

## 'ISLAMIST ATTACK' Fifteen killed in Cameroon

AFP, Yaoundé

Fifteen people were shot dead in an overnight attack in north Cameroon, blamed on Boko Haram Islamists, a security source said yesterday.

The attack happened in the town of Gakara close to the Nigerian border, added the source.

"Boko Haram shot 15 people dead... and kidnapped eight people, three of whom were returned on Friday," said the source, who wished to remain anonymous.

A total of 35 houses were torched in the attack which happened around 11:00pm (2200 GMT), according to a local vigilante group member.

"There were many of them," said the source.

Gakara is just a kilometre from the Nigerian border town of Kerawa where the Boko Haram Islamists have long been in control.

The eight-year conflict by the Sunni jihadist group aimed at establishing a hard-line Islamic Caliphate in Nigeria has left at least 20,000 people dead and displaced 2.6 million, creating one of the world's major humanitarian catastrophes.

The violence has spilled into neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

## Criminals

FROM PAGE 16

chest, back and left leg.

His daughter Sanjida Aziz told The Daily Star that around 3:40am, her father left home for Chandpur's Haimchar upazila to attend a programme commemorating the attack on an AL rally.

Badar was supposed to go there in a private car. He was going to Haimchar in the early hours to avoid traffic jam, she said, adding that three to four youths attacked her father soon after he came out of home.

Badar told this correspondent that he suspected that he was attacked as he filed a case over the grenade attack.

Badar's wife Jannatul Nahar filed a case against four unknown people with Jatrabari Police Station in connection with yesterday's incident, said Iftekharul Islam, assistant commissioner of Demra zone.

"Primarily, we are suspecting that it is a case of mugging, but also giving priority to other issues as the victim is a survivor and complainant of a grenade attack case," he added.

Badar was hit by grenade splinters in the August 21 grisly attack, said his family.

The attack was carried out on an AL rally in the capital on August 21 in 2004, killing 24 people and injuring 300 more. Sheikh Hasina, who was then the opposition leader, narrowly escaped an assassination.

On June 5, 2007, Badar of Cox's Bazar filed a case against Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman, former Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and 25 others with a Dhaka court in connection with the grenade attack.

The court later ordered police to investigate the case together with the main case of the incident lodged with Motijheel Police Station on August 22, 2004.

## Key accused

FROM PAGE 1

Betagi Police Station accusing six people.

Among the other accused are Md Rasel, 28, Sumon Kazi, 30, Md Rabiul, 18, and Md Jewel, 30.

According to the case statement, the accused tried to enter the school when the teacher was talking to her husband in a classroom.

Seeing this, the teacher locked the main entrance to the school. The accused at one stage broke it open and beat up her husband.

The six tied up the husband in a classroom and raped his wife in another room.

## Accidental fire

FROM PAGE 16

Casually handling the firearm, Imran pulled the trigger thinking it was unloaded, he added.

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the education board, said Shahedul was hit by 19 pellets when he was looking for an auto rickshaw on the street after attending a meeting in Westin.

Mahbubur, who visited Shahedul at the hospital, said he was out of danger.

Police officers visiting the hospital said they would ensure punishment for the misdeed.

BCS General Education Association, in a statement expressed concern over the matter.

# Deadly attacks in Myanmar kill 89

FROM PAGE 1

in some 87,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh, where they joined many others who have fled from Myanmar over the past 25 years.

The UN believes the military crackdown may have amounted to ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya.

But the army and Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government vehemently deny allegations of widespread abuses, including rapes and murders. They have so far refused to grant visas to UN investigators tasked with probing the allegations.

Amnesty International said there were now fears over how Myanmar's notoriously abusive security forces might respond.

Myanmar security forces have conducted sporadic operations to flush out suspected militants this year, often resulting in casualties among Rohingya villagers.

The Rohingyas have spoken of their fear at being trapped in between security forces and the militants, who are accused of conducting a shadowy assassination campaign against those perceived as collaborators with the state.

Access to the area is severely restricted and verifying information is difficult. And activists and supporters on both sides of the sectarian divide have a history of posting false images and footage online.

The military said yesterday that about 150 Rohingyas attacked an army base in Taung Bazar village in Buthidaung township. Among the police posts attacked was a station in the majority-Rakhine village of Kyauk Pandu, 40km south of the major town of Maungdaw.

Police officer Kyaw Win Tun said the insurgents burned down the post and police had been called to gather at a main station, reports Reuters.

The Irrawaddy news site writes that some 150 men allegedly attacked Infantry Base 552 and an explosive device was used in an attack in Maungdaw, according to the State Counselor's Office.

Another 150 men allegedly attacked a police station at Taung Bazaar at 3:00am and the bodies of six suspected attackers were found, according to a statement on the Facebook page of the Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing.

A number of ethnic Rakhine Buddhists fled their villages in Taung



A group of Rohingyas took shelter on a dyke of a shrimp farm at Lombabeel village in Teknaf at daybreak yesterday after fleeing Myanmar in the wake of fresh violence that left 71 people dead. They were pushed back by border guards around 8:00pm.

PHOTO: STAR

Bazar and were taking refuge in a monastery, according to a local journalist.

Residents fled fires in Chein Khar Li and Zay Di Pyin villages in Rathedaung yesterday, according to the statement released by the Commander-in-Chief's Office.

Residents were fearful as darkness approached.

"We heard that a lot of Muslim villagers are grouping together, they will make more attacks on us when the sun goes down," said Maung Maung

Chay, a Rakhine villager from the hamlet.

"The military and police members are fighting back together against extremist Bengali terrorists," Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing said in a statement on Facebook.

One resident in Maungdaw, the main town in northern Rakhine, said gunfire could be heard throughout the night.

"We are still hearing gunshots now,

we dare not to go out from our house," the resident said by phone, asking not to be named.

Footage obtained by AFP showed smoke rising from Zedipyin village in Rathedaung township where fighting was ongoing yesterday.

The attacks took place hours after a panel led by the former UN chief Kofi Annan advised the government on long-term solutions for the violence-riven state.

Annan condemned the violence

## Fresh influx on

FROM PAGE 1

hours after they entered the country.

Muslim militants in Myanmar staged a coordinated attack on 30 police posts and an army base in Rakhine State yesterday. At least 59 of the insurgents and 12 members of the security forces were killed, reports Reuters.

The fighting marked a major escalation in a simmering conflict in the northwestern state since last October, when similar attacks prompted a big military sweep beset by allegations of serious human rights abuses, it mentioned.

Syed Hossain, a Rohingya fisherman who took shelter in Teknaf's Lambabeel village yesterday, said he

along with his 15 family members, including his wife, children and elderly mother, fled home in Myanmar's Maungdaw after he saw fire and plumes of smoke in nearby areas.

He, however, had to leave behind his son-in-law and a two-year-old grandson.

"I don't know about their fate," the 55-year-old man said, adding that they would seek shelter at a refugee camp.

Mohammad Lalu, a Rohingya boatman staying at Ukhia's Kutupalong refugee camp, said he learnt from his relatives in Myanmar's Mannama area that members of the Myanmar army set fire to Rohingya houses in the area on Friday night.

Zafar Alam, local Awami League leader in Ulubunia, said several hundred Rohingyas entered Bangladesh at dawn and took shelter at an embankment near a shrimp enclosure in Teknaf's Lambabeel village.

But most of them left the place before BGB personnel reached there, he mentioned.

Jalal Ahmed, member of Hoaikangway union parishad, said a large number of Rohingyas entered the area by crossing the border early yesterday.

They took shelter at different refugee camps and adjacent villages, he added.

A number of locals said Rohingyas are taking shelter at unregistered

refugee camps of Leda, Kutupalong and Balukhali in Ukhia.

Talking to The Daily Star, SM Ariful Islam, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-2 in Teknaf, said 146 Rohingyas crossed the Naf river and entered Bangladesh through Palongkhali of Ukhia upazila, and Ulubunia, Lombabeel and Kharaingaghona of Teknaf upazila.

"Border Guard Bangladesh members gave the 146 refugees food, water and medicine and then sent them back to Myanmar."

The BGB official said they beefed up security measures along the border.

Rohingya intrusion usually takes place whenever Myanmar military

yesterday, saying "no cause can justify such brutality and senseless killing".

He denounced the attacks in a statement, calling them a "worrying escalation of violence," and urged security forces to exercise restraint in dealing with the situation.

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Myanmar Renata Lok-Dessallien also released a statement yesterday condemning the attacks and called on all parties to refrain from violence and resolve issues through dialogue.

Both the British and the US embassies also released statements denouncing the attacks, with the US Embassy adding: "We also urge all communities to ensure their rhetoric and their actions contribute to restoration of peace and stability."

'RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES'

The leader of ARSA, Ata Ullah, has said hundreds of young Rohingyas have joined the group, which claims to be waging a legitimate defence against the army and for human rights.

"We have been taking our defensive actions against the Burmese marauding forces in more than 25 different places across the region. More soon!" the group said on Twitter.

Chris Lewa of the Rohingya monitoring group, the Arakan Project, said a major concern was what happened to some 700 Rohingya villagers trapped inside their section of Zay Di Pyin village which had been surrounded by Rakhine vigilantes armed with sticks and swords.

"We are running for our lives," said one of the Zay Di Pyin's Rohingya villagers reached by telephone, adding that houses had been set on fire. The government said the village had been burned down but blamed the fire on the Rohingyas.

Amid rising tension over the past few weeks, more than 1,000 new refugees have fled to Bangladesh, where border guards yesterday pushed back 146 people trying to flee the violence, writes AFP.

Mohammed Shafi, who lives in a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, said his cousin in Myanmar had told him of the trouble.

"The military is everywhere. People are crying, mourning the dead," Shafi said.

"Things are turning real bad. It's scary."

launches a crackdown in Rakhine state.

Bangladesh is currently hosting an estimated 500,000 Rohingyas since they started coming to Bangladesh to escape persecution three decades ago.

More than 32,000 of them are registered and live in two camps in Cox's Bazar. Others live mainly in different areas of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

After Myanmar armed forces launched a counterinsurgency operation following attacks on security personnel in Rakhine State in October last year, more than 75,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh.

[Our Cox's Bazar correspondent contributed to this report]

## Cattle supply 'adequate'

FROM PAGE 16

Between 2,000 and 4,000 cattle are smuggled through the borders daily, said a couple of traders at the Gabtoli cattle market, one of the largest markets for animals. Supply may rise further as many flood-affected farmers are bringing in calves to sell as they are unable to arrange shelters for the animals or give them fodder, said traders and farmers.

Yet, damaged roads and congestion might hinder smooth transport of cattle and create supply-demand gap.

To avoid traffic, a section of traders have started using waterways to transport cattle.

"It appears that roads damaged by the floods and congestion on the highways due to Eid rush will affect transport of cattle to haats of cities from districts, particularly those in the north," said Mojibur Rahman, former general secretary of Gabtoli Cattle Market Association.

"There is enough stock of cattle. But the question is whether that can be brought to the markets timely," he said,

adding, "We do not have enough boats to transport the animals."

Despite the prospect of adequate supply, Malek Bepary, a cattle trader from Kushtia, said the prices of large bulls were between Tk 20,000 and Tk 30,000 more than that of last year. "It will come down drastically when Eid is nearer due to the huge supply of sacrificial animals."

FARMERS WORRIED

Three to four thousand Indian cattle are coming into the country every day. This would have a huge impact on the local market as local production was also high, said Shariful Islam, a cattle trader who brought 18 bulls and 16 buffaloes to Gabtoli a few days ago.

Borhan Uddin, who also brought bulls to sell in the market, on Wednesday said, "As I did not rear any bulls, I purchased six of them to make some money. But I am now worried about the huge supply to the market."

Towards the end of last month, Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association (B DFA) urged the government to stop the cattle entering Bangladesh from the

neighbouring countries, saying locally reared cattle could meet the Eid demand.

Malik Mohammad Omar, vice-president of B DFA, said many people reared cattle, particularly bulls, eyeing the Eid festival. The DLS estimated that 33.42 lakh bulls and buffaloes were being raised this year, up marginally from 33 lakh of last year's.

He said a section of the flood-affected farmers might be forced to sell their cattle. "Prices of cattle are unlikely to shoot up. Rather, many farmers might not get fair prices for their animals because of over supply."

Robiul Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Meat Merchant Association, said some 7,00,000 more cattle would be slaughtered this Eid than in the last Eid, when 50-55 lakh animals were sacrificed.

"It is likely that potential candidates for the next parliamentary election will sacrifice more cattle in their constituencies to gain popularity," he said, adding that it would not affect prices.

About 9.35 lakh cattle were brought in

from India and Myanmar in the 2016-17 fiscal year. The figure was about 10 lakh the previous year, according to data from NBR field offices.

Some 1.2 lakh has already been brought in from India and Myanmar since June 30.

However, Robiul claimed that the number should be around 2 lakh as many cattle were brought in below the radar of the NBR. He predicted that a large number of Indian cattle would be brought in ahead of the festival.

Before a crackdown by Indian authorities, smuggled Indian cattle accounted for a large portion of the supply. In fiscal year 2013-14, about 21 lakh cattle were smuggled in, according to NBR data.

MARKET NOT ABUZZ

Cattle traders said the number wholesalers, who usually go to Gabtoli to buy animals before Eid and sell them in smaller cattle markets, was very poor.

Frustrated by this, many traders did not ship cattle to Gabtoli.

Mohammad Farid, a goat trader, said

the sale of goats was low this year. Usually, wholesalers purchase goats from the market during this time but the number of those customers was poor this year, he said.

EXPENSIVE ONES

Riazul Fakir, a cattle trader who reared a bull for three years in Ishwardi, was asking Tk 8 lakh for it at Gabtoli on Wednesday.

"We have spent at least Tk 5 lakh to purchase and rear the black bull named 'Tiger'," said Riazul, who also brought another bull and the asking price of that was Tk 3.5 lakh.

No camels were seen in Gabtoli but a trader brought a Dumba a few days ago and was asking Tk 2.8 lakh for it.

The owner of the Dumba said there were 19 Butti oxen, a variety of cattle from Bhutan, in their shed and they were asking between Tk 45,000 and Tk 80,000 for each.

The two city corporations of Dhaka are going to set up 22 makeshift cattle markets in the city. Among them, 13 would be set up in Dhaka south and nine in Dhaka north.

## Suspected militant killed in 'gunfight'

FROM PAGE 1

opened fire and a gunfight ensued when we returned fire," the police official said.

At one stage, the "militants" fled the scene, and police found a bullet riddled man lying on the spot.

He was taken to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead. Police later identified the man as Arman Ali.

Law enforcers also claimed to have recovered a foreign pistol, two bullets and three sharp weapons from the spot.

According to police, Arman and his wife Toly Khatun built a JMB hideout in Bheramara.

On July 1, police detained Toly, "Neo JMB" Ameer Ayub Bachchu's wife Tithi Khatun and its second-in-command Abzar's wife Sumaiya Aktar from the hideout. Arman, an accused

in two cases, went into hiding after the incident.

According to police sources, Arman was an employee of a cable TV operator in Bheramara, while Toly used to identify her as a tailor although she was never involved in the occupation.

Seeking anonymity, a senior police official in Kushtia quoting Toly said Arman was a madrasa student. He joined "Neo JMB" through its chief

bomb expert and his distance relative Sohel Mafuz in 2015.

Arman left Bheramara in 2015 and started living in the capital's Badda. He often visited his home in Thakurpur, the police official said.

In February, Arman asked Toly to rent a house and Toly rented a one-storey tin-roofed building in Bheramara the next month. Arman along with some top "Neo JMB" operatives visited the house, which was

later used as a den, the police official added.

This correspondent yesterday visited Arman's village home and talked to his family members.

"We have nothing to say about Arman," said his elder brother Abdur Rashid.

They decided not to receive Arman's body, he said, adding that his brother tarnished the image of the family.