

On October 4, 2015, more than a half month ago, two Bangladeshi tourists along with their local guides were abducted by members of a separatist militant group of Myanmar. Just a month earlier, on September 5, Bangladesh army and Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) got involved in a violent conflict with the insurgent group called Arakan Liberation Army (ALA) which has allegedly abducted the Bangladeshi tourists. Besides these insurgent groups, Border Police of Myanmar (BGP), Myanmar's counter part of BGB, often acts with no less enmity against Bangladeshis. Several months ago, they abducted one of the BGB men without any reason, and unprovoked attacks from Myanmar's border police on Bangladesh border patrols are also quite regular.

Bangladesh's 271 kilometre long border with Myanmar is not at all stable. Frequent gunfights between the border guards of two nations, militant activities by the separatist groups of Myanmar, and transnational crimes like human and drug trafficking have made this area one of the most volatile parts of our country. This 271 kilometre long border includes some of the most inaccessible mountainous parts of Bangladesh, where the government's territorial control and law enforcement is

limited to some distant border outposts and overstretched border patrols. In addition, BGB men also have to guard the 54 kilometre long turbulent Naf River bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar, which is one of the world's busiest drug-trafficking routes.

Lack of manpower and resources, hostile terrain and lack of coordination between the border patrols of the countries have made these areas a haven for organised crime and militant activities. 15 days have passed by (till October 19, 2015) since the missing of two Bangladeshi tourists, however, still no trace of these unfortunate people could be found. Recently on October 18, 2015, another violent skirmish between Bangladeshi joint forces and militant groups of Myanmar broke out in Bandarban, killed a village defence party personnel and injured one BGB member and one Bangladesh army personnel according to our local correspondent.

However, the joint forces successfully demolished some strategic base camps of the militants.

There are several armed separatist groups of Myanmar which are operating actively along the Bangladesh-Myanmar Border. Among them, the most active is Arakan Liberation Army (ALA), the armed wing of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP). This armed Buddhist separatist group of



Myanmar, formerly known as Rakhine State, has been fighting against the armed forces of Myanmar to 'liberate' the Rakhine people, however, excluding the Rohingyas. One of the facts of their scheme is that they consider Chittagong as the historic part of their so called Rakhine State and dream of annexing it with their futuristic territory. Experts believe that these separatist groups, to finance their militant activities, commit transnational crimes like cross border drug smuggling and human trafficking.

As a result, lethal drugs, like heroin and methamphetamine tablets, have flooded the Bangladeshi border towns of Teknaf, Bandarban and even Cox's Bazaar. Every other day Bangladesh police and BGB seize hundreds and thousands of meth tablets locally known as 'yaba', however, according to them this is not more than 10 percent of the total amount of smuggled narcotics. These areas are also the hubs of deadly human trafficking, that has led to

THE LOOMING THREAT

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS



the killing of thousands of poor Bangladeshis and Rohingyas.

However, in facing these separatist groups, who are likely to be the common threat for Bangladesh and Myanmar's security, Bangladesh finds Myanmar surprisingly reluctant. A BGB official stationed in Bandarban, under the condition of anonymity, says, "Whenever we launch combing operations against the militants, we request BGP to close their part of the borders so that the miscreants cannot escape. However, they do not pay heed to our requests at all."

As a result, it has become a very difficult task for Bangladeshi security forces to completely annihilate these miscreants. Bangladesh's soil, which we have achieved at the sacrifice of three million patriotic lives, cannot turn into hideouts of terrorists and miscreants. Recently, a leader of ALA has been captured in Bangladesh. It is high time for Bangladesh to take stern action to get rid of this looming threat. Otherwise if allow the time for them to gather strength, these militants and organised criminals can inflict a serious blow on Bangladesh's national security in the near future.

SECURITY

STARDUARY

NO TRUST!

Last Friday, I went to New Market to buy some necessary things. Being a weekend, I came across a huge crowd there, and it was very difficult for me to move at ease. Suddenly I received a phone call from my friend, and I got on the footpath to speak to him. While speaking on the phone, I noticed a blind man trying very hard to cross the road but could not be able to make it. I hung up the phone, went to him and told him not to worry as I would help him to cross the road. However his angry response shocked me very much. He said that there was no need to be busy for him. I understood that he assumed that I would cause him harm. As I left the scene, I laughed to myself thinking that these days we are not ready to trust anyone. When I was young, I was taught to help the helpless. But as time passed, we have proved ourselves to be so ill-mannered, that even a person who can not see the evil in us with his eyes also fears to take help from us. What a shame!

Shimul Ahmed
Pantha Path, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MAD GENIUS

WALTER ELIAS "WALT" DISNEY

(December 5, 1901
December 15, 1966)

Walter Elias "Walt" Disney, popularly known as Walt Disney was an American entrepreneur, cartoonist, animator, voice actor, and film producer. The world knows him as one of the most significant cultural icons mostly for his magical creations and contributions in the field of animation and theme park designing during the 20th century. He and his brother Roy O. Disney co-founded The Walt Disney Company and have given us countless popular fictional characters including Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy.

“THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING.

DISNEYLAND WILL NEVER BE COMPLETED. IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AS LONG AS THERE IS IMAGINATION LEFT IN THE WORLD.

YOU'RE DEAD IF YOU AIM ONLY FOR KIDS. ADULTS ARE ONLY KIDS GROWN UP, ANYWAY.

THE MORE YOU LIKE YOURSELF, THE LESS YOU ARE LIKE ANYONE ELSE, WHICH MAKES YOU UNIQUE.”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

ABOUT TOWN

ORGANIC CITY
KAZI SALAUDDIN AHMED'S PAINTING EXHIBITION
October 16-31
2:00 pm to 8:00pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi



MATI O MANUSH: WORKSHOP WITH CLAY AN 'ART FOR FUN' WORKSHOP WITH CHILDREN
October 23, 10:30am-1:30pm
Longitude Latitude 6, Bay's Bella Vista, Road 11, House 96, Block C, Banani.
For registration: send email at info.longitude.latitude@gmail.com or message to the Longitude Latitude 6 facebook page. Fees: tk 300.

AN ANGEL'S ARRIVAL

I went to one of my friends' home to spend the summer vacation situated around 150miles north to the capital, Dhaka. Rony, my friend, did not show much interest to welcome me but I insisted. I discovered the reason soon after I had reached his home. It was in the remote part of a village with no electricity, proper roads, hospital or educational institutions. After going there I feel like saluting the villagers' honesty, cordiality and the contribution to the nation producing all the farm products that we need.

However, Rony's father was an elderly person who was not well while his mother works in other people's houses to support the family and Rony's tuition fees. His elder brothers have been working in the farms of other affluent villagers as day labourers. With such effort they could have been able to send Rony to the University for higher education. As we reached Rony's home, we discovered that his father's health worsened and he was crawling, screaming in pain and seeking God's help. To my surprise, no ambulance came; there was no doctor within around 50 miles and there was no

other alternative vehicle to take him to the nearest town or bazar. This time as I looked at the fleshless body that somehow manages to stand in pain I could say that he had been suffering from malnutrition since his early 20s. It was Hernia. I could not tolerate his suffering anymore and was looking for a spot where I can stand by myself when I saw Rony. He could manage some pain killers and sleeping pills. At around 10 pm, his father went asleep. In the middle of the night I found Rony weeping! While keeping my hands on his soldiers, I couldn't but shed tears too.

The next morning, I found Rony in his courtyard standing among a large crowd where his father was being taken to the hospital. As I went there I found that an American NGO worker, who works for the very community, learnt about Rony's father from the villagers. I don't know who communicated with him in his language in such a remote rural area but I am really thankful to this man for his sincere cooperation.
Rezaul Karim Reza Gaibandha