

## Born-again JMB far more dangerous

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Banned in 2005 and subsequently broken down, the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) took only nine years to reorganise. This time, the born-again militant outfit is far more radicalised and fearsome.

The Neo JMB, as called by law enforcers, is now inspired by the ideology of Islamic State, skilled in modern technology and equipped with sophisticated firearms.

It is capable of causing damage more than the old JMB which a decade ago carried out suicide bombing and synchronised blasts across the country.

The Neo JMB emerged in 2014 after IS burst onto the international scene. But it drew law enforcers' attention only after committing a grisly bank heist in Ashulia in April last year, leaving eight people dead, said police sources.

Investigators say the Neo JMB is responsible for the July 1 Gulshan café siege in which 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, were killed.

The armed attack launched near the historic Sholakia Eidgah on the July 7 Eid day, leading to the death of two policemen, a housewife and a militant, is also an act of Neo JMB, officials add.

The old JMB on August 17, 2005 struck terror across the country almost simultaneously detonating 459 bombs in 63 out of the 64 districts.

The same year, the outfit carried suicide attacks including the one that killed two Jhalakathi judges in November.

After the synchronised attacks, a total of 160 cases were filed across the country. Police have completed probe into the cases.

They have submitted final reports in 17 cases and charge sheets in 143 cases. In the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai were executed on March 29, 2007 for killing two Jhalakathi judges.



ABDUR RAHMAN



BANGLA BHAI

### THE RISE OF JMB

- ▶ Emerged in 1998
- ▶ Killed 73 people including judges, intellectuals, cultural activists in 2001-2005
- ▶ Got banned in Feb 2005
- ▶ Staged serial bomb blasts in 63 districts on Aug 17, 2005
- ▶ Re-emerged as Neo JMB in 2014



### INVITING IS SUPPORT UK Islamist preacher found guilty

REUTERS, London

Anjem Choudary, Britain's most high-profile Islamist preacher whose followers have been linked to numerous militant plots across the world, has been found guilty of inviting support for Islamic State.

Choudary, 49, was convicted at London's Old Bailey court of using online lectures and messages to encourage support for the banned group which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Notorious in Britain where the tabloids denounce him as a hate preacher, he is also well-known abroad, making regular TV appearances in the wake of attacks by Islamist militants to blame Western foreign policy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### GULSHAN ATTACK Another 7-8 people were involved

Police yet to identify them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A top investigator of the gruesome Gulshan terror attack said yesterday apart from the militants killed and "masterminds" identified, seven to eight people had been involved in the whole mission.

Investigators could learn organisational names of some of them but are yet to identify them by their family names and photos, said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"Some of them had been involved in previous militant attacks," Monirul, an additional commissioner of DMP, told reporters at the DMP media centre.

The suspects played their parts at different levels, he added. Monirul, however, did not disclose the organisational names of the suspects.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

### 4 female 'JMB activists' held

Arrestees include intern, univ students; were out to radicalise women, claims Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion claims to have arrested four suspected female members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in different areas of the capital and Gazipur early yesterday.

All of the four are from the female unit of the banned militant outfit, Khandker Lutful Kabir, commanding officer of Rab-4, claimed at a press briefing at its headquarters in Mirpur.

The unit was formed under the guidance of JMB's southern region chief

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

### Marzan was a Chhatra Shibir activist at CU

Last year, a probe at Chittagong University found his active involvement in Shibir politics

MD ABBAS from Ctg and AHMED HUMANYUN KABIR TOPU from Pabna

Nurul Islam Marzan, who police claimed was "in charge of Gulshan attack", was a Shathi (associate) of Chittagong University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

His fellow militants knew him as Marzan and his classmates as Fahad.

His academic name is Nurul Islam, and he was a student of Arabic department at



CU in 2012-2013 session, Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

In a joint drive by the university authorities and police on November 11 last year, 15 ICS activists were detained from Shaheed Abdur Rab Hall over their alleged involvement in subversive activities.

The team also seized a laptop from which they found a list of ICS leaders, and Nurul Islam's name was on the list as a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

### 2 suspected militants held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi police claimed to have arrested two youths who they said were from a new militant group named Ansar Rajshahi.

The arrestees are Aminul Islam Rumi, 23, and Enamul Haque Sabuj, 22, of Sripur Khamarpara village in Bagmara upazila, Moazzem Hossain Bhuiyan, superintendent of police in the district, said at a press briefing at his office last evening.

The group is based in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

### It's murder

INAM AHMED

The day he floated into Bangladesh from Assam more than two weeks ago, his fate was sealed.

He was helpless and angry, traumatised and terrorized, lonely and friendless, harassed and harangued. He was missing his family and friends and the place he drifted in from -- his own home. After all elephants are among the most intelligent animals.

The experience of tossing and turning in the great waters of the Brahmaputra in this full monsoon must have been heavy on him. He looked dazed and tired.

But he finally found his footing and tried to live, eating the bits and pieces he could find.

Then after a long wait, the forest department decided to "rescue" the animal but failed.

The net result -- death of the animal.

We would like to call it a murder, plain and simple. Here is why.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Saddened villagers gather around Bangabhadur after he passed away in a marshy land in Dhanhata village of Jamalpur early yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Bangabhadur leaves villagers in tears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He fought against all odds. He swam over 300km in rivers. He moved frantically from one char to another in the Jamuna (Brahmaputra). He struggled to survive for 50 days.

He even broke free when the department of forests tranquilised and chained him.

But the wild elephant -- Bangabhadur -- died yesterday morning amid efforts of the forest department to rescue him and ship him to a park.

Bangabhadur was tranquilised, chained and half buried in muddy water when he died.

A pall of gloom

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

### A Kenyan king and a golden dive

ATIQUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

If Usain Bolt is the king of sprint and Mo Farah is the king of long-distance running, then David Rudisha is the undisputed king of middle distance running. The Kenyan, on Monday night at the Rio Olympic Stadium, became the first man since New Zealand's Peter Snell in 1964 to win the 800m run at consecutive Olympics. The 27-year-old, son of 1968 Mexico City Games silver medalist Daniel Rudisha, clocked a season-best 1:42.15 to beat Algeria's Taoufik Makhloufi and America's Clayton Murphy.

Rudisha came into these Games in not the best of form. He had been plagued by injuries in the last couple of years and only finished third in the Kenyan trial for Rio 2016. But on the big night he proved why he is the best in the business, as he stepped on the gas in the final 300 after having trailed his compatriot Alfred Kipketer for the first 500. It was not his best run by some margin; it was not anywhere near the classic which earned him the first Olympic gold medal in world-record time (1:40.91) in London four years ago. But it proved just enough to defend his title.

"I knew I was in good form and sometimes if you start

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



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