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Mega plan for surveillance

Tk 5,000cr project to bring entire Dhaka city under 24/7 watch



- Some 50,000 cameras, motion sensors to transmit footage, signals in real time round the clock
- Will help detect firearms, suspicious movement, unattended objects, bags
- Will help trace missing or wanted people, lost vehicles

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government is planning to bring the entire Dhaka city under video surveillance under an ambitious project to ensure better safety and security as well as combat crimes.

The finance ministry has recently agreed to fund the Tk 5,000-crore project to be implemented by the police, after a similar scheme taken up in 2007 failed due to fund crunch, technical glitches and lack of expertise, sources said.

Under the new project, police will install 50,000 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and motion sensors across the capital.

These cameras and devices will transmit footage and signals to the police control room in real time round the clock, alerting the police about any suspicious gathering or movement and any objects or bags kept unattended at a place for over 15 minutes.

The surveillance system will also help detect firearms, trace missing vehicles or lost devices, control traffic and track down wanted or missing people, according to officials at the police headquarters.

The proposal is now with the home ministry for further scrutiny, Gazi

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A bridge collapsed trapping a cargo boat underneath in Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj after the vessel had rammed into one of its pillars Thursday afternoon. The bridge was hit and damaged by another vessel months back and it was made off limits to vehicles at that time. Pedestrians were, however, allowed to use it. Now the bridge is unusable, affecting thousands from at least 15 villages in Madhyapara union.

PHOTO: STAR



UN braces for further exodus

Says lack of access to Rakhine 'unacceptable'; EU chief urges Myanmar to take back refugees; Amnesty accuses Asean of 'failing' Rohingyas

AGENCIES

The United Nations braced yesterday for a possible "further exodus" of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into Bangladesh, UN humanitarian aid chief said.

Some 5,15,000 Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar's western state of Rakhine in an unrelenting movement of people that began after security forces responded to Rohingya militant attacks with a brutal crackdown.

"This flow of people of Myanmar hasn't stopped yet. Obviously there's into the hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas still in Myanmar, and we want to be ready in case there is a further exodus," Mark Lowcock, UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told a news briefing in Geneva.

An estimated 2,000 Rohingyas are arriving in Bangladesh every day, Joel Millman of the International Organisation for Migration, told a separate briefing.

There may be up to 1,00,000 more people in northern Rakhine waiting to cross into Bangladesh, according to the organisation.

Myanmar officials have said they attempted to reassure groups trying to flee to Bangladesh but could not stop people who were not citizens from leaving.

The official Myanmar News Agency said yesterday that "large numbers" of Muslims were preparing to cross the border. It cited their reasons as "livelihood difficulties", health problems, a "belief" of insecurity and fear of

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US ON MYANMAR 'Crackdown could draw int'l terrorists'

AP, Washington

Myanmar's military crackdown that has caused a half-million Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh could destabilise the region and invite international terrorists, the US State Department said Thursday.

But Patrick Murphy, a senior US official for Southeast Asia, would not say whether the Trump administration would impose targeted sanctions against Myanmar's military.

Addressing the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Murphy said security forces were to blame for a "disproportionate response" to Rohingya insurgent attacks six weeks ago. He equivocated on whether it amounted to ethnic cleansing, preferring instead to describe the situation as a "human tragedy."

That drew objections from lawmakers. "We identify this as full-fledged ethnic cleansing," said Rep. Ed Royce, the

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUKE WEAPONS ICAN wins Nobel Peace Prize



AGENCIES

Nuclear disarmament campaign group ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday for its efforts to rid the world of the atomic bomb, warning that Donald Trump's presidency showed how dangerous the weapons of mass destruction truly are.

More than 70 years since atomic bombs were used on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nobel committee sought to highlight ICAN's tireless non-proliferation efforts as nuclear-related crises swirl around North Korea and Iran, reports AFP.

The decision sent a strong message at a time when Trump has threatened to tear up a 2015 deal curbing

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2 Bangladeshi NGOs share the glory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi organisations shared the glory of Nobel Peace Prize 2017, bagged by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its campaign against nuclear weapon.

The Center for Bangladesh Studies (CBS) and Physicians for Social Responsibility Bangladesh (PSRB) are among the 468 partners of ICAN from 101 countries.

The ICAN describes itself as a coalition of grassroots nongovernment groups from more than 100 nations, including Bangladesh. It began in Australia and was officially launched in Vienna in 2007.

The CBS, a nonprofit organisation, is a multidisciplinary research,

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Rohingya crisis cannot stop progress: PM

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh will surely make great strides in development, despite the huge influx of Myanmar nationals.

"We, the Bangalee nation, fought and liberated the country, responding to the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman... we never got scared in the face of any problem. Rather we want to advance further by tackling it [problem]," she said.

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Rohingyas take shelter from the rain during distribution of food at Nayapara refugee camp in Ukhia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SCBA leaders 'barred from meeting CJ'

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers yesterday allegedly barred the president and the secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association from meeting Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, who is on a month's leave on health grounds.

Talking to The Daily Star, SCBA Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon said he along with the association's President Zainul Abedin and several other lawyers left the High Court by four vehicles for the CJ's residence on Hare Road around 5:30pm.

"A white jeep intercepted the vehicles near the Matsya Bhaban. Plainclothes policemen



Tigers fail to learn

SPORTS REPORTER from Bloemfontein

The first day of the second Test against South Africa made for some grim watching, not just for Bangladeshis but also for the South Africans and neutrals at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein yesterday. It might be seen as beating a dead horse to talk about the toss after the Potchefstroom debacle, but there is some life in the horse yet. Yes, the Bloemfontein wicket has more grass and more bounce than the flat track laid out at Potchefstroom, but in choosing to field first yet again skipper Mushfiqur Rahim proved that neither he nor the team management have learned a single lesson from the 333-run defeat in the first Test.

The result was an even greater leather chase for Bangladesh than on the corresponding day in the first Test as South Africa reached 428 for three after 90 overs of the first day, the fifth-highest total conceded by Bangladesh in a day. There were twin tons from opener Dean Elgar, who scored 113 from 152 balls with 17 fours, and Aiden Markram who scored 143 from 188 balls with 22 fours. Hashim Amla was not out on 89 and skipper Faf Du Plessis was batting on 62.

There was one more thing to worry about for Bangladesh as Imrul Kayes, at 1:16pm in the 35th over was hit on the

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