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## INDIA-BANGLADESH: Deteriorating Relations

India has begun construction of a fence along its border with Bangladesh. The fence, which Dhaka strongly opposes, is intended to stop the illegal entry of Bangladeshis. It was proposed by officials in Assam last year, following a major outbreak of ethnic violence between Assamese Hindus and Bengali Muslims.

**Comment**: Relations between New Delhi and Dhaka are already strained over water sharing and land disputes. Cost and technical problems are likely to deter New Delhi from fencing the entire 4,000-kilometer border, but it will build sections in those areas where the likelihood of illegal entry is greatest.