

NASIRNAGAR VILLAGES Cops to install 50 CCTV cameras

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Following repeated attacks on Hindus in the district's Nasirnagar upazila since October 30, police yesterday began setting up of 50 closed-circuit cameras at different places to strengthen security.

"CCTV cameras are being installed from this [yesterday] noon at different intersections and houses of Hindus in Nasirnagar," said Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of Brahmanbaria police.

"Seven [CCTV] cameras will be set up today [yesterday]. Installation of all 50 cameras will be completed in phases," he said, adding they would set up more CCTV cameras if necessary.

In another development, Anjan Kumar Dev, Nasirnagar upazila vice-chairman, filed a case with Nasirnagar Police Station for setting

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



CCTV footage of several areas in Brahmanbaria. Police are installing the cameras to strengthen security in the district following the recent attacks on the Hindus.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



3 maestros



Alam Khan

Ferdausi Majumdar

Reza Latif

FROM PAGE 16
writing and has received much appreciation in this academic line of work.

Ferdausi has won multiple accolades over the years.

Reza Latif, an expert cinematographer, is lauded for his iconic works in numerous movies. He has bagged multiple awards, including the National Award, one of the most prestigious awards in Bangladesh, twice.

Veteran composer Alam Khan has been around in the industry for decades, entertaining the audience with melodious tunes. His prominent pieces of work include the compositions for "Ebadat" and "Ke Apon Ke Por".

One of his paramount compositions "Nil Doriya" is still sung by people from both old and new generations, and is indisputably one of the best Bangla songs.

Today's event will begin with a photo exhibition to be inaugurated by the chief guest of the gala ceremony Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor. It will be followed by chorus and dance performances.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam will give the welcome address while Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Abrar A Anwar will give vote of thanks at the function jointly organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank.

AL never used armed forces

FROM PAGE 1
Hasina said whenever the AL came to power, it worked for the development of the armed forces and well-being of its members. The party wanted to build strong armed forces so that it would earn a reputation at home and abroad.

Congratulating members of the armed forces, she urged them to be imbued with the ideals and spirit of the Armed Forces Day to work together for the nation.

Highlighting the special significance of the day in the history of the Liberation War, Hasina said the valiant fighters of the army, navy and air force launched joint attacks on the Pakistan occupation forces on this day in 1971.

As a result, the devastating occupation forces were compelled to surrender amid united assault of the freedom fighters and allied forces, she said.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, cabinet members, Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad, parliament members, chiefs of three forces, members of the armed forces and their spouses, leaders of different

political parties, professionals and diplomats attended the reception.

After addressing the programme, the prime minister exchanged pleasantries with the army officials and their family members, diplomats and other guests.

Lauding the role of the armed forces at home and abroad in nation building activities and peacekeeping, the PM said they have brightened the country's image at the international level through their relentless services.

Pointing out the settlement of maritime boundaries with the neighbouring countries, Hasina said the government has taken steps to build the navy as a three-dimensional force. Two submarines will be added to the navy very soon, she said.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted to build competent and smart armed forces and accordingly took necessary initiatives.

She said the armed forces' members are doing extraordinary job in disaster management and development alongside protecting the country's independence and sovereignty.

The armed forces are also playing a remarkable role in building digital Bangladesh, she said.

About the services of members of the armed forces in the UN peacekeeping missions, the PM said the armed forces have earned a reputation from the global community for establishing peace and stability at different parts of the world.

Hasina said her government has taken effective steps to build strong armed forces which would be able to deal with the challenges of the 21st century.

The government is making constant efforts to equip the army, navy and air force with necessary training and weapons. All three forces are being reorganised and modernised under the Armed Forces Goal-2030, she said.

The PM said her government has taken steps to provide modern healthcare services to the armed forces' members.

Steps have also been taken to resolve the housing problems of the armed forces' members, Hasina added.

N'GANJ MAYORAL POLLS BNP to name candidate today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will announce today the name of its candidate for the upcoming mayoral polls in Narayanganj.

The party's top leaders decided this last night after holding a meeting with some mayoral hopefuls and grassroots leaders from Narayanganj, with party Chairperson Khaleida Zia in the chair at her Gulshan office.

In the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, more than 30 grassroots leaders proposed the name of district BNP President Taimur Alam Khandakar, said meeting sources.

As he expressed unwillingness to contest the December 22 polls, grassroots leaders proposed the name of former lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad.

Seeking anonymity, a BNP leader told The Daily Star that Azad also refused to take part in the polls.

The grassroots leaders then proposed the names of Shakhawat Hossain, ATM Kamal, Abdul Hai Razu and Mamun Haider.

As Taimur and Azad declined to contest the polls, the name of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Rohingyas gather in an area near the Kutupalong camp in Ukhaia upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

800 Rohingya houses razed

FROM PAGE 1
imagery to 1,250.

The rights watchdog, in the face of Myanmar government's denial, further said the new satellite imagery of Rakhine shows 820 newly destroyed structures in five ethnic Rohingya villages in Maungdaw district. The photographs were taken on November 10, 17, and 18.

This latest damage is in addition to the 430 destroyed buildings the HRW identified from satellite imagery taken on November 13.

Of the 820 demolished buildings, 255 were in the village of Yae Khat Chaung Gwa Son, 265 in Dar Gyi Zar, 65 in Pwint Hpyu Chaung, 15 in Myaw Taung, and 220 in Wa Peik (in addition to the 100 which were destroyed earlier in the village).

The new imagery shows village destruction that far exceeds the figures released by the Burmese government, an HRW report said yesterday.

"These alarming new satellite images confirm that the destruction in Rohingya villages is far greater and in more places than the government has admitted," said HRW's Asia director Brad Adams.

"The apparent arson attack against five Rohingya villages is a matter of grave concern for which the Burmese government needs to investigate and prosecute those responsible. UN participation is crucial for such an

investigation to be credible," he added.

According to the UN, more than 30,000 people have been displaced by the ensuing violence, half of them over a two-day period when dozens died after the military brought in helicopter gunships.

Hundreds of Rohingyas, who have long been persecuted by the state, have tried to flee the violence to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Hundreds of Rohingyas, who have long been persecuted by the state, have tried to flee the violence to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Myanmar's new administration, led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, dismissed the allegations as part of a misinformation campaign planted by "terrorists".

US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, at a November 17 UN Security Council meeting on the deteriorating situation in Rakhine state, called for international observers to be allowed to investigate and for aid groups to have their access restored.

After a short visit by diplomats to the area, Yanghee Lee, the UN special rapporteur on Burma, said on Friday, "The security forces must not be given carte blanche to step up their operations under the smokescreen of having allowed access to an international delegation. Urgent action is needed to bring resolution to the situation."

The HRW also reviewed thermal anomaly data collected by environmental satellite sensors that detected the presence of multiple active fires

burning in the village of Pwint Hpyu Chaung on November 12, in Dar Gyi Zar on November 13, and in Yae Khat Chaung Gwa Son on November 13, 14, and 15.

Dense tree cover might have concealed a limited number of additional buildings that were knocked down, making it possible that the actual number is higher.

The Myanmar's military on November 15 reported that militants burned down 60 homes in Dar Gyi Zar, while the state counsellor office's newly created "Information Committee" reported on November 16 that only 30 buildings were demolished in the same town.

But the new imagery shows that 265 buildings have been razed in Dar Gyi Zar alone, the rights watchdog said.

Both the military and the Information Committee reported that 105 buildings were knocked down in Wa Peik village. However, satellite imagery collected by the HRW between November 10 and 17 shows that an additional 220 buildings were destroyed.

This newly documented destruction, coupled with the 100 buildings razed between October 9 and November 3 as determined by the HRW, brings the total to 320 buildings destroyed in Wa Peik village.

They come knowing

FROM PAGE 1
A group of Bangladeshi people are helping Rohingyas to enter the country illegally and get shelter. Such middlemen are active on the other side of the border as well.

The racket helps these Myanmar minorities to cross the border through Leda, Zadimura, Rangkhali, Nayapara, Maulvibazar, Shah Porir Dwip, Khangrakhali, Jhimangkhali, Kanjarpara, Lambabil, Ullubunia, Tulatali and Anzumanpara.

At 10:00am yesterday, some 50 such Rohingyas were seen resting under a mango tree near the Kutupalong registered camp. They crossed the border earlier in the morning.

Talking to them, it was known that they paid a handsome amount to brokers for entering Bangladesh -- Tk 30,000 on the Myanmar side and Tk 2,000 each in Bangladesh.

Taiyaba Begum, 25, wife of Md Salim of Khariyapara village of Maungdaw in Myanmar, said she along with her three minor children reached Kutupalong by bus from Nayapara of Teknaf.

She came to live in the Kutupalong slum.

Md Islam, who too is from Khariyapara village, came to Kutupalong along with nine members of his family yesterday morning.

Locals said a few hundred new Rohingyas have taken shelter at the Kutupalong slum in the last two days.

Contacted, Bakhtiar Ahmed, councillor of ward 9 of Kutupalong union, said at least 150 Rohingya families are staying at the illegal camp. He had informed the matter to the administration.

Yesterday, checking local buses, the BGB at Hoyaikong BOP checkpoint in Teknaf held 30 Rohingyas people, including women and children.

They were coming to Ukhaia from Teknaf. All these Rohingyas people have crossed the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in the last few days.

Abu Siddique, a Myanmar citizen and also chairman of management committee of Kutupalong Rohingya slum, said the committee has arranged shelters for around one thousand Rohingyas people in coordination with their relatives living in Bangladesh.

He also said three Rohingyas were injured in a bus accident while coming to Kutupalong from Leda

Rohingya slum. They were admitted to MSF Hospital.

Meanwhile, police arrested a Rohingya named Idris Mia, who was admitted at the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital with "some injuries", sources said.

Idris, from Bhuchidong village of Sittwe (Akyab) in Myanmar's Rakhine state, got admitted to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital six days ago. The hospital authorities released him on Sunday and police arrested him immediately.

Idris told journalists that he came to Bangladesh along with around 500 people of his village, divided in small groups.

He crossed border through Thumbru point at Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban. Then he came to the Kutupalong.

From there, he went to the Cox's Bazar hospital and got admitted with the help of a person called Maulavi Yasin. He said he did not know the whereabouts of others who came with him.

HK Anwar, chairman of Hnila Union Parishad and also a member of advisory board of Cox's Bazar Awami League, said the Rohingya trespassing has increased a lot. They are entering the country every night, he said.

At present, 31,759 registered Rohingya refugees are staying in Kutupalong camp in Ukhaia and Nayapara camp in Teknaf.

But sources citing a government census held from February 1 to 23 say that about three lakh other Rohingyas are living illegally in the district.

It is being widely reported that Rohingyas, often dubbed one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world, are trying to escape the military crackdown after a recent escalation of violence in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

Though Bangladesh officials say patrolling has been increased, Rohingyas have been sneaking in after crossing the Naf river at night.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Coast Guard pushed back 86 Rohingyas from Hnila and Sabrang points on November 15, and some 85 others from different border points in Ukhaia and Teknaf on Thursday and Friday.

And on Friday night, 125 Rohingyas were sent back from No 5 Sluice Gate area in Sabrang early Saturday.

No holiday for tax offices till November 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All tax offices will remain open on the next weekly holidays to facilitate submission of income tax returns by individual taxpayers within the deadline of November 30, the National Board of Revenue said yesterday.

The tax offices will be open from 9:00am to 8:00pm every day till November 30, NBR spokesperson Syed A Momen told The Daily Star over the phone.

This year, the government has termed November 30 as Tax Day.

The NBR will observe a tax week from November 24 to 30 for providing services to taxpayers.

There is no possibility of extending the deadline for submission of tax returns this time. And taxpayers will have to pay a penalty if they submit those after the deadline, added the NBR.

In the current fiscal year, the government brought changes in the tax law to end the culture of deadline extension that the NBR did in the past on demand from various quarters.

Santal women file writ with HC Asks for judicial enquiry into Nov-6 incident in Gobindaganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Santal women yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to form a judicial enquiry commission to probe the November 6 incidents of Gobindaganj in Gaibandha.

The Santal victims -- Olivia Hembrom, wife of Dijen Tudu, and Rumila Kisku, wife of Ganesh Murmu -- submitted the petition through their lawyer. They also prayed to the court to issue a rule upon the government to explain why the eviction and torture of the indigenous people should not be declared illegal.

The petitioners also requested the court to ask the authorities concerned for an explanation why they should not be directed to take appropriate action against the people who were involved in evicting and attacking the Santals.

Secretaries to the ministries of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4