



Marzan killed in 'shootout'

The 'Neo JMB' man 'coordinated' Gulshan cafe attack; Saddam, wanted in Kunio Hoshi murder, also killed, his family alleges he was picked up 9 months ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top "Neo JMB" leader Nurul Islam Marzan, who allegedly coordinated the Gulshan café attack, was killed in a "gunfight" with police in the capital early yesterday.

It also left another leader of the militant group dead. He is Saddam Hossain alias Rahul, who led "Neo JMB" activities in northern region.

Saddam was wanted in at least 10 murder cases, including that for the killing of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in Rangpur and Jogeshwar Das Adhikari in Panchagarh.

"Marzan was next in the rank to top Neo JMB coordinator Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury. He used to remain close to Tamim," DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational



Marzan



Saddam

Radicalised by relatives

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Slain militant leader Nurul Islam Marzan, who played the role of operational commander in the Gulshan café attack, was indoctrinated into radical beliefs by his relatives.

The 22-year-old youth got involved in militancy through his uncle Sohel Mahfuz and brother-in-law

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A group of farmers harvest honey from beehives they have set up in a mustard field in Sreenagar Satgaon of Munshiganj yesterday. They hope to collect a huge quantity of honey from several hundred bighas of land. They sell honey for Tk 400 a kg.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Crackdown on, so are covert militant activities

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

On November 2, someone from Dhaka entered the domain of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). Investigators found the cultural institute of a foreign country was the location of the person when he logged in to the domain. He was using the wi-fi facility of the institute.

Not everyone has access to the AQIS domain, believed to be operated from India. One has to know a certain operating system and have the username and password for it. "Only the tested and trusted

persons are provided those," said an investigator, on condition of anonymity.

About a month later, the same person used mobile phone and internet near a temple in the capital's Rayerbazar area.

Investigators have no information on the person's latest whereabouts and movements, but they believe he has been working on a plan.

"We tried to track the person further but he was very tactfully using communications technology," said an official.

Security at the cultural institute and the

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Tigers wilt in T20Is too

AL-AMIN from Tauranga

It was yet another day out in the middle for the Tigers and yet another heavy defeat for them. The latest one -- a 47-run defeat against the Black Caps at

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Under fire, NCTB moves to fix textbook errors

Committee formed; report expected in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of widespread criticism over some embarrassing blunders in school textbooks, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board has finally formed a review committee to find out and then correct the mistakes.

The three-member body led by its member (finance) Prof Kazi Abul Kalam will submit the report within seven working

days, NCTB Chairman Prof Narayan Chandra Saha told The Daily Star yesterday.

The reported mistakes may have happened at various levels and the committee will track it down, he said.

Soon after the government started distributing some 36.21 crore copies of textbooks among 4.26 crore students of pre-primary, primary and secondary students on January 1, a sizeable number of errors

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Gunmen kill Bangladeshi peacekeeper

STAR REPORT

Gunmen killed a Bangladeshi peacekeeper in the restive Central African Republic, said Inter Services Public Relation Directorate (ISPR) yesterday.

The victim, Abdur Rahim, 29, was a soldier of Bangladesh Army. Son of Abdul Majed of Hazipur

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A group of children at Happy Home in the capital's Mohammadpur area. Run by an NGO, the charity provides food, shelter, education and healthcare to underprivileged girls. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Shiny happy faces they are now

Thanks to a charity, female children in distress find home, strength to dream of a better future

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Asha Moni has seen a lot even though she is just 12.

When she was six years old, her grandmother brought her to Dhaka from Dinajpur and made her work as a domestic help in a flat.

Asha worked there for a few weeks but could not continue as she was unable to bear the torture by her employers. She ran away and started to live on the streets, mainly in Karwan Bazar area.

The girl also decided not to go back to her grandmother. She did not know the whereabouts of her parents.

"I used to collect discarded vegetables at the market for food, but sometimes I had to beg to feed

myself. I used to think that this would be my life," she said with tears in her eyes.

But luck smiled on her. She was picked by a charity organisation -- Happy Home -- four years ago.

Launched in 2006, Happy Home works to rehabilitate underprivileged female children, especially those who live in vulnerable condition. Asha and 115 other girls are provided with basic needs -- food, shelter, education and healthcare -- there.

The charity had five small homes in the capital's Mohammadpur, Karwan Bazar, Lalbagh, Mugdha and Sutrapur areas. Recently, it has moved into a larger home in Mohammadpur and closed the others.

There were 150 girls in all the five homes. However, 35 of them have recently been reintegrated into their families, while the rest are staying at the Mohammadpur home.

A fifth-grader at Mohammadpur Government Primary School, Asha likes to dance and sing, and each year she participates in cultural programmes at the school and wins trophies. She aspires to become a doctor one day so that she can serve the poor.

"I have many dreams now, but a few years ago I couldn't even think of studying," she said.

Asha also shared her fears and painful experience of living on the streets.

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শুদ্ধতায় প্রয়োজনে পাশে

ব্যাংক এশিয়া ইসলামিক ফ্রেডিট কার্ড

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য কল করুন: ১৬২০৫

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