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3 lakh Rohingyas staying illegally

First-phase govt census finds them in Cox's Bazar; more than 32,000 registered Rohingyas live in camps; no repatriation since 2005

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, Cox's Bazar

Apart from more than 32,000 registered Rohingyas in two refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, about three lakh of the ethnic minorities from Myanmar are living illegally in the district.

The statistics came from the first round of government census, held from February 1 to 23 to identify Rohingya families in Bangladesh.

Often dubbed one of the most persecuted minorities in the world, Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in phases since 1978 fleeing repression in Myanmar.

Their repatriation has remained stalled for about a decade.

The three lakh living illegally in the district belong to 37,000 families -- 20,000 of which are exclusively Rohingya families. And in 17,000 others, marriages took place between Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, according to reliable sources in Cox's Bazar District Statistics Office.

Contacted, deputy director at the office, Md Wahidur Rahman, declined to divulge any information in this regard, citing restrictions from higher authorities.

The second and final phase of the census, which was to identify Rohingya individuals, took place from June 2 till Monday. Its results could not be known yet.

Besides the Rohingyas living illegally in Cox's Bazar, 32,878 registered Rohingyas along with their 5,000 unregistered children live in two refugee camps of the coastal district, bordering Myanmar.

According to the office of Relief and Rohingya Refugee Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) in Cox's Bazar, about 2.5 lakh Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in 1978 fleeing Myanmar government's "Dragon Operations"

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A slum of unregistered Rohingyas at Kutupalong of Ukhaia upazila under Cox's Bazar. Inset, staff collecting data in Pahartali area of Cox's Bazar on June 9 as part of a government census to identify Rohingya individuals living in Bangladesh. Another census was conducted from February 1 to 23 to count Rohingya families.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT

ATTACK ON TEACHER

Police sue Faizullah, 5 others

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Police yesterday filed an attempted murder case against six named and several unnamed accused in connection with Wednesday's machete attack on a college teacher in Madaripur.



Faizullah

The accused include arrested Golam Faizullah Fahim, who was caught by locals while fleeing after the attack.

The five other named accused are Taksin Salman alias Samil, 20, Shahrier Hossain Palash, 20, Mejbah, 19, Raihan, 20,

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ANTI-MILITANCY FATWA

Target tolerance

A section of Islamic scholars set to announce a set of edicts today as part of social campaign amid spate of killings in the name of religion

HASAN JAHD TUSHER and RAFIUL ISLAM

Calling for peace, harmony and tolerance, more than 1,00,000 Islamic scholars from across the country are set to deliver a set of fatwas against militancy today, first of its kind in the country in the context of targeted killings by suspected militants.

It comes in the wake of continued attacks on religious minorities, intellectuals and secular writers. Such killings, mostly by hacking with machetes, have risen over the past few months.

An 11-member panel of Islamic scholars led by Farid Uddin Masoud, chairman of Bangladesh Jamiyatul Ulama, prepared the anti-terror edicts in light of the Quran and Hadith.

The move was first initiated at a meeting between Islamic clerics and top police officials late last year. The draft of the fatwas was completed in January at a meeting of some 300 Islamic scholars.

The Daily Star has a copy of the fatwas, expected to be announced at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital today.

"A total of 1,01,524 Islamic scholars and imams signed our fatwa against militancy and violent extremism," said Masoud, grand imam of the country's largest Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj.

The 32-page document will be distributed among imams and other religious leaders to spread the peaceful message of

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FATWAS ANSWER 10 KEY QUESTIONS

Q: Does Islam support terrorism and terror acts?
A: Islam never supports terrorism. Islam does not even support cutting or tearing a leaf of a tree unnecessarily.

Q: Did Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) establish Islam by banking on violent and brute means?
A: No prophets, including Muhammad (SM), ever resorted to terrorism and cruel acts to establish Islam. Invitation is the way to establish Islam. Muhammad (SM) said that welfare could not be established by resorting to evil means. He also said in order to establish good things, there must be good means.

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ANTI-MILITANCY DRIVE ENDS

194 'militants' held in 7 days

Police upbeat about success despite criticism of harassment

STAR REPORT

The weeklong special drive against militants ended yesterday with 17 suspected militants being arrested in the last 24 hours of the countrywide crackdown.

The home minister and inspector general of police term the drive successful as the police headquarters say it led to arrest of 194 suspected militants.

But former police chief Nur Mohammad thinks such a crackdown fails to yield any good result and causes harassment of innocents.

The police headquarters launched the drive days after Mahmuda Khanam, wife of Superintendent of Police Babul Akter, was hacked and shot to death in Chittagong.

On the first day of the crackdown on June 10, Nityaranjan Pandey, a 60-year-old volunteer of a Hindu monastery, was killed in Pabna.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

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Delhi contacts Dhaka over RK Mission threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said it has taken up with Bangladeshi authorities the death threat to a priest of the Ramakrishna Mission in Dhaka by suspected militants claiming to be from the ISIS.

The temple on Wednesday received a threat letter saying the priest would be killed if he continued to preach his religion. The letter came amid a string of targeted murders across the country by suspected militants in recent months.

Vikas Swarup, spokesperson of the Indian external affairs ministry, said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka took up the issue

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RELOCATION FROM HAZARIBAGH

Tanners to seek more time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanners are likely to ask the government to give them six to eight more months to relocate their factories from the capital's Hazaribagh area to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

They will also file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict that ordered the owners of 154 tanneries in Hazaribagh to pay Tk 50,000 each a day in compensation for damaging the environment in the area.

"We will sit on Saturday [today] to discuss the issue. We are making preparations to appeal against the High Court order. We will also urge the government to give us six to eight more months," said Tipu Sultan, former chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters' Association.

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College student shot dead in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Unidentified criminals shot dead a college student and injured three others in Batogram village in the district's Sonaimuri upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Asif Uddin Shanto, 23, son of Sahab Uddin Master, was a second-year student of Mathematics department at Noakhali Government College.

Quoting the deceased's family, Kazi Haniful Islam, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station, said a couple of days ago, Asif's younger brother Shaon was locked in an altercation with two locals -- Shahed and Shanto -- over snatching his

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Activities of Hazaribagh tanneries continue as usual yesterday even though the High Court on Thursday ordered the owners to pay Tk 50,000 each per day in compensation for damaging the environment in the area. The tanners in the last one decade have missed more than a dozen deadlines for shifting their factories to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

HONESTY OF PURPOSE / GOOD GOVERNANCE ARE THE KEYS TO THE "SUCCESS"

Term Deposits (MTDR)	
Duration	Profit Rate
03 Months	08.00 %
06 Months	08.50 %
01 Year	09.00 %

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