

IN OUR HEARTS, IN SILENCE

BANGLADESHIS



FARAAZ AYAAZ HOSSAIN, 20
He was the grandson of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group and Shahnaz Rahman, and son of Simeen Hossain, managing director, Eskayef Bangladesh Limited, and Muhammad Waquer Bin Hossain. He was completing his undergraduate studies at the Emory University in Atlanta, USA, and came to Dhaka on May 18 to spend his summer holidays.

ISHRAT AKHOND, 45
She worked as a human resources director at ZXY International FZCO and Arts Provocateur at Institute of Asian Creatives, Dhaka. According to her relatives and friends, she was always jolly, cheerful and loving. On June 26, 2016, Ishrat updated her Facebook status: "Key to happiness is to stay away from negative people, even if you know them for long. Stay blessed."

ABINTA KABIR, 19
A US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, she was a student of Oxford College of Emory University in the US. She came to Dhaka on June 27 to visit her family and friends on summer vacation. She is the daughter of the chairperson of Elegant Group that owns Lavender Superstore in Gulshan.

RABIUL KARIM, 34
Rabiul Karim, assistant commissioner, DB, is one of the two officers who got killed as they responded to the hostage crisis immediately. He established a kindergarten named "Kabi Nazrul Bidyasir" and a school named "Blooms" for physically-challenged children at his village. He used to be the sub-inspector in August 1991. He was posted to Banani Police Station in 2015.

SALAUDDIN KHAN, 49
The officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station suffered splinter wounds in his throat. He bled excessively, which led to his death. He left behind his wife Remkum, two children and a host of well-wishers. Born in Bankpara village of Gopalganj Sadar in 1967, Salauddin joined the police as a sub-inspector in August 1991. He was posted to Banani Police Station in 2015.

INDIAN



TARISHI JAIN, 19
She was an Indian citizen in Bangladesh. She was studying Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. She was in Dhaka on summer vacation and was among those trapped inside the cafe.

MARCO TONDAT, 39
He was a young businessman in textile sector of Cordovado (Pordenone) and worked for StudioTex Ltd. He was the father of a six-year-old daughter.

VINCENZO D'ALLESTRO, 46
A native of Caserta, Piedmonte Matese, he moved to Acerra (Naples) in October 2015. He was born in Wetzikon, Switzerland.

NADIA BENEDETTI, 52
Benedetti, managing director of StudioTex, a company with headquarters in London and a branch office in Dhaka, had been living in Bangladesh for 25 years. She had previously lived in Italy and Kenya.

MARIA RIVOLI, 33
Rivoli of Lombard lived in Solza with her husband and three-year-old daughter. She worked in textile sector and was on a business trip. She was in Bangladesh for several months before the attack.

ITALIANS



ADELE PUGLISI, 50
Adele, from Catania worked at Artsana as the quality control manager. She was planning to travel back home on July 2 (the day after the attack).

CLAUDIO CAPPELLI, 45
For over five years, Italian worked in Bangladesh with his textile company, which produced T-shirts, clothing and bedding. He lived in Vedano al Lambro in the province of Monza.

CRISTIAN ROSSI, 47
The Italian lived in Bangladesh for 15 years before going back to Italy. He was on one of his occasional business trips. He had intended to return home the day before the attack, but had to delay his departure to finalise a business contract.

CLAUDIA MARIA D'ANTONA, 56
She was the managing director of Fedo Trading Ltd, an Italian textile company operating in Bangladesh. She lived in Dhaka for over 20 years with her husband, Gian Galeazzo Boschetti, the sole Italian survivor of the attack.

SIMONA MONTI, 33
Monti, who worked in a textile firm, was seven months pregnant. She was supposed to return home soon from a long vacation. She lived in the town of Magliano Sabino in Rome.

JAPANESE

KOYO OGASAWARA, 56
Ogasawara of Katahira & Engineers International was an environmental impact assessment expert. He was scheduled to return home on July 5.

MAKOTO OKAMURA, 32
He was a transportation systems expert. He worked for ALMEC Corporation, a consulting company in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo.

YUKO SAKAI, 42
The Japanese was an engineer of ALMEC Corporation, a consulting company in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo.

RUI SHIMODAIRA, 27
He was an engineer of ALMEC Corporation, a consulting company in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo.

NOBUHIRO KUROSAKI, 48
He used to work for Oriental Consultants Global, a Tokyo-based construction consulting company.

HIROSHI TANAKA, 80
He worked for Oriental Consultants Global. He was a former research engineer for the Japan National Railways. He was in Dhaka to do a traffic congestion survey.

HIDEKI HASHIMOTO, 65
He used to work at a Tokyo-based construction consulting company.

[The seven Japanese were involved in the work to improve the traffic situation in Dhaka, according to NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting organisation]

Darkness befalls Road 79

FROM PAGE 1
Italians and another group of

Japanese.

Around 8:45pm, the diners heard a loud sound like that of a firecracker.

Shouting "Allahu Akbar", five youths carrying weapons including semi-automatic rifles, grenades and machetes burst into the eatery and started firing indiscriminately.

Screams and screams pierced through the air. Panicked and bewildered, the diners ducked under tables, scurrying for safety.

Holding the diners hostage, they sorted out non-Muslim targets by a grim test of reciting verses from the Holy Quran.

The worst-ever hostage crisis then unfolded before the nation. It wasn't until the next morning, around 12 hours later, that para commandos broke the siege, killing six attackers.

What the commandos found was traces of mindless butchery. Twenty hostages, including 17 foreigners, were brutally murdered with the restaurant's floor strewn with bodies and blood. Two police officials and a chef of the restaurant were also killed during the standoff.

Amidst the terror and bloodbath that shook the country to its core, a young man -- aged only 20 -- stood out as an example of courage, friendship, and humanity.

Faraz Ayaaz Hossain, who went to the restaurant to meet his friends, could have walked free but refused to abandon his friends, choosing to stay with them even in the face of terror and death.

Faraz, a student of Emory

University in Atlanta, Georgia in the US, and his friends Abinta Kabir, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin and of the same university, and Tarishi Jain, an Indian and a student of the University of California, Berkeley.

They were among those killed.

The Gulshan attack, carried out by IS-inspired outfit known as Neo JMB, formed by a faction of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), served as a wake-up call for the government and triggered a massive hunt for militants and a crackdown on terror networks.

Law enforcers succeeded in busting a number of militant dens through counterterrorism operations. The mastermind of the attack -- Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi-origin Canadian -- was killed during mainstream JMB leader Sarwar Jahan Manik's group. Sarwar was also killed in a drive on October 8, 2016.

Tamim spearheaded Neo JMB after coming to Bangladesh in 2013 and took charge as its chief in 2015. On July 11 that year, his group joined mainstream JMB leader Sarwar Jahan Manik's group. Sarwar was also killed in a drive on October 8, 2016.

Since the Holey Artisan massacre, law enforcers have carried out 20 high-risk anti-militancy operations where 63 militants were killed, as of last month. As many as 535 other militants have been arrested during the same period of time, added Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit officials.

NEW LEADER, NEW TACTICS

Five years after the mindless massacre, containing future activities of Neo JMB remains a big challenge as it is

attempting to re-emerge with new tactics.

The militant outfit is now focusing on rearranging its military wing. It is forming teams using Islamic scholars to recruit people, according to an intelligence report.

The outfit declared Abul Abbas Al Bangali alias Mahadi Hasan Jon as its new ameer last year. Mahadi is now running the outfit's activities as a wake-up call for the government and triggered a massive hunt for militants and a crackdown on terror networks.

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NEW LEADER, NEW TACTICS

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However, Neo JMB is mulling appointing a new ameer as Mahadi is facing difficulty operating in Bangladesh from abroad, they said.

According to the intelligence report, obtained by The Daily Star, the outfit's future plan is to conduct "drone attacks" at important establishments

HC may begin hearing soon in Gulshan attack case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court is expected to start its hearing soon on the death reference and appeals of the Holey Artisan attack case, as the case paper book has already been prepared by the office concerned of the court.

A paper book contains all the case details, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, orders, verdict, and other relevant documents. The book is necessary for the HC for holding the hearing and disposing of a death reference or an appeal.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), if a lower court orders the death penalty, the verdict is to be examined by the HC for confirmation of the punishment.

Now the HC is supposed to examine the lower court judgment in the case by holding a hearing of the death reference.

The officials and staff concerned of the HC were delayed by a few months to prepare the paper book of the case for the ongoing pandemic, court sources said.

Supreme Court Spokesperson Mohammad Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star on June 23 that the paper book has been prepared.

"After the relevant procedures are completed, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain will assign an HC bench for hearing and disposing of the death reference of the case," he said.

He, however, could not say whether the convicts have filed an

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Living in the memories of loved ones



PHOTO: STAR

"People knew him as an amiable and selfless man. I hope my children would follow their father's ideals."

The DB official managed some time from his busy schedule to take his son with him on pleasure trips.

Shams said his elder brother was not only an honest police official, but also a patriot and dedicated social worker.

In 2011, he founded a school, Beaconing Light Organisation of Mankind and Society (BLOOMS), for special children in Katigram village of Manikganj. It has 41 students now.

The DMP official used to bear all the school expenses, including for uniform, tiffin, books, stationery and a school van.

The school is now run with financial support from his well-wishers. However, guardians, teachers and students are worried about its future.

Shams said the school managing committee and his family members

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JULY 1

- Five terrorists storm the Holey Artisan cafe at 8:45pm
- 19 hostages, including 16 foreigners, killed within 30 mins
- One more foreigner killed a couple of hours later
- 31 police officials injured in grenade attacks around 10:30pm
- Rab DG urges TV channels to stop live coverage at 11:20pm

JULY 2

- Banani OC Salauddin declared dead at 12:14am
- DB AC Robiul Islam pronounced dead at 1:08am
- SITE Intelligence reports at 1:26am that IS claimed responsibility
- Meeting held at the Gono Bhaban among the PM, chiefs of the three services and top officials of law enforcement agencies around 3:00am
- Army, navy, police, BGB, Rab and SWAT prepare for commando operation around 5:00am
- Army-led "Operation Thunderbolt" begins at 7:40am
- The operation ends at 8:30am; 5 militants, one chef killed



WHAT FOLLOWS

Eight firearms, including three AK-22 rifles, seven magazines, and 129 bullets recovered

Police file case with Gulshan Police Station on July 4, 2016

Investigation finds 21 people involved; five of them were killed on the spot and eight in anti-militancy drives later. The other eight are in jail.

Police pressed charges against the eight on July 23, 2018; six of them gave confessional statements

211 shown as prosecution witnesses; number of seizure list 13

Court framed charges against the eight on November 26, 2018

Trial proceedings began on December 3 last year and ended on October 27, 2019

Verdict on November 27, 2019; seven sentenced to death; one acquitted



FILE PHOTO

about how to make IEDs through video tutorials. "Every member of the outfit now knows how to make an IED and it will be a challenge to control Neo JMB in upcoming days," he said.

Intelligence officials said Neo JMB's present strategy is now to bring all outfit members under a single platform and form a separate cell to conduct sabotage activities.

The outfit is also trying to get its arrested members out of jail and attack law enforcers as revenge, states the report.

According to intelligence officials, main targets of the IS-inspired outfit are police, religious institutes, mazars, NGO staff, and ruling Awami League members.

While it recruits members and communicates internally through online platforms like Telegram and Facebook, the military wing's activities are totally offline, the report also stated.