



Murky road to radicalisation

Bangladesh-Malaysia-Turkey reported to be route to terror land; professionals to unemployed, rich to poor, university students to madrasa-goers are found to be on list of 262 missing people; not all of them terror suspects

SHAKHAWAT LITON, WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Those who have gone missing over the last one and a half years come from myriad backgrounds. From politician to businessman, from former civil and military officials to schoolteacher, and from private jobholder to mason and garment worker, their families are as varied as their academic credentials.

Some of them attended reputed universities at home and abroad while others studied in madrasas. Several quit studies at college level while a few others are school dropouts.

Some were professionals, holding most sought-after jobs of engineers and doctors. Two had active presence in the cultural field -- one was a singer and another played guitar in a rock band. One is a trained pilot.

The Daily Star has found this picture through its own analysis of over two dozen missing cases and reviewing the list of the 262 missing men released by the Rapid Action Battalion on Tuesday night.

Although their whereabouts and current activities cannot be ascertained, some of them have certainly been radicalised and turned into "killing machines" to murder innocents in the name of Islam of their own interpretation, as evident from the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks.

It is difficult to say how many of them have actually become terrorists, as many of

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16 FOUND IN FIVE DISTRICTS -- PAGE 2
SEE ONLINE FOR FULL LIST OF MISSING

RAB MISSING LIST

TOTAL **262**

RETURNEES **3**
(ACCORDING TO RAB)
16 MORE
(ACCORDING TO FAMILIES)



PHOTO PUBLISHED **47**

STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, MADRASAS AND UNIVERSITIES

ENGINEER

DOCTOR

PILOT

SINGER, MASON, SHOP EMPLOYEE, GARMET WORKER, DENTIST, TEACHER



Naima Akhter, Rokonuddin, Ramita, Nadia, Shishir

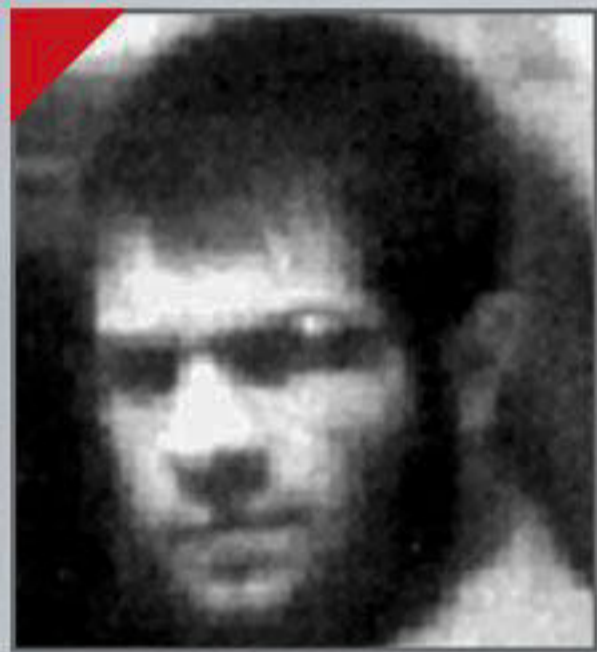
Decision beats the wits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The couple reportedly went to war-ravaged Syria, a stronghold of the Islamic State, leaving behind first-class government jobs, huge properties and a legacy of pride in Bangladesh.

The man, Rokonuddin Khondoker, a pediatrician of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, and his wife Naima Akhter, an associate professor of Botany of Jessore MM College,

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Jubayedur Rahim

Once a bass guitarist in a rock band

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubayedur Rahim played bass in a teen metal band that had small gigs in the capital in the mid-2000s. But before the band was offered to perform at a concert in India in 2006, he was fired by other members as his addiction stood in the way of his

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Tahmid

He went to Turkey on 'honeymoon'

AKRAM HOSEN

The first man seen in a video released during the Eid holidays praising the Holy Artisan Bakery attack was identified by his friends and family members as Tahmid Rahman Safi.

The 30-year-old is the son of
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Najibullah Ansari

A marine engr, he 'left for Iraq to join IS'

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Marine Engineer Najibullah Ansari, who was working on a foreign flag carrier, had been missing for around one and a half years. He stopped communicating with his family since January last year after sending a message to his younger

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Saifullah

He converted to Islam while in Japan

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

One of the Bangladeshis reported missing, Sajit Debnath converted to Islam while in Japan. Police say the man, who is now called Saifullah Ojakir, is accused in a case filed with a Dhaka police station under the anti-terrorism act.

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Junnun

'Drawn into militancy by Mufti Jashim'

RASHIDUL HASAN

"Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, former imam of Hatembagh Mosque in Dhanmondi, had radicalised my son Junnun Sikder by misinterpreting Islam," Junnun's father Wahidur Rahman said yesterday.

The 30-year-old is one of the 10
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Basharuzzaman

He left for KL, did not return

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu started playing on the other end when this correspondent called Siraj Uddin, father of Abul Bashar who is missing for over seven months.

Siraj, headmaster of Lalpur High
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WE MOURN

Our honorable Chairman Mr. Khan Mohammed Ameer's fatherly elder brother, the renowned industrialist, social worker and former Chairman of Padma-Sonali Group, Alhaj Khan Mohammed Eqbal passed away at the Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital on 20 July Wednesday at 1.30 am. He was 77. (Inna lillahi owa inna ilaihi razeun).

Late Alhaj Khan Mohammed Eqbal was born in an aristocratic Muslim family at Paik Para of Dhamrai Upazila of Dhaka district. After liberation he made great contributions to establish Printing & Packaging, Paper manufacturing, Textile & Food Processing industry in the country. He was involved very closely with various social development, orphanage, Mosque & educational activities. He has constructed two long bridges one on the Bangshi river on the way of Dhamrai-Mirzapur road and the other one on the Warshi-Paik Para river on his own sponsorship.

He also established "Eunoos Khan Hospital Complex & Eqbal-Ameer Medical College" at Paik Para of Dhamrai on 75 Bigha land, the construction work of those institutions are already coming to their end.

Tomorrow 22 July Friday his first Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Jumma prayers and his second Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at his own village home of Paik Para of Dhamrai after Asr prayers. He will be buried at his family graveyard.

"All the directors, executives & officers-officials of Padma Group of Companies" convey deepest condolences at his loss and express deepest sympathies to his bereaved family members.



Padma Group of Companies

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