

## Bangladesh Customs Balancing Security with Trade Facilitation



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### RAMON SPECTROMETER

- The machine is the invention of Indian scientist Shri Chandrasekhar Rama, and particularly useful in detecting contraband drugs and explosive items.
- It gives information regarding the genetic name and structure of the items scanned by it.
- It can Identify 13,000 liquid and solid chemicals within 30 sec.
- The import of banned and harmful chemicals drugs, explosives will be controlled, or rather deterred, due to the presence of the scanner.



### Bangladesh Customs' Participation in WCO PGS Initiative

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Two years after deadly attack in a Dhaka café, threat of terrorism is still persistent in the country as law enforcement agencies run counter-terrorism operations in the different parts of the country on a regular basis. Despite organized and concerted efforts by the agencies, it is believed that terrorist groups are recruiting new activists and some of the groups plan re-emergence in view of their online activities and recruitment. Compared to its neighbors some of which are historically prone to violence that have origins in other countries, Bangladesh have never been known for similar violence before 2001.

Perhaps that was one of the reasons the country was overlooked when World Customs Organization started Programme Global Shield (PGS) in 2010 and primary focus was on Middle East and North Africa and Central Asia regions. The objective of the Security Project in South East Asia and Pacific Islands (the Asia Pacific Security Project - APSP) is to assist Customs Administrations in South East Asia and the Pacific Islands to strengthen their capacity, focusing on three specific Programme initiatives, namely, to counter illicit trafficking and diversion of components used to manufacture Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) through Programme Global Shield (PGS); to reduce the movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and other terrorist related risks through more effective passenger controls, including through the utilization of passenger information for risk assessment; and to prevent illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

PGS' sole purpose is to reduce terrorist organizations' ability to obtain IED materials, therein reducing the number of casualties and deaths. The initiative is expected to build the capacity of Customs administrations and other law enforcement and defense agencies relevant to cross border control by providing targeted training, coordinating operations and deploying technical equipment to counter the illicit trafficking and

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