

# Bodies were 'flying like bowling pins'

Witnesses describe Bastille Day terror

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Survivors of the attack in Nice have described bodies being sent "flying like bowling pins", leaving the road strewn with "streaks of blood".

Local journalist Damien Allemand, who was at the waterside, said the fireworks display had just finished in the French coastal resort and the crowd had got up to leave when they heard a noise and cries.

"A fraction of a second later, an enormous white truck came along at a crazy speed, turning the wheel to mow down the maximum number of people," he said.

"I saw bodies flying like bowling pins along its route. Heard noises, cries that I will never forget."

Wassim Bouhel, a local resident, posted a status on Facebook describing what he had seen. It read: CARNAGE IN NICE, I was there.

"Children dead with their parents and their toys next to them. Pieces of flesh, brains and streaks of blood. That strong odor..."

"Some stopped to cry and others pass by emotionless. Bodies lay under sheets [...]. I saw what no one should see. The first victim was an old Muslim man [...]."

"Some took photos and videos. One man knelt by the body of his wife and child. What a shame, a dishonour for our religion."

Briton Will Shaw told BBC Radio 4: "It was quite chaotic really."

"There was a lot of people screaming, running around and people were kind of being pushed over, I think, from people just being so frightened about what was going on especially after hearing the gunshots."

"I had to help a couple of people up who were in distress on the floor because everyone was in such a panic."

Amina Ivlev, from Moscow, uploaded a video to her Instagram account following the incident.

"Tomorrow it will be all over the news, but let me tell you what I saw today," she said in Russian.

"Today, France has been celebrating Bastille Day and the French people will remember this day for a very long time because everyone who was out on the street celebrating the holiday stood and witnessed a lorry driving into people and people getting shot."

"I was about 10 metres away and these images will stay with me until the end of my life. I will never again go out into a crowd like that."

"I will just sit at home and be haunted by this. Tomorrow we'll know how many dead there will be... enough."

Kevin Harris watched the attack unfold from his balcony.

He told the BBC: "I saw what appeared to be bodies in the lying in the road."

"I spoke to my neighbour who said the lorry had ploughed through the people."

"It's a terrible scene." Another eyewitness said there was no security when the lorry began ploughing into crowds.

"There was no security and it took firefighters close to half an hour to arrive on the scene," the man told Euronews.

"The truck was there on the promenade and then they shot the driver. The truck mounted the curb, accelerating into the crowd as it ran over everyone on its way."

## Good start

FROM PAGE 1  
Hafiz Moulana Asjod Ahmed, imam of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) Shrine Mosque told The Daily Star that he had not received any copy from Islamic Foundation. But he spoke against militancy in his speech before the prayer.

Contacted, Farid Uddin Ahmed, divisional director of Islamic Foundation in Sylhet, said they could not circulate the copies of the sermon among all the mosques. But, in a workshop arranged by the foundation on Thursday, around a thousand imams were informed about it, he said.

Imams of major mosques of Nilphamari district and its upazilas read out the common sermon and explained the issue as well. But in distant areas, some imams just read out the written text without explaining anything, reports our Nilphamari correspondent.

Imams of mosques in Barisal, Benapole, Patuakhali and Manikganj told our local correspondents that they were not given any copies. Hafez Harun, imam of a Chittagong mosque under Kotwali Police Station, said he too did not receive any copy of the sermon.

The idea of the common sermon (khubta) came in efforts to create awareness against terrorism and militancy following recent Holey Artisan siege on July 1 and Sholakia attack on Eid day. The incidents left more than two dozen people killed.

# 'We're under pressure'

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League rejected BNP's call for the unity, Fakhru walked away without any comment.

BNP insiders said there were opposing views on Jamaat in the party. Some think the move may fall flat if Jamaat is invited to the initiative.

BNP is already in the process of forging a national unity to fight against terrorism in the country, said Fakhru.

"BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has already called for a national unity against terrorism and militancy, and as part of her efforts, she has begun talks with people from all quarters," the BNP leader said.

Khaleda will set a strategy on the basis of the outcomes of the talks, he said.

A day after the Holey Artisan siege, the BNP chief at a press conference called upon all to unite against terrorism without further delay.

She later sat with the BNP-led 20-party alliance chiefs who suggested holding a national convention.

Khaleda also sat with pro-BNP intellectuals and professionals at her Gulshan office on Thursday and they told her that her move to unite the nation against terrorism would not succeed if Jamaat, a key component of the BNP-led alliance, did not apologise to the nation for its role during the Liberation War.

If Jamaat refuses to do so, the BNP should form a platform excluding the Islamist party, they told the BNP chief.

During the 1971 Liberation War, Jamaat opposed the birth of Bangladesh. There are allegations that the party sponsors various militant outfits, something it denies.

## Turkey army

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Who represents the group remains uncertain.

But Mr Yildirim told NTV by telephone: "We are working on the possibility of an attempt. We will not allow this attempt."

"Those who are in this illegal act will pay the highest price," he added, saying it would not be correct to describe the move as a "coup".

He said: "There was an illegal act by a group within the military that was acting out of the chain of military command. Our people should know that we will not allow any activity that would harm democracy."

There are reports Turkey's top general has been taken hostage at the military HQ.

Turkey has had a history of coup attempts, the last time being carried out in 1997, which forced the resignation of then-prime minister Nurettin Erbakan.

# 7-yr-old son shows signs

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treatment now," said his grandfather Musharraf Hossain.

The boy responds negatively to all questions and says things that do not make any sense, he told this correspondent yesterday after the chehlu (the marking of 40 days of someone's death) of Mitu at his residence at Khilgaon in the city.

Three assailants on a motorcycle hacked and then shot Mitu to death in front of Akter Mahmud Maheer some 200 yards from their house near GEC Intersection in Chittagong on June 5.

One of the assailants held Maheer as Mitu, wife of SP Babul Akter, was stabbed and shot. After the assailants let go of him, Maheer ran towards his house from the bloody spot.

Babul, who is credited with busting several militant dens and arresting several top militants, is now attached to the police headquarters.

Following Mitu's murder, he was picked up from his father-in-law's house and interrogated for 15 hours at the Detective Branch office on Minto

Road over his alleged link to the murder.

Police and family sources said Babul signed his resignation letter while in custody as he was left with two options -- face trial for his alleged link or quit job.

It came after some suspects reportedly told investigators that they killed Mitu on Babul's instructions.

Police authorities or investigators did not officially make any comment about it.

The resignation letter, however, is yet to be formally submitted to the police headquarters, sources said.

Asked if Babul indeed resigned, his father-in-law, himself a former police official, yesterday said he was not aware about it because Babul did not say anything in this regard.

Replying to another query, he said, "I think he is still in the job because according to newspaper reporters the resignation letter in question was not submitted."

Asked why Babul does not go to office, Musharraf said he had no idea about that.

# A tedious journey

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The female elephant got separated from her herd in Assam and came to Bangladesh through Kurigram's Chilmari upazila on June 27, said forest officials.

Until yesterday evening, she travelled up to Sariakandi in Bogra through the Jamuna river after crossing several Brahmaputra chars in Jamalpur, they said.

Wildlife officials from Bangladesh have been in contact with their Indian counterparts, but steps to rescue the animal seem not just enough.

"Our officials from the forest department have been following the elephant since it entered Bangladesh. We have already written to the wildlife officials in India," said Asit Ranjan Paul, conservator of forest (wildlife) at the Department of Forest.

The elephant was seen in a char area of Chikajani union in Jamalpur's Dewanganj on July 11.

Entering Jamalpur through Kholabarichar area in Chikajani

union, she moved from one char to another and took shelter in Tinerghar area under Chukaibari union of the upazila on Wednesday and was there till Thursday, said Saiful Islam, UNO of Dewanganj upazila.

Later, villagers drove the elephant away from Hagra, a char having inhabitants, after it damaged three houses and destroyed crops on 25 to 30 bighas of land, said Salim Khan, chairman of Chukaibari union parishad.

A team from Mymensingh forest division visited the spot and tried to tranquillise and capture it but could not do so for "the sake of her safety," said Gobinda Roy, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Mymensingh.

The animal moved away from there and was seen in Harirampur char area in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra later on Thursday afternoon, said Aynal Haque, forest ranger of Bogra forest division.

A three-member expert team from the forest department in Assam is expected to reach the spot "soon" to rescue the animal, added the DFO.

# Confusion over

FROM PAGE 16  
On the other side, the road transport and bridges ministry on July 11 held a meeting at the ministry's conference where officials evaluated the government's traffic management mechanism during the Eid rush.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told the meeting that 42 people were killed during Eid holidays, according to a press release of the ministry.

The government report was prepared on the basis of information of the ministry's control room that monitored traffic situation across the country round the clock during the Eid holidays, said officials concerned.

However, according to The Daily Star's independent findings, 52 people were killed in road accidents between July 5 and July 9.

Road accidents killed 40 people last year, 67 in 2014, 52 in 2013, 42 in 2012, 38 in 2011 and 63 in 2010, according to The Daily Star research.

The report of Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association has meanwhile come up with several recommendations to reduce road accidents.

The recommendations include checking speed on the highways and overloading, stopping plying of unfit vehicles, regular training of drivers, building public awareness, constructing separate lanes for slow moving vehicles and modernisation of driving licence issuing system.

Talking to The Daily Star, road

safety activist Ekram Ahmed, also former chairman of the Public Service Commission (PSC), suggested that penalty for violators of traffic rules should be increased to bring discipline in the road transport sector.

He also demanded that the government introduce effective measures to expand and popularise waterways and rail network across the country.

## Oil spillage

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Chittagong DoE, while talking to this correspondent over the mobile phone yesterday.

The accident occurred as the engine of Arzu went out of order and it collided with the Mercantile-19, he added.

On Wednesday, a hearing between the authorities of the two ships was held at the Chittagong office of the DoE to primarily assess the extent of pollution.

Meanwhile, a mobile court of the Chittagong Port Authority fined oil tanker Arzu Tk one lakh for polluting Karnaphuli's water on Monday under the CPA ordinance 1976.

Director of Chittagong DoE Azadur Rahman said they have asked the authorities of both oil tankers to be present at a hearing at its office on Monday. "We will see by which law the port authority fined them. And if further legal actions are needed in this regard, we will take action," said the DoE director.

## BCL to form

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held responsible for militant activities of a few students. There are also problems of extremist ideologies among the students of public universities, they added.

Speakers at the programme said the militant attacks mean holding back the fast progress of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They also called upon around 20 lakh BCL activists to establish strong resistance by strengthening their committees across the country.

The programme was organised by the BCL central committee at Bangladesh University of Textiles auditorium.

The meeting was organised against the backdrop of two recent militant attacks -- one at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on July 1 and the other near Sholakia Eid congregation on July 7 -- that killed over two dozens people, including foreigners.

The repeated attacks have rocked the country, drawing global attention. Some of the attackers were found to be former students of an English medium school and a reputed private university.

Apart from those two large-scale attacks, religious minorities, progressive writers and bloggers came under attacks.

Addressing the programme as the chief guest, Mirza Azam said the Private University Act-2010 has no provision that restricts politics in the universities.

"Then why the Chhatra League was not able to form committees in the last six years?" he questioned.

Azam, who was a parliamentary standing committee member on education ministry between 2009 and 2014, said most of about 40 private universities approved before 2005 were owned by the BNP-Jamaat men.

Ranging from teachers to staff of those universities, most were Jamaat-minded, he alleged, adding that it was very likely that those universities inspired rightist ideologies.

Since 2009, the ruling AL government approved over 40 private universities, which Azam claimed, were owned by progressive people.

"Now there is a balance," he said, adding that there are about eight lakh students in the private universities; they do not have any political ambition.

"In that case, it is natural that militants would be created there," said Azam, also a central AL League leader.

He alleged that there are many private universities that make money by "selling certificates". They can't do it if student politics is there, he added.

The state minister also claimed that the conspirators of the Bangabandhu killing were basically behind the rise of militancy in Bangladesh.

Azam also said the banned Islamist parties -- Ansarullah Bangla Team, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) or Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) -- are all branches of Jamaat-e-Islami that opposed the very birth of Bangladesh.

Former BCL president Liaquat Sikder claimed that a few students of some private universities were involved in Hizb ut-Tahrir activities, but the authorities of those institutions did not play their due role in stopping this.

He advised the BCL leadership to select talented and regular students for the committees in the private universities so that others get inspiration to join student politics.

Former BCL president HM Badiuzzaman Sohag, Dhaka University's IBA Associate Professor Rezaul Karim, Independent University of Bangladesh Lecturer Mehedi Mansur, East West University Lecturer Mamun Al Rashid and BCL General Secretary SM Jakir Hossain, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## No schooling

FROM PAGE 16  
UNESCO said while primary and lower secondary education are compulsory in nearly every country, upper secondary school is not. Also, it said older children are often of legal working age.

It said globally 15 million girls of primary school age will never attend classes compared with about 10 million boys, and more than half those girls live in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Gonojagoron

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But now we have become puzzled as the students of so-called secular private universities are being involved in militancy."

Urging the law enforcement agencies to stop crossfire, he said "Through killing the suspects, important information is being covered up."

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salih Kendra, urged people to raise their voices against militancy in Bangladesh and uphold it from the country which inherits the ideology of the Liberation War.

Gonojagoron Mancha also announced to hold protest rallies at 4:00pm countrywide on Wednesday and bring out mass processions on Friday.

# Extra security

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diplomatic facilities, diplomats and their families, and nationals living in Bangladesh, added the diplomat.

Sources said the Japanese embassy in Dhaka sought police protection for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in the capital and its project sites across the country.

Meanwhile, security at the three international airports has been strengthened with Armed Police Battalion personnel carrying out security checks at various entry points at the airports.

"Our security personnel were trained by international security experts. They are capable of thwarting any subversive activity," a top official at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

On July 1, the country witnessed an unprecedented terrorist attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's diplomatic zone where gunmen killed 20 hostages and two police officers during a 12-hour siege.

Six days later, suspected militants carried out an attack on a police checkpoint near Sholakia Eidgah where two policemen, a resident in the area and an alleged attacker were killed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said various plots are there to carry out more terrorist attacks in the country.

On July 11, Road Transport and Highways Division wrote to the home ministry, asking it to strengthen security at several sites where many foreign nationals work.

The letter said four Japanese companies are working for the Kanchpur, Meghna and Gumti bridge projects and the Existing Bridges Rehabilitation Project.

"Against the backdrop of the recent incidents in the country, the companies and the consultancy firm have

expressed deep concern over security. For the sake of security of the foreign nationals involved in the projects, it is necessary to strengthen security at the project sites," it read.

The number of foreign nationals working in the projects would reach 150 by December, it added.

MAN Siddique, secretary at the road transport and bridges ministry, said, "We have taken heightened security measures where foreign nationals are working for our projects."

Security has also been beefed up at their workplace and residences, he said. "We have enhanced security for them on our own, taking into account the prevailing situation in the country."

Quazi Mohammad Ferdous, project director of Dhaka Elevated Expressway where many foreign nationals work as consultants, said, "Additional police personnel have already been deployed for their security."

"We also advised the foreign nationals to enhance security at their office by putting up fences and watch-towers and installing CCTV cameras. We will sit with them soon to discuss security issues."

The Daily Star correspondents recently visited the diplomatic zone and found that plying of rickshaws was restricted on almost all roads and a large number of law enforcers stood guard in front of different embassies.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, assistant commissioner (Gulshan zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they set up six checkpoints in addition to existing 12 after the Holey Artisan incident. Besides, 17 patrol teams have been deployed in the diplomatic zone.

He refuted the claims that security was lax in the diplomatic zone before the terrorist attack.

"We always remain alert while on duty. We have intensified our surveillance after the attack," he added.

# Trump picks Mike Pence

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bid to win the White House in the Nov 8 election.

"I am pleased to announce that I have chosen Governor Mike Pence as my Vice Presidential running mate. News conference tomorrow at 11:00 AM," Trump said in a tweet.

Trump had faced a midday deadline to announce Pence because the governor had to declare by then whether he would be on the ballot in his home state for re-election.

Trump, a New York businessman who has never held elected office, had chosen Pence from a short list that included two other finalists, former House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

Trump said on Thursday he postponed his planned announcement yesterday out of respect for the victims in Nice, France. An attacker in a heavy truck drove into crowds celebrating Bastille Day, killing at least 84 people and injuring scores more in what President Francois Hollande called a terrorist act.

Trump, 70, is set to be formally nominated as the party's candidate for

the presidential election at the convention in Cleveland. Traditionally, the vice presidential choice is used to build enthusiasm among party loyalists.

The Republican National Committee expects the convention to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland and US authorities were preparing for the possibility of violence - whether from demonstrators or planned attacks.

The Cleveland gathering and the Democratic Party Convention the following week in Philadelphia have been given the status of special national security event by the federal government for the first time and security will be heightened, said Republican Party spokesman Sean Spicer.

"They're just going to make sure that it's the safest place on Earth for the guests, the attendees, the delegates and the media," Spicer told CNN.

The Department of Homeland Security will send more than 3,000 personnel to each convention, Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Thursday, speaking before the Nice attack. No specific or credible threat to either gathering has been reported, he said.

# Man quits job

FROM PAGE 16  
Pokemon to collect. He has already booked bus trips to various destinations around New Zealand, from Invercargill in the country's South Island all the way up to Cape Reinga in North Island.

When Newshub interviewed him two days ago, Tom had already managed to capture 90 of the 151 Pokemon released in the popular Nintendo app.

"I wanted to have an adventure," Currie said. "I have been working for six years and I was desperate for a break. And Pokemon gave me the chance to live that dream."

He has been hunting the elusive creatures in augmented reality for little over a week and says the experience so far has been both exhilarating and exhausting. One more than one occasion he stayed up until 3 in the morning catching Pokemon, but he says he sleeps deeply now thanks to the many miles he walks every day.

The mobile game allows users to find digital Pokemon hiding the real

world, and walk long distances in certain directions to locate the elusive creatures, using GPS. They then attempt to capture them by throwing virtual pokeballs at them using their smartphones.

"It keeps track of how far you've walked and I've done around 50 km so far, and that's with the actual game, walking away, logging away," Tom Currie said. "I'm level 20 at the moment, which was the highest I'd seen until I came to Christchurch, there's some better players here."

"There were about 100 people there hunting," Tom said about his experience in Sumner, Christchurch, which has become a hot spot for Pokemon hunters.

Tom has so far managed to travel across New Zealand, hunting for Pokemon, on the cheap, sleeping on friends' couches or in crowded backpacker dorms, but his epic journey has attracted a lot of attention in the country.

# Temple security

FROM PAGE 16  
Ranjit Das and Babul both confirmed this correspondent that they have received such letters in the mail on Thursday. The same night Ranjit filed a general diary with Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station.

Ranjit told this correspondent that the envelopes bore postage seals of Saikat Post Office in Cox's Bazar town and address of the sender was not mentioned in any of the letters.

Shyamol Kumar Nath, superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, said they were taking all necessary measures to ensure security of the temples as well as the security of the recipients of death threats. They are also working on identifying the sender of the threat

mails, he added.

NATORE THREAT  
Meanwhile, two identical anonymous death threats were received in the mail on Thursday by two Hindu government officials of Naldanga in Natore.

The officials are Porimal Kumar, upazila primary education officer of Naldanga and Subir Dutta, officer in charge of Naldanga Police Station.

Porimal has filed a general diary on Thursday night upon receiving the mail, said Subir confirming that he also has received a similar threat letter.

Sharmin Akter Jahan, upazila nirbahi officer of Naldanga, said the administration is looking into the matter seriously and investigation is underway.