

Terrorism is a suicide note written in blood

The killers' psyche

The bestiality the autopsy revealed

THE autopsies of the victims of the Gulshan café attack reveal the ineffable cruelty with which the assailants killed the unfortunate people. It reiterates the fact, if it needs to be restated at all, that they were not upholding the values of the religion they claim to be fighting for. They were trained murderers on an unholy mission to kill, acting on no principles -- religious or moral, and the marks of torture show the bestiality of the perpetrators.

The shock is inconceivable. While theories abound on what caused the attackers to kill with such a numb, reckless abandon, a good place to start would be to examine if they were on drugs, as suggested by experts from home and abroad. The FBI wants to conduct a viscera exam of five of the dead killers to see if they were on Captagon, a highly addictive, synthetic drug that produces a euphoric intensity in users, allowing them to stay up for days and slaughter people without fear or conscience. The authorities should extend full cooperation in this regard. There is a need to analyse the chemistry that impelled the killers to act the way they did and help us understand the psyche of the people we are up against.

We are all numbed and shocked by what has happened. And one can imagine the state of mind the families of the victims who suddenly find it hard to breathe. The carnage at the Holy Artisan Bakery should force a rethink of strategy. The indisposition to address the phenomenon in its correct perspective had caused the matter to escalate; acknowledging that there is a serious problem that has been metastasizing is the first step towards solving it.

Illegally tree felling

Unique ways to evade law

EVERY school child learns how trees get their nutrients from the soil and send it to the leaves through the bark in order to make their food. This harmless knowledge is being put to harmful use in Jaldhaka and Dimla upazilas. Thieves, in order to cut down the trees, are first cutting off the barks, which causes the trees to die prematurely. And since felling dead trees is not a serious offence, these criminals are getting away with mass deforestation scot free.

In a country, where lack of forests is a big concern, the trees in question were planted by the forest department on the embankments of the Teesta irrigation canal. Beneficiaries were given the task of maintenance. The project was undertaken jointly by the Water Development Board and the forest department. All in all, a laudable initiative that saw 50 thousand trees planted and grow to maturity. But all the good work is being undone due to the novel practice of felling trees coupled with the shortage of manpower to stop the practice.

In a report on our paper yesterday, the forester of Jaldhaka forest office and the executive engineer of WDB both complained that despite cases filed and appeals to union parishad leaders, there has been no result.

We do not want to see the forestation initiative's good be undone due to shortage of manpower and negligence. We urge the concerned authorities to take preventive action sp these criminals cannot cut off the barks. Suitable steps to take felling of barked trees might also be necessary to stop these criminals.

COMMENTS

"Cameron set to go"

(July 13, 2016)

Zahid Akand

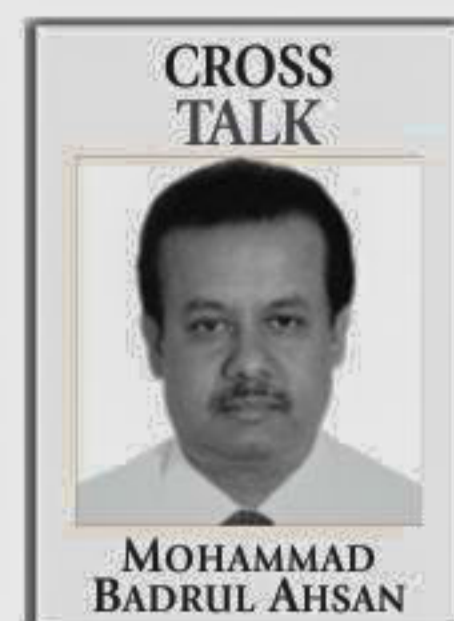
He is such a nice man. Britain certainly lost one of its best PMs of all time.

"The end of Dhaka's innocence"

(July 13, 2016)

Kaisar Moina

This incident doesn't represent Bangladesh as a whole.



CROSS TALK

MOHAMMAD BADRUL AHSAN

ON the first day of this month, which also coincided with the first day of the Eid holidays for many, this nation was punched in the stomach while it was breaking out in laughter. A night of terror descended when this country was ready to relax, clueless of the tense moments lying ahead after the first ever militant attack involving a hostage situation. For the first time, the terror that hovered elsewhere in the world hit close to home and brought many rude awakenings for many of us.

It was nightmare come true for a nation that was proud of its secular ideals and moderate values. Suddenly, many of us have been waking up like Rip Van Winkle to a whole new world where so much had transpired during the long slumber of denial. We now realise our missing sons are turning into monsters. We now wonder why privileged upbringing took three Gulshan café attackers and two Sholakia attackers not to the uplands of virtues but to the quagmires of violence. Suddenly, we know that madrassas aren't the only breeding ground for radical minds. English education doesn't lag behind.

A storm made landfall that Friday night. This storm was brewing for years, not too far off the coast of our collective reckoning, and it was gathering strength between the two islands of intransigence and indifference. And, it has left behind a trail of death and devastation haunting us ever since. This nation is still sorting out what about that gruesome night has shocked it most. Is it the attack itself or the number of people slain? Is it the

identity of the killers, or the identity of the victims?

Political bombast is still gusted across this land in the wake of this terrible tragedy. Our leaders, in their characteristic reflex, are vowing to pull out terrorism by the roots. They insist the hideous slaughter was the work of homegrown militants who will have no place in this country. When the militants struck again at Sholakia within a week, we heard the

scenarios are dangerous, because a downward spiral feeds on itself.

In Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's eponymous novel, an aging Don Quixote decides to set out to revive chivalry, undo wrongs, and bring justice to the world. He calls a windmill a giant and a tavern prostitute a chaste woman as he believes that perception is everything. He understands that even though one may not always be able to control what

what brainwash does. It erases the experience of upbringing and rewrites the rules of engagement.

That rewriting takes place in the personal space of each young mind before it goes to the cyberspace. What appears in the social media, works like rain fall. Water evaporates and vapours rise in the atmosphere before falling to ground as precipitation.

If we ask who is winning, the answer is obvious. Sons are being snatched from their families, defying the gravity of love and affection. What else could have more painfully defeated the families of these misguided boys?

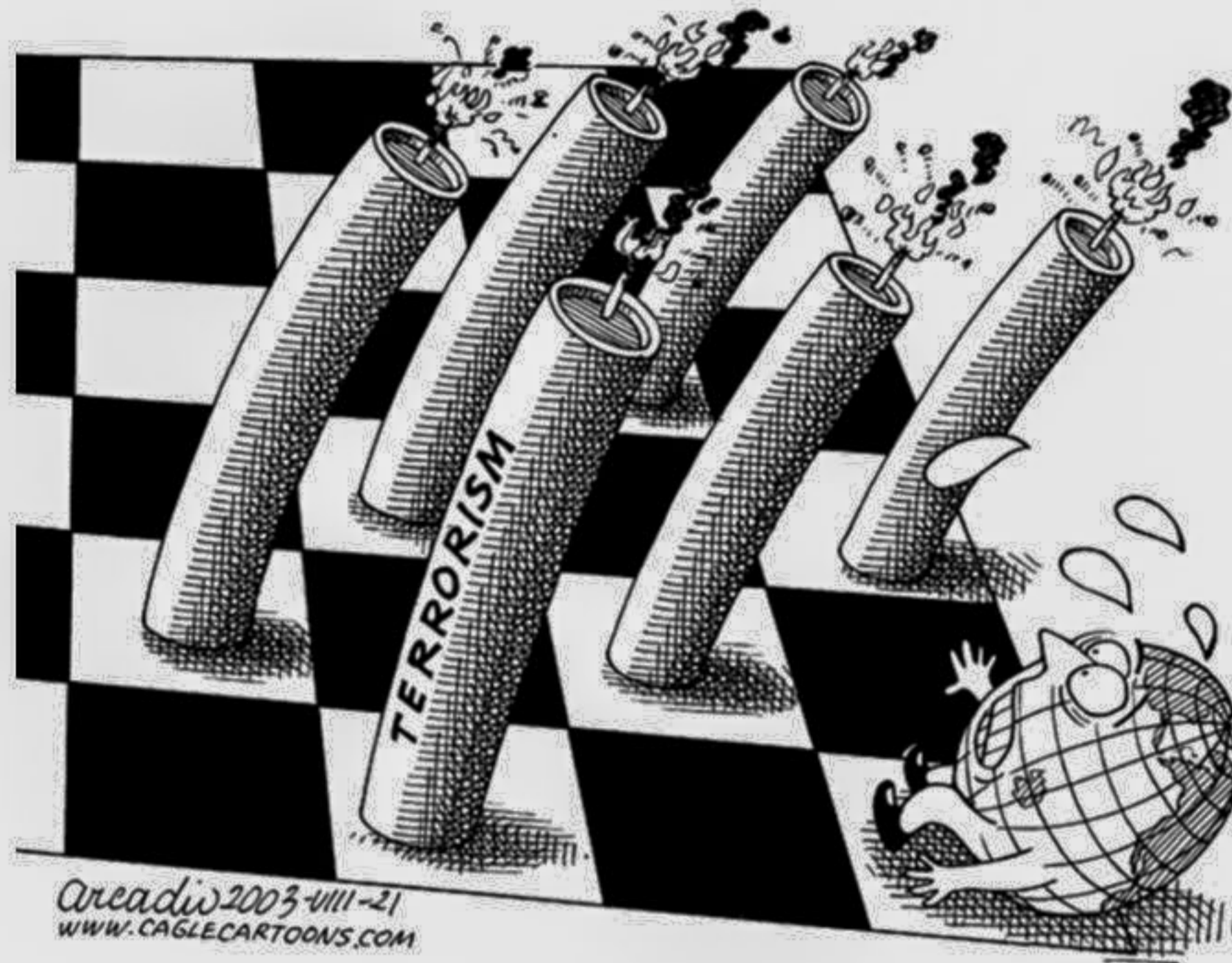
That should tell us that something is evaporating on the ground. We may heave sanctions after sanctions on the social media and draw up the list of missing ones in our neighbourhoods. But that cannot be the solution now that fire has already met gasoline. It's late to improve lifestyle in the advanced stage of cancer.

We refused to see what was coming, and it blindsided us. Greed, lies, corruption, deception, dishonesty, and despair have disillusioned all, hitting most those in their formative years. The older generations have indulged in excesses and some of their sons are seeking corrections. Why they're killing hinges a lot on what's killing (bothering) them.

Terrorism is a suicide note written in blood, encrypted with an algorithm that to kill one must die. And, the next world looks attractive because this world doesn't satisfy. Our sons go missing because they feel lost, returning with bombs and guns to settle their scores with us.

This nation has to come together if it doesn't wish to fall apart.

The writer is the Editor of weekly First News, and an opinion writer for The Daily Star. Email: badrul151@yahoo.com



evocation of the same set of catchphrases all over again.

It's an irony that these two militant attacks came shortly after the crackdown that locked up more than 14,000 suspects. If more militants are on the loose after this roundup, then it has to be one of the two things. Either this country is crawling with them or the wrong people have been put in jail. Both

happens to one, one can control how one perceives it. The way we choose to see the world is how it shall be.

The young minds are getting radicalised because someone or something must be twisting and perverting their perceptions. They are leaving homes in their secret voyage to the dark continents where they are being transformed into killing machines. That's

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Global cooperation as a life-and-death issue



JIM O'NEILL

THE uncertainty generated by the United Kingdom's recent vote to leave the European Union - which has sent shockwaves through global markets - has been dominating headlines. But, as we prepare to face new political trials, we must not lose sight of the challenges we already face, especially global health challenges like the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which has no regard for economic performance or political stability.

As it stands, an estimated 700,000 people are losing their lives to drug-resistant infections each year. By 2050, this figure could skyrocket to ten million per year, at a cumulative cost to world GDP of USD 100 trillion.

To avoid that outcome, in May the Review on AMR that I lead published its strategy for tackling such infections, laying out proposals to ensure the development of the necessary new antibiotics, and to use existing antibiotics more efficiently in humans and agriculture. Of the ten major interventions we proposed, four are particularly important:

- Launch a global campaign, tailored for different regions, to improve public awareness of AMR.
- Address the market failure in the development of new antibiotics by introducing lump-sum market-entry rewards to developers of successful new drugs, while ensuring global access.
- Advance innovation and improve use of diagnostic technology to support more efficient use of antibiotics.
- Implement country-level targets focused on reducing unnecessary use of antibiotics in agriculture and humans.

With our final report complete, the

Review will now continue to make the international case for action directly to political leaders. For example, in my capacity as the Review's Chairman, I recently discussed our recommendations at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, and with United Nations and United States policymakers in New York and Washington, DC.

In these discussions, policymakers' growing awareness of the danger posed by AMR stood out. Just two years ago, the topic of drug-resistant infections would usually be met with questions like "What is AMR?" or, "Why would a finance minister take charge of a health crisis?" Few understood the scale and

another. While high-level meetings and speeches about AMR send the right message, they will mean nothing if we do not manage to translate the current momentum into concrete action, beginning at the G20 and UN meetings this September. And while my most recent discussions suggest that agreements are likely to be reached at both of these meetings, it is far from certain that they will match the scale of the problem.

At the G20, the needed agreement should focus on developing a global mechanism to re-invigorate the market for new antibiotics that are globally affordable, accessible, and used as

broader economic-development strategies, including the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, progress should be measured, not only so that policymakers, companies, and health systems can be held accountable, but also so that others can emulate their successes. To this end, we may need new metrics for calculating the impact of AMR. While this sounds technical (and it is), the reality is that top AMR scientists think that agreeing on common measurements could change the way individual countries set their own targets and improve our capacity to measure progress in the coming years.

Finally, to account for changing political priorities and personalities, we need a constant champion in the fight against AMR. For example, a UN envoy on AMR could be appointed, to continue making the international case for addressing the issue and to challenge countries to meet their targets. Without such a consistent reminder of the need to tackle AMR, not to mention transparency about progress, the world could become sidetracked and miss the rapidly closing window of opportunity to deliver the changes needed to stop the rise of drug-resistant infections.

Over the last couple of years, governments, industry, and international organizations have made important strides in meeting the AMR threat. But the really hard decisions must be taken now. If we are to prevent the slow-motion car crash of rising AMR, our leaders must take evasive action now. We know what we have to do; now we must get on with doing it.

The writer is a former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Commercial Secretary to the UK Treasury, Honorary Professor of Economics at Manchester University, and a visiting research fellow at the economic think tank Bruegel, and Chairman of the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2016. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)

Just two years ago, the topic of drug-resistant infections would usually be met with questions like "What is AMR?" or, "Why would a finance minister take charge of a health crisis?" Few understood the scale and multifaceted nature of the challenge, and thus the need for a comprehensive approach.

multifaceted nature of the challenge, and thus the need for a comprehensive approach. I asked myself similar questions when British Prime Minister David Cameron first asked me to lead the Review on AMR.

The situation has changed considerably since then. Policymakers from countries with a wide variety of economic and political systems are engaging on the AMR problem, with some countries already taking steps to tackle it. All of this provides grounds for hope that 2016 may be the year when real change gets underway.

But hope is one thing; action is

efficiently as possible. At the UN, the goal should be to turn the mantra of "access, not excess" into a reality, with an agreement to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics in agriculture, and to spearhead a global awareness campaign. Increased funding for research and development of new antibiotics and diagnostics to fight AMR is also vital.

Crucially, the agreements must have teeth. Countries should set their own objectives to fit their particular circumstances and needs, but there must be some provisions to ensure that all are pulling their weight. For starters, efforts to fight AMR should be incorporated into

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

One case that deserves suo moto initiative

52 year old Jamal Ibne Musa's herculean efforts resulted in 12-year-old Sonu being reunited with his parents in Delhi recently. In August 2010 Sonu was abducted from his parent's house in Delhi, allegedly by two Bangladeshi women, Rahima Begum and Aklima Begum of Barguna, one of whom had rented a room from Sonu's father.

Claiming Sonu to be their relative, the Bangladeshi duo forced the boy to be their house help. In his third attempt to flee their imprisonment, Sonu ran into Musa, who took the boy under his wing and later produced him before a Barguna court. The court sent

the boy to a local juvenile correction centre. Things, however, got serious for Musa as Sonu's alleged kidnappers filed five cases against Musa, accusing him of abducting the boy. As a result, Musa spent 41 days in jail. After being released on bail, he went to New Delhi and traced Sonu's parents there.

By now Musa has drawn attention of the Indian and Bangladeshi media who dubbed him "Bajirangi Bhaijaan", after the famous Bollywood movie in which the hero takes a speech-impaired Pakistani child, stranded in India, back to her homeland to reunite her with her family, facing many ordeals on the

way.

Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj ensured the repatriation of Sonu. The following report in the TDS (July 01, 2016) summarizes the current state of the saga:

"Asked about the future of the cases since the DNA test proved that Sonu is a son of Mehbub and Madhuri, Barguna Superintendent of Police Bijoy Bashak said the matter was under trial and so he would not comment."

"Replying to a query, he said police were not going to take any action against Sonu's alleged captors."

What a travesty of justice! Musa and his family now fear that they may be implicated and arrested. Is this the way to treat a man who went out of his way to help a child? Where stands the State's motto, "Protect the good and punish the bad"?

I appeal to the higher echelons of our enlightened judiciary to take up this as a suo moto case and bring an end to the suffering of Jamal Ibne Musa.
ABM Nurul Islam
Middletown, Delaware 19709
USA