



## ISINBAYEVA RETIRES

Russia's former Olympic and World pole vault champion calls time on storied career

PAGE 15

## MYANMAR PEACE TALKS

China's Xi pledges support, holds talks with Suu Kyi in Beijing

PAGE 8



# Tricking women into militancy

JMB operatives now go beyond their families to recruit, radicalise women to expand network

SHARIFUL ISLAM and RAFIUL ISLAM

After years in the hunt for him, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on the night of May 14, 2009 captured "Boma" Mizan, explosives expert of banned terror outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

A Rab team took him to his house in Mirpur that night. As they got on the doorstep around 10:30pm, Mizan gave his wife Sharmin Haque Lata some coded instructions.

Within moments, Sharmin detonated a bomb inside the house. The blast blew off her right wrist and wounded her two children - a two-year-old son and a several-month-old girl.

Like Sharmin, another female operative



is Fatema Begum, arrested by police from the capital's Sadarghat area on November 22, 2014.

A few years before her arrest, Fatema intruded into India and gave arms training to a group of women at Burdwan's Shimulia madrasa.

She is the wife of JMB commander Sajid, the prime accused in Burdwan blast case. He was arrested in India on November 8, 2014.

Earlier, female operatives, like Sharmin and Fatema, were mostly from family members of male operatives.

But the situation has changed. A new version of the banned outfit has appeared on the scene. Law enforcers prefer to call it "Neo JMB", which is said to be responsible for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

While motivating the new recruits, the female JMB members say the number of male operatives is decreasing in jihad. So females should come forward and join jihad.

the banned outfit has appeared on the scene. Law enforcers prefer to call it "Neo JMB", which is said to be responsible for

## 18 Jamaat men held at school

Police say they were in a 'secret meeting' to plan subversive acts; Nizami's wife principal of the school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained 18 alleged leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir when they were holding "a secret meeting" at a school in the capital's Badda area.

The detainees include Jamaat's Badda unit chief Fakhrudin Keyaetullah, said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station.

Later at night, police filed an anti-terror case against the detainees.

The meeting was taking place at the Badda branch of Islamic International School and College. Shamsunnahar Nizami, widow of hanged war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami, is the principal of the institution, said Jalil.

The school has three branches and Shamsunnahar's office is in the Gulshan branch.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

DNCC MAYOR

ANNISUL HUQ

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CAPITAL



QUOTE

"If people cooperated with us and refrained from putting up billboards and banners, mayors didn't need to do hooliganism."

ANNISUL HUQ

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CAPITAL

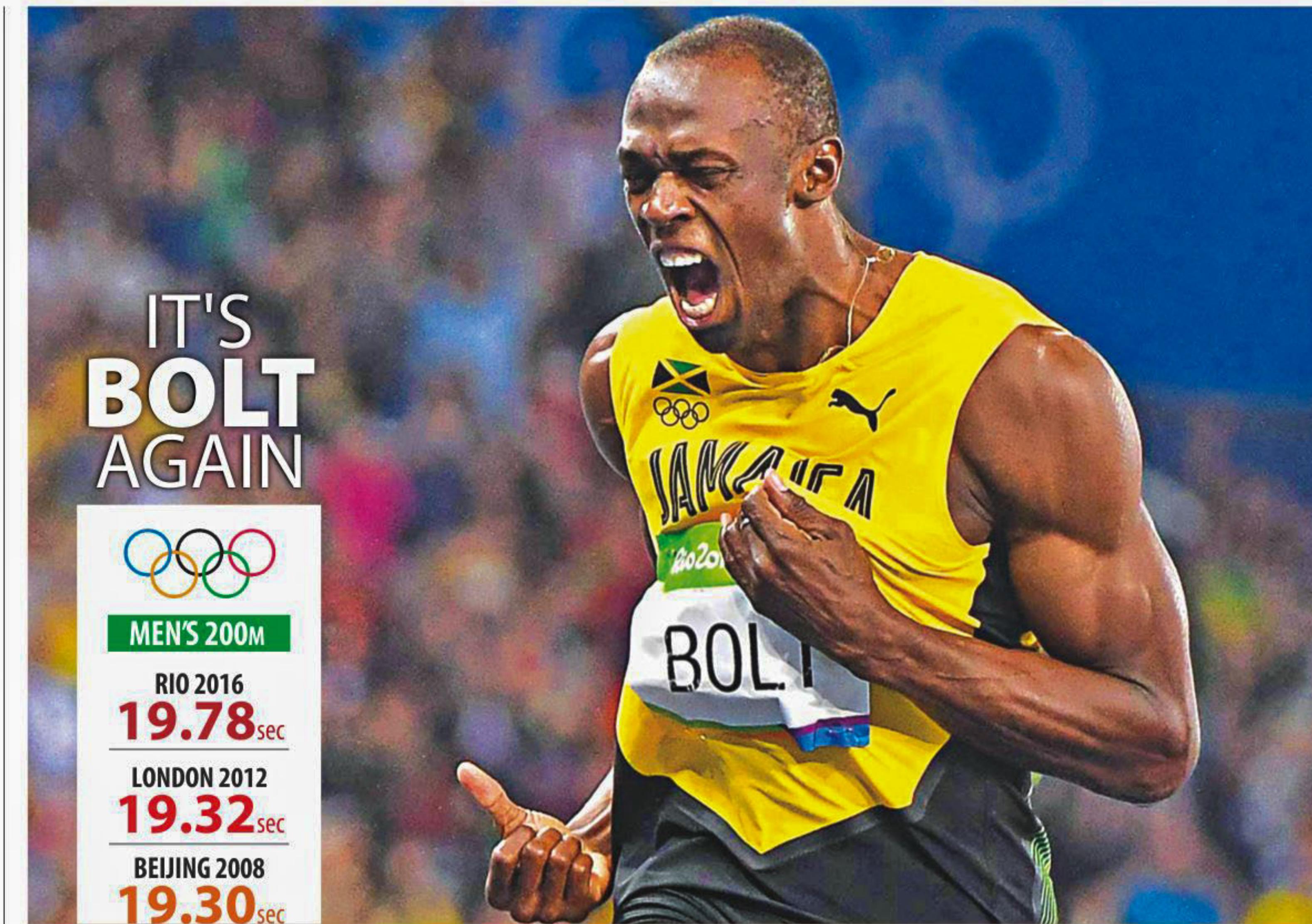


PHOTO: AFP

## 3 'Ansarullah men' arrested

Laptops, jihadi books seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detectives arrested three alleged members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in Chittagong city and Patiya upazila early yesterday.

The arrestees are Farhad Hossain Ripan, 27, Mohammad Emran, 25, and Ahmed Hossain Roni, 21, said police.

Of them, Farhad, who was a former student of the Chemistry department at Chittagong University, was working in a French-based company in Karnaphuli EPZ in the port city, said Nazmul Hasan, additional deputy commissioner (Bandar zone) of Detective Branch (DB) of police of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## 'Only thing that matters is gold'

ATIQUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro



Usain Bolt is back in form. He is back in the very best of form as far as his antiques are concerned. He has always been in form as far as racing is concerned, but now that he has breezed through to victory in his favourite 200m on Thursday night to complete a double hattrick of 100m and 200m, he is back with his typical show of wit, charm and antiques.

After his 100m victory on Monday night, the Jamaican had turned up at the press conference with a rather serious demeanour. He wasn't doing any of the things he is famous for -- he wasn't having a dig at the

journalists; he wasn't picking on his rivals or making faces at them; he wasn't bragging about his own superhuman qualities and he wasn't even showing his brilliant dance moves.

But all of those were on show on Thursday night, perhaps because this victory meant more to him than the other races. After the semifinals, he had even admonished Andre de Grasse for having pushed him all the way to the finish line, for he wanted to 'save some legs' for the final. And save he did; the sprint king kept pushing to extend, and rather untypically, did not slow down in the final straight.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Hajj uncertain for 15,000 pilgrims

BELAH HOSSAIN BIPLAB

The fate of around 15,000 Hajj pilgrims of 143 private hajj agencies is hanging in the balance as the agencies are yet to arrange their visas and plane tickets.

It is not sure when they would be able to fly to Saudi Arabia as many Biman flights have already been cancelled, said Haab and Biman sources.

The state-run Biman Bangladesh Airlines will incur a huge loss as 14 Hajj flights have been cancelled till yesterday, said AM Mosaddique Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Biman.

The national flag carrier might cancel another flight today as its passengers were yet to get visas, he told The Daily Star.

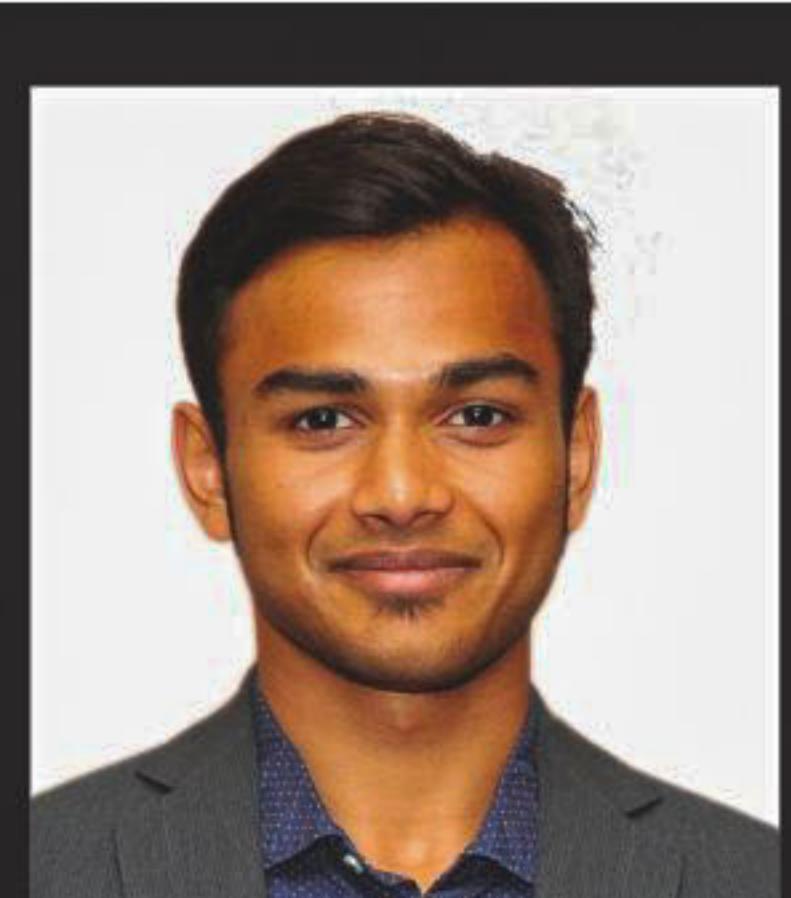
CARING WOMAN  
One held,  
17 sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Police arrested a man on Thursday in connection with Tuesday's caning of a housewife in Piroganj upazila of Rangpur.

In the meantime, on Friday, the victim has filed a case with Piroganj Police Station accusing a total of 17 individuals -- seven of them were named and 10 unnamed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



In Loving Memories of...

Mashroor Sharar Azam

08/06/1993 - 20/08/2013

Today on this third death anniversary of our beloved son Mashroor Sharar Azam- families, relatives, friends & well-wishers are requested to pray for his departed soul.

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannah.

On Behalf of his family - Md. Moshiul Azam Shajal

## BANGLADESH-INDIA RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY

# 5 more routes by 2018

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

As part of efforts to boost trade and improve rail communication, five rail routes will be launched between Bangladesh and India in phases by 2018.

Freight services will begin on the route from Biral in Dinajpur to Radhikapur in West Bengal by December this year and passenger services on Khulna-Kolkata route via Benapole by early next year, according to senior officials of Bangladesh

Railway.

The other three are Shahbazpur-Mahisasan, Akhaura-Agartala and Chilahati-Holdibari routes, which will be used for carrying goods, said the officials.

The initiative has been taken in line with the agreement signed between the prime ministers of the two countries in 2012, Rafiqul Alam, additional director general (infrastructure) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star.

In addition to the five routes, Dhaka and New Delhi are mulling over

launching a few more rail routes, which include Feni-Belonia, Burimang-Changrabandha and Banglabandha-Siliguri routes, said Bangladesh Railway officials.

At present, three rail routes are operational between the two neighbouring countries. The route from Darshana in Chuadanga to Gede in West Bengal is used for carrying both passengers and goods and the other two -- Benapole-Petrapole and Rohanpur-Singhabad routes -- for freight services.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

14km  
Biral-Radhikapur  
by December, 2016

86km  
Khulna-Benapole-Kolkata  
by early 2017

51.5km  
Shahbazpur-Mahisasan  
by early 2018

15.06km  
Akhaura-Agartala  
by December 2018

12km  
Chilahati-Holdibari  
by 2018

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4