

COUNTERING SUDDEN ATTACKS

Cops exposed to risks for lack of skills, training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fatal attack on a police checkpoint in Ashulia has exposed a lack of skill, training, professionalism and seriousness in the lower tier of police. It also shows a lack of discipline among them and their inability to react sharply to counter sudden attacks.

Despite being armed with rifles and shotguns, five constables could not resist two armed attackers, who killed one of their colleagues on the outskirts of the capital on Wednesday morning.

Police sources said their arms were not even loaded. Rather, the bullets were in their pockets -- another testimony to their unprofessionalism.

The assailants, who came on a motorbike, hacked a constable to death and injured another critically and left the scene comfortably. While fleeing, they fired two shots. Police said they recovered two empty shells from the spot later.

Following the attack, cops removed the checkpoint and did not set it up again until 30 hours later, sources said.

No police members were sent to the checkpoint until 2:00pm yesterday, said an official of Industrial Police-1 in Ashulia, which has been providing 30 cops daily for three checkpoints on the highway in the area.

Wednesday's attack came barely two weeks after an assistant sub-inspector of Darus Salam Police Station was stabbed to death by a youth at a

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In the wake of recent attacks on law enforcers, a senior police official gives a morale-boosting speech to policemen before deploying them at security checkpoints. The photo was taken at Ashulia Police Station on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. Two cops were killed in machete attacks on two checkpoints, including one in Ashulia, in the last two weeks.

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

Middle-class expanding

By 2025, one-fourth of population to be in middle-class income category, says BIDS study

MIDDLE CLASS COMPARISONS

COUNTRY/REGION	SHARE OF MIDDLE CLASS IN POPULATION NOW, %
BANGLADESH	20
INDIA	24.1
CHINA	61.8
SOUTH ASIA	25.8
LATIN AMERICA	65.8
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	25.8
EAST ASIA	59.3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One-fourth, or 25 percent, of the total population will belong to the middle-class income category by 2025, thanks to greater access to education, finance and IT services, and private sector employment, a recent study found.

At present, 20 percent of the population belongs to the middle-income category in Bangladesh in contrast to 24.1 percent in neighbouring India.

A person belongs to the middle-class category when his/her income ranges between \$2 and \$3 per day.

If the present trend continues, the middle-class will comprise one-third, or 33 percent, of the national population in 2030, said Binayak Sen, research director of

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'Boro Bhai' offered Tk 5 lakh

Motive was to create panic by shooting a foreigner, confesses Tavella murder suspect Russell

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the four youths arrested last month in the Tavella murder case told a magistrate yesterday that MA Matin, younger brother of a BNP leader, is the "Boro Bhai", who hired him for Tk 5 lakh to shoot and injure any foreigner in the capital's Gulshan to create panic in the area.

In his confessional statement, Russell Chowdhury alias "Chakki" Russell said



Russell Chy

September 28. The other two are Tamjid Ahmed alias

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Khaleda for national dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the government to take initiatives for holding a national dialogue "for the sake of the nation".

"We hope that instead of blocking scope for democracy to flourish, the government will open the path to

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Dutch help assured for Delta Plan

Hasina holds talks with Netherlands PM

UNB, The Hague

Bangladesh and the Netherlands have agreed to work more closely for the implementation of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 to make the delta safe and productive for its people.

The two countries also decided to work sincerely to step up bilateral trade and investment.

The consensus came during the bilateral talks between visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges greetings with her Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte at the latter's official residence in The Hague on Wednesday. The two leaders agreed to work more closely to boost bilateral trade and investment. Hasina also sought greater cooperation from the Netherlands in implementing the Delta Plan 2100.

PHOTO: PMO

No place here for extremism

President tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has no place for bigotry and militancy and people here have always been non-communal and respectful to other religions, President Abdul Hamid said yesterday.

Universities should play a pivotal role in promoting the decades-old tradition of communal harmony, he said while addressing the 10th convocation of Brac University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

His remarks came against the backdrop of the killing of secular bloggers this year and the recent murder of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan.

Presiding over the convocation ceremony, Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, called upon the country's universities to instil patriotism in students.

The educational institutions must ensure standards of

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Protect people threatened by extremists

UN urges Bangladesh govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein yesterday called on the government of Bangladesh to take urgent, concerted measures to ensure the protection of all those being threatened by extremists operating in the country.

"State must offer better protection to writers, publishers and others threatened by extremists in Bangladesh," he said and strongly condemned the continuing violent attacks against bloggers and publishers in Bangladesh, according to a UN press statement from Geneva yesterday.

"At least five Bangladeshi writers and publishers as well as two foreign aid workers have been violently murdered this year in Dhaka and many more attacked and threatened, apparently by groups that believe they have the right to impose their views on others through wanton violence," Zeid said.

"There is an urgent need for a concerted response to prevent more killings by promptly bringing the perpetrators to justice, and by taking effective measures to protect

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১৭ বছর পেরিয়ে আমাদের প্রতিদিনের সঙ্গী ৫৫ লাখ পাঠক। আপনাদের ধন্যবাদ।

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