

## The man

FROM PAGE 16  
manuscripts in Ishak's collection are those written in Farsi script but recording Bangla words for recitation, akin to how Bangla is often written with the Latin alphabet on Facebook these days.

Ishak began his journey as a puthi collector in 1972. Over the last four decades he has collected manuscripts from across Chittagong's rural areas, where the narration of puthi customarily served as a symbolic representation of society and connected the listener to longstanding local, national and international traditions.

When puthi were performed, they were recited or sung with fervour which proved popular and could attract crowds. While many puthi chronicle tales from the Arabian Peninsula or religious narrations, and reached Bengal via travellers and traders, local translators and also the orators would often place localised and signature cultural elements into each story so that local listeners could easily enjoy and relate to the tale. Such stories, including those of religious value, thereby readily became a part of Bengali culture.

However, the emergence of the printing press in Europe in the 15th century had a big impact on oral storytelling traditions. The printing revolutionary reached the Indian subcontinent in full force in the mid-18th century, ultimately challenging the former oral systems of information dissemination.

As a result, hand-written copies of the puthi were eventually replaced by printed pages. "The oral tradition of puthi recitation survived for a while, but with the rise of television from the mid 20th century, it started to disappear entirely," says Ishak.

Fortunately, the national conscience that began to develop, ironically with the help of printing in addition to other modern forces, as well as motivated individuals like Ishak, have provided enthusiasm to drive the collection and preservation of puthis, which were once so integral to Bengal's cultural identity.

## Billionaire dad

FROM PAGE 16  
7,000 that his father instructed should be used only in an emergency. "I gave him three conditions: I told my son that he needs to work to earn his money and he couldn't work at a place for more than a week; that he can't use his father's identity nor use the mobile phone nor Rs 7,000 taken from home for a month. I wanted him to understand life and how the poor struggle to get a job and money. No university can teach you these life skills except experience," Savji Dholakia, proprietor of Hare Krishna Diamond exports, told TOI over phone from Surat. Incidentally, Dholakia had hit the headlines after his firm gifted cars and flats to employees as bonus.

Dravya accepted the challenge and it was decided that he would go to a place he was not familiar with and where the language would be new to him and search for a job. "He decided to come to Kochi as he didn't know Malayalam and Hindi is not commonly spoken there," said Dholakia.

But little did Dravya know what was in store after he landed here. "For five days I had no job or proper place to stay. I was frustrated as I was rejected at 60 places, as no one knew me here. I understood what is rejection and the value of a job in these few days," said Dravya, who lied to his employers that he is a class XII student born in a poor farmer's family in Gujarat.

Dravya got his first job in a bakery in Cheranellor.

Then he worked at a call centre, a shoe shop and even a McDonald's outlet in the city, earning Rs 4,000 plus in a month. "I never worried about money and here I was struggling to get a meal worth Rs 40. I needed another Rs 250 per day to stay in a lodge," said Dravya, who returned home to Surat on Tuesday.

Sreejith K, a finance professional stumbled on Dravya and took to him immediately. "I met him at a bakery and noticed something unique in him. However, as my colleagues warned me against employing him, I didn't respond to his calls. On Tuesday, I received a call from Dravya's company's CEO thanking me and informing me of Dravya's real story," Sreejith said.

## Tributes paid

FROM PAGE 2  
hospital in the early hours of Thursday.

On March 27, 1971, the war heroine in guise of a male participated in the Liberation War from Pabna Police Lines. On receiving training from Gobra freedom fighter camp in India, she took part in the war from Sector-9.

She served in Muktiyoddha control room at Nagarbari of Pabna. Her mother Selina Banu was a parliament member from Jukta Front.

## New 'attack plan foiled'

FROM PAGE 1  
its surrounding areas.

Policemen and Rab members were seen checking vehicles and frisking people at checkpoints in and around the city.

None was allowed to enter Rajshahi University camps without showing their identity cards.

Senior police officials, including the DIG of Rajshahi range, the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police commissioner and the Rajshahi SP, were seen monitoring the security measures.

Talking to The Daily Star, Deputy Inspector General of Rajshahi range M Khurshid Hossain said that acting on information, law enforcers had taken special security measures.

"Everything cannot be disclosed to the public," he added.

Rajshahi Superintendent of Police Nisharul Arif said security in all upazilas of the district was tightened considering the overall situation in the country.

### SAMPLES GIVEN TO FBI

Police yesterday gave hair and blood samples of the Gulshan café attackers to the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the USA for chemical tests at its laboratory.

Those were handed over to an FBI agent early yesterday, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

On Wednesday, doctors collected the samples from the bodies of the Gulshan gunmen to ascertain whether they had been under the influence of drugs while carrying out the attack on Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on July 1.

According to an official statement, six militants were killed in a com-

mando operation launched to end the bloody siege.

However, one of the six was later identified by Holy Artisan staff as their pizza chef Saiful Islam.

The authorities made the move following media reports that militants, especially members of the Islamic State, are using addictive pills, which help "fuel their fury", before attacking the victims.

Meanwhile, joint forces conducted anti-militancy drives in remote char areas of Pulchhari upazila in Gaibandha and recovered seven sharp weapons, including sword, machete and dagger, from an abandoned house yesterday, reports our Gaibandha correspondent.

### INDIA TO SHARE DETAILS

India will share with Bangladesh details about alleged links between Islamic State operative Abu Al-Musa Al-Bangali, who was arrested near Burdwan about two weeks ago, and the JMB, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

India's federal anti-terror body National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been asked to probe the links between Abu Al-Musa and a JMB senior leader, who was suspected as a conspirator of the Gulshan café attack, Indian home ministry sources told this newspaper yesterday.

Abu Al-Musa and the JMB man met a number of times between 2014 and 2015, and Bangladesh government shared with India a list of 10 IS suspects who, according to some Indian media reports, are hiding in India, added the sources.

Our Rajshahi correspondent Anwar Ali Himu contributed to this report.

## 8 killed in Munich

FROM PAGE 1

apparently began at a McDonald's in the shopping centre. There are still people in the shopping centre. We are trying to get the people out and take care of them," the spokeswoman said.

Munich police said on Facebook that witnesses reported three different gunmen armed with rifles.

A video posted online -- whose authenticity could not be confirmed -- showed a man dressed in black outside a McDonald's by the roadside, drawing a handgun and shooting towards members of the public.

Police said witnesses had seen shooting both inside the mall and on nearby streets.

The shopping centre is next to the Munich Olympic stadium, where the Palestinian militant group Black September took 11 Israeli athletes hostage and eventually killed them during the 1972 Olympic Games.

Munich's main railway station was also evacuated. Bavarian broadcaster BR said police had also sealed off many highways north of Munich had been shut down and people were told to leave them.

US President Barack Obama has pledged support for the German nation in wake of the attack.

Speaking at a White House meeting he said: "We don't yet know exactly what's happening there, but obviously our hearts go out to those who may have been injured.

"We are going to pledge all the support they may need."

Friday's attack took place a week after a 17-year-old asylum-seeker wounded passengers on a German train in an axe rampage.

Bavarian police shot dead the teenager after he wounded four people

## Fizz bursts

FROM PAGE 1

as Sussex defended a commanding 200 for six, and responded by picking up four wickets.

While he forced Essex skipper Ravi Bopara to sky one in the air, he tricked former England wicketkeeper James Foster -- who stepped to the off side to play a sweep -- with a fuller delivery that rattled the stumps. Three balls later he produced a searing yorker to dismiss Callum Taylor and then got Ryan Ten Doeschate caught at short fine-leg in the last over.

His captain, Luke Wright was in awe of the bowler, for whom Sussex had been waiting ever since signing him up in early March. They waited as Mustafizur recovered from injury after

## BRTC facing fund crisis

FROM PAGE 2

"Our expenditure has sharply increased thanks to the salary hike. But our income remains the same because we cannot increase the fare," said Amjad Hussain, director (finance and accounts) of BRTC.

When an organisation faces financial crisis, it cannot run properly, he said, adding, it is very likely that services would be affected.

Talking to The Daily Star, more than a dozen of BRTC officials expressed the fear that a chaotic situation would prevail if the problem was not addressed immediately.

"If we cannot pay salary to our staff, they would not work. So, how will we continue with our services? We need the government's financial support to run the organisation as before," BRTC Chairman Mizanur Rahman told The

from Hong Kong on the train and injured a local resident while fleeing.

German Justice Minister Heiko Maas told Bild newspaper's Friday edition before the mall attack that there was "no reason to panic but it's clear that Germany remains a possible target".

The incidents in Germany follow an attack in Nice, France, on Bastille Day in which a Tunisian drove a truck into crowds, killing 84. Islamic State also claimed responsibility for that attack.

Yesterday was also the five-year anniversary of the massacre by Anders Behring Breivik in Norway. Breivik is a hero for far-right extremists in Europe and America.

The Munich assault was also reminiscent of Islamist militant attacks in a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2013 and in Mumbai, India, in November 2008.

### FIGHT AGAINST IS

## Libyan forces claim gains in Sirte

REUTERS, Sirte

Libyan forces said yesterday they had edged further into the centre of Sirte as they seek to recapture the city from Islamic State, following heavy battles until late the previous evening that left dozens dead.

Forces aligned with Libya's United Nations-backed government in Tripoli advanced rapidly on Islamic State's Libyan stronghold in May, but have faced lethal resistance from snipers, suicide bombers and mines as they have closed in on the city centre.

## Madrasa boy

FROM PAGE 16

On July 19, Moulana Sadikul Islam, principal of the madrasa, filed a general diary (GD) with Sarishabari Police Station, said Latif.

Contacted, Billal Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "We are doing our best to find out the boy."

## Long tailbacks

FROM PAGE 16

Aricha office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

A total of 18 ferries -- 10 RORO types, three "K" types and five utility types -- operate on the Paturia-Daulatdia route, he said adding that six of these ferries are currently out of service due to mechanical problems.

Among the out of order ferries, the Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman, the Birshrestha Motiur Rahman and the Shah Jalal are RORO ferries; the Kaberi is a "K" type; and the Bonolata and the Hasnahena are utility type of ferries, Mohiuddin mentioned.

All of these vessels were being repaired at the floating workshop Modhumoti at Paturia and two of them -- the Birshrestha Motiur Rahman and the Shah Jalal -- have already joined the fleet after completion of repair work, said the BIWTC official.

Meanwhile another utility ferry, the Madhobilata, has gone out of order with engine fault and as a result a total of 13 ferries are currently operational, he added saying that passenger buses and trucks carrying perishable items are getting priority to board the ferries and that is the reason for relatively longer lines of the freight trucks.

The situation will improve when all the ferries return to the fleet, observed Mohiuddin.

During a visit to the Paturia side of the Padma at around 1:00pm yesterday, this correspondent found hundreds of buses and freight trucks lined up on a 4-kilometre-long stretch of road.

Traffic has come to a standstill, creating a jam on nearly two kilometres of the road between Canal ghat and Daulatdia ferry terminal in Rajbari, said Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) at Daulatdia terminal of BIWTC.

The Paturia-Daulatdia river route is the gateway to Dhaka for residents of 17 south-western districts of the country.

## SP Babul

FROM PAGE 2

He said Babul was attached to the police headquarters after being promoted to an SP recently. Before that, he was an additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Following Mitu's murder, Babul was picked up from his father-in-law's house in Dhaka and interrogated for 15 hours at the Detective Branch (DB) of police office on Minto Road on June 25 in connection with his alleged links with the murder.

Babul has been living in the house in Khilgaon since the murder of his wife.

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

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

Babul refrains from talking to the media after he was interrogated by the police.

## BNP demo

FROM PAGE 16

night, with Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair, said meeting sources.

Khaleda and other leaders observed that Tarique has been convicted as part of a government plot to keep him away from the next national polls.

On Thursday, the High Court overturned a lower court verdict that acquitted Tarique in the case involving Tk 20.41 crore. It sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 20 crore.

This was the first time Tarique, elder son of Khaleda, has been convicted and handed down punishment by a court in one of the 19 cases filed against him since 2007.

Speaking at the press conference, BNP chairperson's adviser Khandker Mahbub Hossain said Tarique didn't get justice in the case.

The government punished Tarique with the motive of "politically harassing and maligning him", Mahbub, also a former president of Supreme Court Bar Association, told newsmen.

Tarique has been convicted as he is a political leader, son of Ziaur Rahman and the BNP's future leader, he claimed.

Mahbub said the trial court had acquitted the BNP's senior vice-chairman based on evidence and statements of witnesses. The HC punished him in his absence and no lawyer could defend him, he mentioned.

Asked whether Tarique would move the SC with an appeal against the HC verdict, he said as per law a convict cannot file an appeal without appearing before the court. He, however, hoped the BNP leader would secure justice some day.

According to law, it should be proved that the money has been laundered abroad. But the investigation officer of the case had said no money was laundered, claimed Mahbub.

## How NY Fed fumbled

FROM PAGE 16

a shipping company under United States' sanctions against Iran. That sanctions listing triggered concerns at the New York Fed and spurred it to scrutinise the fake payment orders more closely, a Reuters examination of the incident has found.

The Reuters examination has also found that the payment orders sent by the hackers were exceptional in several ways. They were incorrectly formatted at first; they were mainly to individuals; and they were very different from the usual run of payment requests from Bangladesh Bank. Yet it was the word Jupiter that set the loudest alarm bells ringing at the New York Fed. Even then it appeared to react slowly.

By the time the fraud was discovered, the New York branch of the US central bank had approved five of the payments. It took \$101 million from Bangladesh Bank and paid it to accounts in Sri Lanka and the Philippines -- including \$81 million to four accounts in the names of individuals. Most of that \$81 million remains lost.

It was among the most audacious cyber-heists ever to emerge -- shining a light on worrying weaknesses in the global financial system and into a little-known corner of the US Federal Reserve: its Central Bank and International Account Services unit (CBIAS), which one former employee described as a "bank within a bank."

Interviews with investigators, lawyers and current and former central bank officials in several countries, as well as a Reuters review of payment messages, emails and other documents, show disarray and bungling at all the financial institutions involved. But the most striking is the inertia and clumsiness at the New York Fed, the most powerful of the US central bank's 12 regional units and a mainstay of global finance.

The heist revealed that the New York Fed lacked a system for spotting potential fraud in real time -- even though such systems are used elsewhere -- instead relying at times on checking payments after they were made, usually for problems such as violating US sanctions.

Months of bitter finger-pointing over who is to blame for the fiasco have damaged the sensitive diplomacy of correspondent banking, where big Western institutions are entrusted with safeguarding the treasures of smaller economies. Bangladesh Bank is now preparing a legal case to seek compensation for what it says were failures by the Fed, according to a source close to the Asian bank. It also claims that errors by SWIFT, a messaging system used to make international bank transfers, made the bank vulnerable to hackers.

Bangladesh Bank spokesman Subhankar Saha said the institutions were working together to try to recover the missing money. He declined to comment further.

The New York Fed has denied making mistakes and repeatedly said its systems were not compromised. In response to a series of questions from Reuters about its actions during the heist and in the days that followed, it declined to comment, citing a criminal investigation by the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), a cooperative used by over 11,000 financial institutions around the world, has denied responsibility for any weaknesses in the way Bank Bangladesh operated and installed the SWIFT system. A spokesman said: "We continue to support the bank and cooperate with the investigations. We look forward to receiving a full account of the security incident."

Officials are still investigating the heist. But the Reuters examination has uncovered new details about how the New York Fed was slow to react to warning signs and how communications broke down between it and Bangladesh Bank. The Fed relied almost entirely on the SWIFT messaging system with, in this case, little backup for emergencies. Miscommunications and clunky payment processes meant that most of the stolen money disappeared without trace before it could be recovered.

"I couldn't believe that that much money could be lost in the SWIFT system, and in the whole federal system for central banks," Carolyn Maloney, a Democratic congresswoman from New York, told Reuters. Maloney, who was the first US lawmaker to publicly raise questions about the incident, added: "It's a wake-up call and it has to be corrected. To me, I see it as a threat to the confidence people could have in the central banking system."

Last month, the New York Fed said it took steps to "help strengthen the safety of global payments in light of the potential vulnerabilities." It did not give specifics. But the source familiar with the Fed's handling of the Bangladesh affair told Reuters that the Fed has now set up a 24-hour hotline for emergency calls from some 250 account holders, mostly central banks, around the world. **THE HACK**

Unlike the Fed, the world's most influential central bank whose New York headquarters sits atop 508,000 gold bars stored below street level, Bangladesh Bank is not a large and powerful operation with a global footprint.

It had not protected its computer system with a firewall, and it had used second-hand \$10 electronic switches to network computers linked to the SWIFT global payment system, according to Mohammad Shah Alam, head of the Forensic Training Institute of the Bangladesh police's criminal investigation department. Hackers may have exploited such weaknesses after Bangladesh Bank connected a new

electronic payment system, known as real time gross settlement (RTGS), in November last year. However, it remains unknown exactly who broke into its systems or how they did it.

What is evident, according to investigative reports by cyber-security company FireEye seen by Reuters, is that someone obtained the computer credentials of a SWIFT operator at Bangladesh Bank, installed six types of malware on the bank's systems and began probing them in January. The hackers did a series of test runs, logging into the system briefly several times between Jan 24 and Feb 2. One day they left monitoring software running on the bank's SWIFT system; on another they deleted files from a database.

On Thursday, Feb 4, the hackers began sending fraudulent payment orders via SWIFT. It was late evening in Bangladesh and most of the staff had gone home. The hackers appear to have timed the heist to coincide with the weekend that in Bangladesh began the following day.

The first SWIFT message arrived at the New York Fed just after 9:55am and ordered the transfer of \$20 million from the central bank of Bangladesh to an account in Sri Lanka. Over the next four hours, 34 more orders arrived asking the US central bank to move a total of nearly \$1 billion from the account it holds for Bangladesh Bank.

Compared to the great maelstrom of global finance, the sums were unremarkable: The New York Fed handles about \$800 billion of payments a day. Nevertheless, the Bangladesh orders were odd, surprisingly odd.

First, all 35 of the messages lacked the names of "correspondent banks" -- the necessary next step in the payment chain -- according to a senior Bangladesh Bank official and a person familiar with the New York Fed's handling of the payments. That fault meant the orders could not immediately be fulfilled. Second, most of the payments were to individuals rather than institutions, according to police investigators in Dhaka and a source close to Bangladesh Bank.

And third, the slew of payments that morning was out of whack with the usual pattern of orders from Bangladesh Bank.

Over the eight months to January 2016, Bangladesh Bank had issued 285 payment instructions to the Fed, averaging fewer than two per working day, according to a source close to Bangladesh Bank. None of those payments had been to an individual, the source said. The US central bank allows payments to individuals, but it's not common and is generally discouraged, according to one of the former New York Fed employees.

The New York Fed declined to comment on the number of payments it typically received from Bangladesh Bank or whether staff had found the numerous messages on Feb 4 surprising or suspicious.

### MISSED WARNING SIGNS

At the New York Fed, such payment orders are handled by a small group of CBIAS staff who tend to keep to themselves, according to five former employees and senior officials who worked on the team or closely with it. The unit looks after the foreign accounts of mostly central banks and its work is sometimes like "economic diplomacy," said one of the sources, with staff having to make judgements on confidential payments ordered by a wide range of clients.

A subset of about 10 staff actually process payment requests, according to the sources. These staff, some fairly junior, can find up to 100 requests waiting for them when they arrive in the morning and may manually review hundreds of payments during the day. Most of the transactions are automatically executed. But when there is a problem, staff mainly check for SWIFT formatting and authentication, and violations of US economic sanction or money laundering regulations. They may ask clients for more information.

When the first 35 messages from Bangladesh Bank were rejected for incorrect formatting, the hackers simply fixed the formatting and sent another 35 requests for payment to the same beneficiaries as before. This time the New York Fed cleared five of them, despite the oddities. They were properly formatted, SWIFT authenticated and went through automatically.

## Extent

FROM PAGE 1

office in Rangamati town.

He called upon people of all caste and religions to come forward to root out militancy.

Elimination of militancy would be possible if a social movement could be waged through uniting the efforts of common people and law enforcement agencies, he observed.

DIG (Chittagong range) of Police Shafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati Shamsul Arefin and Rangamati police superintendent Sayeed Tariqul Hasan were present, among others.

Talking to reporters after the programme, the IGP said police at times conduct drives against terrorists in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Illegal arms were recovered in the CHT during drives by joint forces. However, it is difficult to recover arms here as the area has a special geographical feature, he added.

The police chief avoided a question about SP Babul Akter whose wife was killed by assailants in Chittagong on June 5.