



## At mosque, then from prison

An interview with a militant in custody reveals how top Huji leader Zafar radicalised a pious youth, turned him into an explosives expert



Mohammad Omar

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Things were quite normal in the life of Mohammad Omar when he was a grade-10 student. A pious boy from a very young age, he used to offer prayers at a mosque next to his Uttara house. But everything began to change after an elderly man drew his attention.

The man used to stay at the mosque for longer than others, offering prayers. He got himself introduced to Omar. Initially, he gave the boy some lessons on Islam and as time went by they got closer.

Then one day, the man started talking about jihad.

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A policeman stands guard at a temporary bunker set up at Banani Police Station. In the wake of two grisly militant attacks, security has been beefed up at police stations across the country amid fear of further strikes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Freeing Mir Quasem is their goal

Says PM about terrorist attacks

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there might be attacks next month on some renowned educational institutions to create a hostage situation in efforts to free war crimes convict Mir Quasem Ali, a Jamaat leader.



"They [terrorists] will try to create unrest in August. They are planning something big ... Ministers may also be targeted ... Everyone must remain alert," the PM told the cabinet meeting, according to multiple sources present there.

"Their goal is to free Mir Quasem," two sources told The Daily Star, quoting the PM.

She initiated the unscheduled discussion following news that the hearing of Quasem's review petition had been deferred by one month.

This is the second time in less than two weeks that Hasina spoke of possible terror strikes.

Earlier on July 13, she told a programme in the capital that there might be more attacks in the country and urged all to be vigilant.

After the PM's comment at the cabinet meeting, ministers said that Quasem, considered a top financier of Jamaat, could spend a huge sum of money on terror activities to foil the hearing of his review petition at the Supreme Court.

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## Police for fencing diplomatic zone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has proposed that the government build a secured diplomatic enclave in Baridhara and North Gulshan areas to ensure security of diplomats.

In a letter, the DMP said it would be very difficult to ensure overall security of diplomats without building a brick wall or metal wire fence surrounding the proposed area.

The letter was sent to the mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), and secretaries to the ministries of home, foreign affairs and local government division on July 16, a highly-placed DMP source told The Daily Star.

Following the July 1 Holey Artisan Bakery attack, police have become more concerned about diplomats' security. The incident prompted law enforcers to increase police presence in the area, motorcycle and foot

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## Mistakenly on list not once but twice

Rab releases updated list of 68 missing

RAFIUL ISLAM

The Rab's revised list of "missing" people contained two photographs in serial no-3 against the name of Dr Arafat Hossain Tusher. The first photograph, as stated in the list, is his older photo while the second one is his current portrait.

The elite force published the updated list of 68

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BRUTAL MURDER OF 10-YR-OLD

## 24 children rescued from same factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Twenty-four children were rescued yesterday from the Narayanganj factory where Sagar Barman had been brutally killed allegedly by management officials by pumping air into his body through the rectum.

The police handed over the child labourers, aged between 10 and 15 years, to their families, said ABMS Doha, sub-inspector of Rugganj Police Station.

Meanwhile, Nazmul Huda, 24, manager (administration) of Zobeda Textile and Spinning Mills where the 10-year-old victim had worked, was arrested in the case filed

over Monday's incident, reports our local correspondent.

Following an autopsy of the victim, AKM Shafiuzzaman, assistant professor of Dhaka Medical College's forensic department, said, the body had abnormal swellings in the eyes, stomach and rectum, indicating that air had been pumped into it through the rectum with a hard object.

Viscera and blood of the victim were also collected to ascertain whether air or gas had been pumped into him, said Shafiuzzaman, adding that doctors found a rupture in Sagar's intestine.

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## Sources of attackers' weapons traced: IGP

Rab releases revised list of 68 missing; police detain another Gulshan 'suspect'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday claimed to have traced the sources of weapons used in the militant attacks in Gulshan and Sholakia early this month.

The attackers used modern and sophisticated weapons. The law enforcers were trying to arrest those involved in the crime, he told reporters after attending a programme at Police Staff College in the city's Mirpur.

The IGP said they were yet to ascertain any "concrete" international links to the terrorist attacks.

The police chief stressed the need for support of common people in bringing the masterminds of the attacks to book.

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