

# Eerie experience

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talked to guardians and teachers on the issue.

Guardians have welcomed the measures taken by the schools, but they think those are inadequate and a bit chaotic. Some of them even questioned the effectiveness of the security arrangements.

They observed that educational institutions should have well-managed security systems with deployment of armed guards.

Several schools said they had sought police deployment at the institutions, but didn't get positive response from the authorities concerned.

Asked, Dhaka Metropolitan Police officials said it was not possible for them to deploy police at every private establishment for lack of manpower.

The DMP has advised the school authorities to apply for deployment of armed Ansar members if necessary.

Following back-to-back attacks at a Gulshan café in the capital and Sholakia in Kishoreganj, there have been serious security concerns among guardians and school authorities, particularly those of English medium and missionary schools.

They found themselves in an uncomfortable situation after government officials warned of further militant attacks. Some schools reportedly received threats as well.

Most of the English medium schools were supposed to reopen at the end of July after vacation, but many of those didn't till mid-August due to security concerns.

A number of schools in Dhanmondi have installed CCTV cameras, archways with metal detectors and increased the number of security guards for frisking whoever enters the schools.

But many of the guardians are still sceptical.

"There are only two or three unarmed security guards here. One of them is busy controlling traffic. How can they [guards] ward off an untoward incident?" asked the guardian of two students at a leading English medium school.

Private security guards, in most cases, are not well-equipped or well-trained, and they don't have much experience in dealing with a difficult situation, he said.

"We think deployment of law enforcers is needed to ensure security."

Echoing his view, another guardian of a class-VIII student at the school, said though the school authorities had taken some measures to ensure security, it would have been better if policemen were deployed there.

On condition of anonymity, the father of a class VII student of a nearby school, said, "I am happy to see that the school authorities have taken some security measures."

He, however, said security at the school should be strengthened further.

Some guardians think the security initiatives of school authorities, in many cases, are not arranged in a systematic way and often cause troubles for children.

"The checking of students' bags with handheld metal detectors results in a long queue at the gate. It is difficult for

children to stand in the line for long with heavy school bags," one of the guardians said, adding that the schools should employ more security guards for the purpose.

The father of a student at a leading missionary school in Mohammadpur termed "chaotic" the checking procedure at the school.

"The entrance to the school is very narrow... The children have to stand in a long queue when security check goes on. A sudden panic among the students over a rumour or even a tyre blow-out may cause a stampede-like situation," he said.

A woman, whose daughter studies in class-V at another English medium school in Uttara, said the students have to go through screening with metal detectors and checking of bags. It is even issuing identity cards for the guardians.

"Parents are also advised to check their children's bags frequently and are not even allowed to enter the school premises," she said.

The vice principal of one of the schools, said, "We gave training to our guards, installed CCTV cameras on our campuses and provided the guardians of the students with special cards to ensure security."

The vice principal said they sought police protection but the authorities asked them to contact Ansar.

"We have already contacted the Ansar authorities, but they are yet to respond."

Asked whether they would impose additional charges for security arrangements, she said, "We have not yet decided on it. But the guardians have said they are ready to pay more for their children's security."

A senior teacher at another school said they have taken security measures on their own as per police instructions.

Talking to The Daily Star, eminent security expert Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hussain said there should be coordination among law enforcers and the school authorities to enhance the security measures.

"Police should not avoid the responsibility of providing security to schools. If police do so, people will lose confidence in them," he said. "LACK OF MANPOWER" With a large number of its personnel already engaged in providing security for important installations, it was not possible for the DMP to meet requests from all private establishments for giving them police personnel, said DMP officials.

"We have been trying our best within our capacity to ensure security for the city dwellers," Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of the DMP, told this newspaper recently.

"We are getting an increasing number of requests for providing security personnel. It is not possible for us to meet all those."

"We are requesting them to beef up security measures on their own."

Another DMP official said the measures include installation of CCTV cameras at strategic points of establishments, conducting search with metal detectors, raising the height of bound-

ary walls and putting up barbed wire fences and maintaining register books for visitors.

The DMP advised private establishments to employ adequate number of security guards and seek deployment of armed Ansar members if necessary, added the official.

Contacted, Maj Gen Mijanur Rahman Khan, director general of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP, said they had received many applications for providing security.

"We have enough manpower and will provide them with Ansar men following due procedure," he added.

(We are not using the names of schools, students, parents and teachers for security reasons.)

## Bangladesh

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six regions) in maternal mortality rate and 64 percent fall in under-five child mortality rate, according to the WHO.

In recognition of the region's efforts by all the 11 member states including Bangladesh, the WHO on Tuesday handed the achievement certificates to the health ministers of the members states in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where the five-day South-East Regional Committee meeting is underway.

The certificates were given for successful elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. In WHO term, elimination does not mean zero cases, but achieving a set target.

Zahid Maleque, Bangladesh state minister for health, received the award from WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan and Regional Director Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh.

In Bangladesh, maternal mortality came down to 176 per 100,000 live births in 2015 from about 399 in 2000 -- the fourth highest drop in the region, WHO data shows.

Over the same period, the mortality rate of children aged under five fell to nearly 38 from 88 per 1,000 live births, and that of neonatal to 23 from 42.

One reason is that more and more mothers are now being attended by skilled health personnel during pregnancy.

Last year, 42 percent births were attended by such skilled professionals, up from 18 percent in 2007, according to the WHO country statistics.

Another driver has been the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health coverage.

In the last five years, child immunisation and family planning coverage reached 94 percent and 73 percent respectively, which is among the highest in the region.

However, challenges remain for Bangladesh and the WHO South-East Asia Region, which accounts for 26 percent of the world's population and about 36 percent of the total annual births reported globally.

The regional decline in maternal and child mortality rates still fall short of the MDGs target of 75 percent reduction of maternal mortality and 67 percent reduction of child mortality.

## 2 couples

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intelligence and information gleaned from suspected militants in custody.

A Rab-2 team detained Aminul, Shariful and Sumi at a restaurant in the city's Farmgate around 12:30am yesterday.

After extracting information from the detainees, Rab men picked up Nahida from a house in Narayanganj around 3:00am, said the Rab official.

The four were paraded before the media during the press conference.

According to Mahmud, the detainees during primary interrogation admitted that they were preparing to flee the country as they were cornered due to the recent anti-militant drives by law enforcers.

"Their probable destination was Pakistan," said the Rab official.

The four had their own fund and were also looking for money from abroad to leave the country, he added.

Responding to a question from a journalist, he said the detainees named some people who guided them and gave them money.

The Rab team also seized three cell phones, CDs, some leaflets and jihadi books from the detainees' possession, claimed Mahmud.

The Rab director said the four were motivated for militancy through internet and social media networks such as Facebook.

A few other group members of Sumi's acquaintance had motivated her to join the group through sharing jihad-related conversations and posts, added the official.

The detainees used messaging apps Threema and Telegram to keep in touch with themselves and other operatives, said Mahmud, adding that the four contacted several other similar minded groups, each having four to five members.

The Rab official said some of the groups were ready to carry out targeted attacks. Members of these groups are highly motivated and well trained. They looked after recruitment of new members and selection of operatives who would carry out attacks.

Aminul from Sherpur is also a trainer of the militant outfit. A father of two children, he studied up to eighth grade. He married Nahida, a post-graduate in Botany from a Narayanganj college, on May 22 so that they could run the organisational activities smoothly, added Mahmud.

The official said the detainees were acquaintances of Faizullah Fahim, a suspected militant who had attacked a Madaripur teacher. Faizullah along with the four had training on militancy at different places.

Faizullah was killed in a "gun-fight" between criminals and police in Madaripur on June 18.

## Risk low in sacrificial

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slaughtered the animal and consumed its meat, had been infected with anthrax a few days later, said Abdur Rahman, health assistant of Char Koizuri Union Health and Family Welfare Centre.

"Eight of the patients are yet to recover as they have deep scars in their back, head and legs. They are kept under observation," he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Delbar said he had no idea about anthrax, and had not had his cow vaccinated.

Mazed Islam, another villager, alleged that five cattle in the village died due to the livestock department's failure to treat them. He said he had incurred a huge loss with the death of his bull worth around Tk 1.1 lakh.

A total of 379 people have been infected with anthrax in Sirajganj, Meherpur, Tangail and Kushtia as of August 30 this year, said Professor Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

The highest number of infection was reported in Sirajganj, one of the biggest cattle producing districts in the country. Some 182 people were infected with anthrax there.

Cattle can get infected while grazing and die within 24-48 hours, epidemiologists said. Those who come in contact with diseased animal and consume the meat can get infected.

However, infection in human can be treated with antibiotics -- ciprofloxacin, doxycycline and phenoxymethyl penicillin, according to IEDCR.

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. The bacteria rest in the soil and can survive for 60 to 100 years in that state. They cannot be destroyed.

Therefore, mass vaccination of cattle, stopping slaughter of the infected ones and thorough health check-up of cattle are a must to prevent anthrax infection, experts say.

However, there are lapses in taking preventive measures.

"As there will be more mobility of cattle [ahead of Eid], the risks [of anthrax transmission] are higher," said Mushtuq Husain, former principal scientific officer of IEDCR.

The risks are greater in rural areas as farmers and traders can sense the disease in their cattle and slaughter them before they die, he said.

**RISKS LOWER IN DHAKA**

The risk is lower in the capital, as an animal dies within 24 to 48 hours after being infected. A cow may die on the way or just after landing in a marketplace in the city, said Mushtuq.

He, however, said unscrupulous traders could manage to slaughter diseased animals if there is a lax monitoring.

SK Shaheenur Islam, livestock officer at the Department of Livestock Services in Dhaka, echoed the view. He, however, said the livestock department in Dhaka has formed 22 teams to monitor cattle markets.

**RISKS HIGHER IN AFFECTED DISTRICTS**

Sirajganj District Livestock Officer (DLO) Aktaruzzaman Bhuiyan said

livestock officials and medical teams were working in the field level to prevent trading of diseased animals.

These correspondents, however, did not see any livestock official while visiting three cattle markets in Shahzadpur, Talgasi and Ullapara last week.

Eyakub Ali, a lessee of Ullapara cattle market, said that although livestock officials are supposed to visit the busy Eid cattle market, they were yet to start monitoring.

Asked, DLO Aktaruzzaman said the teams would be active a week before Eid when the sale of cattle in the markets gains momentum.

He admitted that it was not possible for them to check every animal due to a shortage of staff.

Mushtuq Hussain said livestock officials must conduct health checkups of cattle but a section of officials allegedly certify cattle for bribes.

**VACCINATION NOT ENOUGH**

Mushtuq said mass vaccination of cattle in the affected districts should be the top priority to eliminate the disease in 10 years.

Aktaruzzaman claimed that around 7 lakh out of 9.75 lakh cows in Sirajganj were vaccinated. He, however, said 15-20 percent cows have not been vaccinated.

He said the livestock department vaccinates cattle for free. Many farmers, however, alleged that they paid Tk 40-60 for vaccination of a cow.

Shaheenur Islam said the annual production of vaccines in the country is 50 lakh, which is not adequate for mass vaccination of cattle in the affected districts.

## Pilot flies

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The AirAsia X Airbus A330 had been destined for Kuala Lumpur when it took off from Sydney in March 2015, but instead it ended up 444 miles away. A new report into the incident by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has found that the pilot entered the incorrect flight information into the plane's navigation system.

The ATSB found that the problem had occurred when the captain set up the aircraft's flight management and guidance system, entering the wrong longitudinal position of the aircraft.

"Despite a number of opportunities to identify and correct the error, it was not noticed until after the aircraft became airborne and started tracking in the wrong direction," the report stated.

The crew were then found to have identified a problem with the on-board navigation systems, but their attempts to rectify the situation were fruitless. After electing to "discontinue" the flight over the error, the plane was unable to return to Sydney due to bad weather and instead was forced to land in Melbourne.

The plane and its passengers were then held at Melbourne airport for three hours. It finally took off for its original destination in Malaysia six hours behind schedule.

## Victim

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Meanwhile, Babul's mother-in-law Shahida Mosharraf said she wants the killers of her daughter be brought to book but is afraid, as her son-in-law might become a victim again.

She said her two grandchildren were still reeling from the shock of losing their mother.

"They frequently ask why their mother is not returning home," Shahida told The Daily Star.

She said her elder grandchild, aged seven, had stopped going to school since the killing of his mother.

The boy has also become mentally disturbed, as the killing happened in front of his eyes, Shahida said.

The child, however, was improving as he started reading books at home.

Shahida said they were planning to get both the children enrolled in school soon.

Babul has been relieved of his job on Tuesday, bringing an end to confusion over his job status since he "tendered" resignation to the police headquarters three months ago.

He came under the spotlight after the brutal murder of his wife.

On June 5, three assailants stabbed and shot Mitu to death after she had left her OR Nizam Road home on foot around 6:35am to put her son on a school bus at GEC Intersection in Chittagong.

## No deal

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consultations with Bangladesh for exporting it."

The PTI report added that exports to Bangladesh would also aid CIL in increasing sales, as India in July inked a landmark deal with Bangladesh to construct a 1,320 MW coal-fired power plant, the biggest project under bilateral cooperation.

## Pak assembly at it again

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Pakistan's National Assembly demanded the government to seriously raise at all the international forums the sentencing of political opponents in Bangladesh.

The House adopted the resolution with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair, according to a report of Radio Pakistan.

Pakistan had earlier issued similar statements and adopted resolutions in national parliament and provincial assembly after the execution of war criminals to which Bangladesh had reacted by summoning its high commissioners to the foreign office.

The Bangladesh government earlier made it clear that Pakistan has no scope for making any comments on the trial of war criminals in Bangladesh as the entire trials were open, transparent and there was scope for appeal. Like other executed Jamaat leaders, Mir Quasem availed the opportunity of

appeal before the highest court.

The government said Mir Quasem was tried for specific crimes he committed during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

On the tripartite agreement, Bangladesh foreign ministry's note verbale to the Pakistan envoy stated that in no way the 1974 agreement had given clemency to the Bangladeshi war criminals, including the members of Razakar, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams.

Even after the 1974 agreement and until the end of 1975, a large number of Bangladeshi war criminals were in different jails of Bangladesh facing trials, and Pakistan had never expressed its concerns by relating those trials with the 1974 agreement, the note said.

The Pakistani diplomat was reminded that Pakistan continues to present a misleading, limited and partial interpretation of the underlying premise of the 1974 agreement, which is unacceptable

to Bangladesh.

The essential spirit of the agreement was to create an environment of good neighbourliness and peaceful co-existence and for ushering in long-term stability and shared prosperity in the region.

The "clemency" mentioned in the agreement never implied that the masterminds and perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide would continue to enjoy impunity and eschew the course of justice.

The tripartite agreement in no way restricted Bangladesh from prosecuting its own nationals for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, the foreign ministry said.

The scope of the 1974 agreement was limited to repatriation of 195 Pakistani war criminals and remaining Pakistani prisoners of war, and the return of the Bangladeshes stranded inside Pakistan, the note verbale said.

## It reflected the criminalisation

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incidents of such barbaric murders are very few. The incident clearly reflected the criminalisation of politics," the HC said.

It said there was no tendency among political parties to shun party activists who practice such barbaric indiscipline. "Rather in many cases, the political parties are dependent on this type of rowdy workers which is a large obstacle to development and practice of healthy political culture."

If this went on, it would obstruct the establishment of the rule of law in the country. "Social safety would be threatened."

The HC said, "This case not only reflected a barbaric killing, but also clearly showed how the politics has been criminalised and how such criminalisation has given strength and

courage to the perpetrators of crime."

"If Ahsanullah Master was alive, he would have had more opportunities to dedicate himself to people's welfare by playing a role in parliament. He could have continued his good work. The society and the country could have benefited. The sentenced accused, by killing Ahsanullah Master, have deprived the society, nation and the people of his constituency the opportunity to march on the road of prosperity. Alongside the murder of an individual, ideals and moral spirit have been killed. Ideal politicians like Ahsanullah Master are rare in society."

The HC on June 15 upheld the death penalties of six people, including a central Jubo Dal leader, for killing Ahsanullah Master, a decade after a court sentenced 22 people to death and six others to

life-term in prison.

The government could now move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC verdict that acquitted 11 people. The HC had also commuted capital punishment of seven convicts to life imprisonment, upheld life-term imprisonment of two.

The convicts could also appeal to the apex court seeking acquittal of the charge.

Two convicts have died. Of the rest, 10 are in jail and five on the run.

The criminals shot and killed Ahsanullah, a freedom fighter, and Omar Faruq Ratan, a student, during a rally of Swachhchhabak League, a pro-Awami League body, at Noagaon near the MP's home in Tongi on May 7, 2004.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director & General Manager (Project)  
Construction of Single Line Dual Gauge Railway Track from  
Dohazari to Cox's Bazar via Ramu and Ramu to Gundum near Myanmar  
Bangladesh Railway

**Request for Expression of Interest  
(Firm) (National)**

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Railways.
2	Agency	: Bangladesh Railway.
3	Procuring entity name	: Project Director & General Manager (Project).
4	Procuring entity code	: 5131
5	Procuring entity district	: Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.
6	Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of	: Management Consultancy Services.
7	EOI reference No.	: PD/DHZ-COX/PMC/2016
8	Date	: 06-09-2016
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement sub-method	: QCBS (National).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and source of funds	: Project Aid.
11	Development partner (if applicable)	: Asian Development Bank (ADB).
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	: 5200
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	: Construction of Single Line Dual Gauge Railway Track from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar via Ramu and Ramu to Gundum near Myanmar. (ADB's South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Railway Project Phase-1.)
14	EOI closing date and time	: 10-10-2016, 11:59pm Manila Local Time.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>		
15	Other details	: (I) Expression of Interest (EOI) notice is scheduled to be published on 08-09-2016 in ADB website (http://cms.adb.org). (II) Interested firms are requested to visit the website and may submit their EOI using ADB's standard template provided by the CMS. EOI should contain sufficient information for short listing. (III) Firms are requested to submit their EOI online through Consultant Management System (ADB website http://cms.adb.org). (IV) No hard copy will be required to be submitted by the firms.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
16	Contact details for information (a) Bangladesh Railway (the executing agency) (b) Asian Development Bank	: (a) Project Director & General Manager (Project) 16, Abdul Gani Road, Room # 701 Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka Phone: +88 01711564575 E-mail: pdcox@railway.gov.bd (b) Markus Roesner Principal Transport Specialist South Asia Transport and Communication South Asia Regional Division Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1500 Metro Manila, Philippines. E-mail: mroesner@adb.org
17	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any EOI or reject all EOIs.	

**Md. Mozammel Hoque**  
Project Director  
&  
General Manager (Project)

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GD-1805