectors to put the puzzle pieces together to tackle organized crime in all its forms. The UNODC has identified six¹⁰ key challenges to a multilateral response to transnational organized crime.

- Lack of Evidence Base and Understanding of the Nature of the Challenge.
- Inadequate Progress on the Implementation of the International Legal Framework and Multilateral Instruments against Transnational Organized Crime.

9. '2012 - 2016 Border Patrol Strategic Plan The Mission: Protect America' A Publication by US Customs & Border Protection, under US Department of Homeland Security.

10. 'Thematic Programme on Action Against Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking, Including Drug Trafficking(2011 – 2013)', A publication by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Insufficient Capacity and Coordination between Law Enforcement Institutions at the National Level to Investigate Transnational Organized Crime.
- Weaknesses in Criminal Justice Institutions and Legal Frameworks for International Cooperation to Effectively Prosecute Organized Crimes.
- Lack of Information Sharing and International Cooperation to Track and Prevent the Financial Flows of Proceeds of Organized Crimes.
- Lack of Attention and Awareness to the Potential Victims of Transnational Organized Crime and Building Better Understanding of the Threats of Transnational Organized Crime to Society at Large.

Drawbacks of BGB Action Plan in Dealing with Transnational Crimes

The action plan in vogue is primarily based on amalgamation of in-house training and working experience. In paper the current procedure might sound impeccable, but in reality, these are not without their drawbacks. Notable demerits of the existing BGB structures that has an effect in executing the current action plan are stated below:

- **Shortage of Officers:** Currently BGB structure is running with an about 30% of its authorized military officers strength. Almost 86% BGB members agrees with that.
- **Inhospitable Terrains at the Border:** Territories along Sylhet & Chittagong divisions are inhospitable due to the presence of tropical rain forest and hill ranges, as such; illegal trans-border movement is a regular phenomenon. 74% BGB members agrees with that.**Inter-Agency Relationship:** BGB needs close cooperation and working relationship with other major players of the field. But unfortunately, inter-agency rivalry seriously hindered the success of joint or combined operational effort. Around 63% BGB members agrees with it.
- **Inadequate Knowledge about Criminal Laws:** After apprehension, criminal or suspects falls within the jurisdiction of the judiciary system and police forces. BGB seriously lacks knowledge on criminal laws and the prosecutions allowing the suspects to get away with lightly framed charges.

- **Trans-border Relationship with the Counterpart Forces:** The current relationship with Indian BSF can be counted as ‘comprehensive’ but scenario is not so encouraging in case the Myanmar BGP forces. The situation is further decremented with the presence of Myanmar Army along the border. 53% BGB members believe that counterpart forces along the border need to be more proactive in dealing with trans-border criminal organizations.
- **Influence of Local Political Elites:** A segment of population living within the close proximity of the border often gets involved in crimes for a variety of reasons. This phenomenon very often created a confrontational relationship between BGB and local politicians. Around 80% BGB members agrees with it.
- **Absence of Transnational Network and Linkages:** The absence of globalised connectivity between the bordering forces, network prolonged transnational threat. 79% BGB members agrees with that.
- **BDR Carnage:** Bangladesh Rifles carnage that took place on 25 and 26 February 2009 and resulted in loss of 74 people including 57 innocent Army Officers along with Director General of the force. This incident has weakened morale of the BGB personnel.

Likely Challenges and Plausible Measures to Counter the Challenges

With the advances of globalization, transnational organized crime syndicates are able to integrate their activities along the entire trafficking supply chain. Their networks are highly coordinated, efficient and resilient. To disrupt these criminal networks and the links between them, an appropriate response is required which is coordinated, integrated and transnational.

A Three Tires redemption approach thus can be devised in dealing with this threat:

- Globalised Approach to the Cause.
- Develop Organizational Capability.
- Address the Population.

Globalised Approach to the Cause

The essential elements of transnational criminal network demands a consolidated and globalised approach involving all major partners to develop an effective and sustainable counter measures in dealing with the threat. Some of the measures are described below:

- Across all Crime Types- Follow the Money.
- Develop Affordable, Accessible, Safe and Legal Migration Channels.
- Improved Border Controls with Better Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking and Smuggling Networks.
- Strengthen National Laws and Policies.
- Improve Victim Identification Systems.
- Invest in Victim Centred Approaches to Law Enforcement.
- Encourage Intelligence-Led Approaches to the Investigation of Trafficking.
- Better Regional Criminal Justice Coordination.

Develop Organizational Capability

To uplift the effectiveness of border control mechanism and border management capabilities of BGB, certain efforts need to be taken to address the organizational structure of this force, as well as, qualitative improvements on few other aspects of its existing capabilities. Some of the initiatives are appended below:

- **Qualitative Development of BGB Officers and Under Commands:** To address the current ‘shortfall’ of officers and ‘specialized’ manpower of this organization a two-fold approach may be adopted:
 - **Short-Term Approach:** A Military Training Package of 4-6 months duration can be arranged for the Departmental Officers of BGB at Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA).
 - **Long-Term Approach:** Separate ‘Corps of BGB’ Officers may be selected and commissioned with the long-course officers from BMA.

- **Enhanced Border Protection and Surveillance Capability:** To monitor and secure the bordering territories and to ensure '24hrs' surveillance especially along the inhospitable areas a two-fold may be adopted:
 - **Short-Term Measures:** Employment of UAV, Drone Radar and other modern surveillance system, border monitoring equipment and night vision devices etc.
 - **Long Term Measures:** Construction of 'Border Ring Roads', and 'Border Fences', besides, the unguarded border has to be guarded physically.
- **Inter-Agency Cooperation:** To enhance cooperation and understanding following measures can be adopted:
 - Combined Training and Exchange of Training Packages involving BGB, Police, and Customs and Immigration Officers.
 - A designated cell or a representative of BGB, not below the rank of Colonel, may be deputed to concerned ministry (MOHA) to coordinate related affairs.
- **Joint Intelligence Committee at District Level:** Constituting appropriate members of every law enforcement agencies, the committee will have prime focus on threats related to transnational organized criminal syndicates and their purview may include intelligence sharing and direct/conduct special operation.
- **Involvement of National Parliamentarians:** To counter-weight the influence of local political elites, national parliamentarians may be invited to participate in any efforts related to addressing the people residing along the border.
- **Capacity Build-up of BGB Members:** The 'Transnational Organized Criminal Syndicates' and 'Transnational Threat' might be included as a new chapter in any of the courses conducted at Border Guard Training Centre & School (BGTC&S) with a prime focus on identifying the threat and probable measures to neutralize it.
- Dedicated criminal lawyer in every bordering BGB.
- Enhanced cooperation with BSF and BGP Forces.
- Enhanced cooperation with Armed Forces.

- Dedicated Public Relation officer in every BGB battalion.
- Motivation and awareness building activity.

Time Frame for Implementation

Organizational development is a process that demands both time and money and in case of third world countries a third dimension i.e. bureaucratic entanglement further delays any such project proposals. Never the less, considering all the relevant demerits of the issue, it should be safe to device a 10 years' timeframe to fully incorporate the proposed development initiatives. This timeframe can be further subdivided into the following categories:

- **Phase-1: Formulate the Master Plan (2 Years):** A steering committee involving members of all the major stakeholders will device a coordinated plan, that should also include legislative changes required to address transnational crimes which are otherwise not included within the existing laws of the land. The committee will identify the grey areas of the initiative, address the budgetary issues and create subcommittees to supervise the implementation plan in coordination and at pace with the sister agencies.
- **Phase-2: Organizational Development (4 Years):** It will be a two-fold development initiatives:
 - **Structural Development:** Construction of BOP's to the unguarded territories, necessary adjustments to the TO&E of BGB battalions to accommodate additional expertise and equipments i.e. lawyers, public relation officers, surveillance devices etc and other structural development mentioned in Para 48(a)(2).
 - **Capacity Build-up:** That includes qualitative and quantitative development of BGB personals in the form of in-house training within the organization and exchange of training with partner agencies.
- **Phase-3. Capacity Enhancement (4 Years):** This phase will start alongside the previous phase (Phase-2), but the tenacity of the workload will continue throughout the stipulated time. At the end of this phase, major development works i.e. construction of border road and border fencing should be in its final stage, BGB should also be equipped with separate organizational structures for its 'Air Wing', 'Reconnaissance and Surveillance Wing' and 'Riverine Units'.

Address the Population

The border related crime may be reduced if bordering people can be motivated forming a committee involving district administration, law enforcement agencies, local elites, NGOs, journalist and representation from local people.

Coordination within the Stakeholders: Intensive and coordinated motivational campaigns may be conducted by all agencies at bordering areas on border security, human trafficking and drug abuse in coordination with BGB in order to educate and create awareness amongst the people of bordering area.

Media Campaign, Public Meeting, Seminars, Campaigns and Workshops: A planned campaign composed of meeting, seminars, workshops, and other activities to be organised to develop social awareness building, which can be circulated through electronic and print Medias.

Responses of Educational and Religions Institutions: Educational institutions are fundamental tools to generate public support and social awareness against transnational crimes (any anti-social activities for that matter). Bangladesh being a Muslim country the activities of Imam plays a vital role in developing social awareness. As such they also need be integrated within the social awareness initiative in curbing cross-border crime.

Raising Morale of BGB Personnel: Contribution of BGB in nation building activities like raising national economy, maintaining internal security, ensuring peace being deployed under “In Aid to Civil Power” etc has to be recognized well. Besides, sending BGB personnel’s for “UN Peace Keeping Mission” will certainly raise the morale of the whole organization.

Recommendations and Conclusion

The transnational crimes evolved around its trans-frontier network and along with its cross-border linkages. Tackling money laundering, developing affordable, accessible, safe and legal migration channels, improved border controls with better investigation and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling networks, generating political will to combat migrant smuggling, strengthening national, improving victim identification systems, encouraging intelligence-led approaches to the investigation of trafficking, better coordination of regional criminal justice, may be some of effective and sustainable globalised counter measures for curbing trans-frontier network and linkages of transitional crime organizations.

Historically the geographic region of Indian subcontinent has always been exposed to numerous and better organized transnational criminal syndicates. Hence the challenges faced by the border security organs of these countries demand special attention to learn methods adopted by these forces to counter those threats. Bangladesh shares long land border with India and Myanmar which has a distinct and diversified geographical character that in turn results in multidimensional solicitude of border crimes. Besides, demographical alliances like common language along with historical, religious, social and cultural ties with bordering countries pose threat of transitional crimes. Unfortunately, the bordering territories of Bangladesh do possess the elements of almost every category of transnational threats.

BGB is the premier security force which is responsible for countering the trans-border threats. In dealing with such threats, over the years the BGB soldiers has developed their own means to nullify the effectiveness of the threats, and keeping the border guarded at the same time. Notable demerits of the existing BGB structures that has an effect in executing the current action plan are: shortage of officers, corruption and moral values of BGB personnel, un-guarded and inhospitable terrains at the border, reluctance inter-agency relationship, non cooperation from localized political leaders, public awareness, trans-border relationship with the counterpart forces, lack of cooperation, among counterpart forces, effect of global communication, influence of local political elites, absence of transnational network and linkages.

To uplift the border management capabilities of BGB, certain short and long term efforts like qualitative development of BGB officers, enhanced border protection and surveillance capability, enhanced inter-agency cooperation, dedicated criminal lawyer in every bordering BGB battalions, enhanced cooperation with BSF and BGP forces, formulating 'joint intelligence committee' at district level, involvement of national parliamentarians in curbing transitional crimes, dedicated public relation officer in every bordering BGB battalions, capacity build-up of BGB members, etc. need to be taken to strengthen its organizational structure as well as qualitative improvements of its existing capabilities.

Social awareness is a part of border management. Smuggling and border killing may be brought down to tolerable limits by providing economic security to the bordering people. The border related crime may also be reduced through motivating bordering people by a committee involving district administration, law enforcement agencies, local elites, NGOs, journalist and representation from local

people. Intensive and coordinated motivational campaigns may be conducted by all agencies at bordering areas on border security, human trafficking and drug abuse in coordination with BGB in order to educate and create awareness amongst the people of bordering area.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
AOR	Area of Responsibility
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nation
BC	Before Christ
BD	Bangladesh
BDR	Bangladesh Rifles
BOP	Border Out Post
BSF	Border Security Force
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CRS	Congressional Research Service
etc	et cetra
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ILO	International Labour Organization
JMB	Jamiatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh
KG	Kilogram
NGO	Non Government Organization
OCTA	Office of the Chief Trade Adviser
ORBAT	Order of Battle
POL	Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants
RAB	Rapid Action Battalion
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Science
UAV	Unmanned Arial Vehicle
USA	United State of America
UN	United Nation
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction

Author

Brigadier General Syed Ahmed Ali is a Course Member of NDC 2016. He was born on 01 January 1965. He was commissioned in the Regiment of Artillery on 20 December 1985. Besides his regimental appointments as Second in Command of a Regiment, Battery Commander, Quarter Master, Adjutant, Observer he commanded one Artillery Regiment and one Bangladesh Rifles Battalion. He was Grade Two Staff Officer at Artillery Center and School, School of Military Intelligence and 33 Artillery Brigade Headquarter. He has a notable service in Special Security Force as Deputy Director, Director of a Protection wing and Director (Operation and Protection). He also served in Border Guard Bangladesh as the Region Commander and awarded with “President Border Guard Medal” for his outstanding performance. Besides mandatory courses he attended Unit Command and Staff Course, Dignitary Protection Course and Officers Military Police Course. He is a graduate from Bangladesh University of Professionals. He has served in UN Mission in Seara Leone and DR Congo. He visited many countries across the globe.