



# Terror kingpin killed

### Tip-off comes from radical with a change of heart; Tamim's close aide among two others gunned down in N'ganj hideout



Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury lying face down after being killed in a police raid in Narayanganj yesterday. The Daily Star is publishing the photo in black and white to blunt the photo's graphic nature. PHOTO: COLLECTED

SHARIFUL ISLAM, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and RAFIUL ISLAM

A tip-off from a top militant, who thought it's about time he shunned the path of terrorism and returned to normal life, helped detectives track down the alleged mastermind of Gulshan attack, Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury.

A close aide to Tamim, the militant revealed to law enforcers the possible hideout of the terror kingpin.

The piece of information, obtained only hours before the Narayanganj operation yesterday, earned the counterterrorism unit of the DMP success in hunting down the most sought after man in recent time.

"Around 3:00am [yesterday], the aide to Tamim gave us the vital information following which we launched the operation at a militant hideout in Narayanganj," said Monirul Islam, chief of the counterterrorism unit.

He said the aide is not in police custody.

Tamim, who had Tk 20 lakh bounty on his head, was killed along with two accomplices in the operation codenamed "Hit Strong 27" at their hideout in Paikpara of Narayanganj.

The identities of the two other militants could not be known.

Bangladeshi-Canadian Tamim identified himself as Shaykh Abu Ibrahim Al-Hanif, the "Amir of the Khilafah's Soldiers in Bengal," in the 12th issue of Islamic State's propaganda magazine Dabiq in November last year.

Officials, however, rule out any organisational presence of IS in Bangladesh. They say Tamim was the coordinator of "Neo JMB".

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# Sundarbans to stay safe

### PM tells press; rebuts critics of Rampal power plant project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reaffirming her government's resolve to go ahead with the Rampal power project, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the plant would be set up in such a way that it would not harm the Sundarbans.

The PM was speaking at a press conference at the Gono Bhaban.

Her statement comes at a time when campaigners are pressing for cancellation of the coal-based power plant project which they say would have an adverse impact on the Sundarbans, a Unesco world heritage site.

On August 24, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia lent support to the campaigners, saying the project is "anti-people" and "unprofitable". She urged the government to pull back from the project for the sake of the country's ecological balance.

Hasina said the 1,320MW plant is about 14 kilometres from the outer boundary of the Sundarbans and 65 kms from the world heritage site. And international law permits construction of a coal-based power plant 10 kms from a deep forest, she said.

Rampal project is one of the coal-based plants the government has decided to build across the country to meet the growing electricity demand, said the PM.

"But a vested quarter which is against the country's development has been spreading negative, baseless, fictitious and misleading information for the last few days and is trying to make people fearful of the project."

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

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# 'Most cunning' of the lot

### He led 'Neo JMB', a more radicalised, fearsome outfit



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury had entered Bangladesh in 2013 and subsequently took it upon himself to coordinate "Neo JMB" -- a militant group far more radical and terrifying than the original Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

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# Rampal power project 'anti-state activity'

### Khaleda slams PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The setting up of a coal-based power plant near the Sundarbans is an "anti-state activity" of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night.

She said the premier and her government would be held accountable when they would be out of power

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# Freedom of media, speech essential

### Says US ahead of John Kerry's Bangladesh visit

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