

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA (Facebook and Twitter) IN RECENT TERROR ATTACK IN BANGLADESH

Case Study: Gulshan Resturant Attack

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October, 2016

Introduction:

New communication technologies social media have proven to be an extremely valuable tool for the terrorist organization and is perfectly suited for the very audience it's intending to target. In this age of technology terrorism is using social media as a tool of their mischievous activities. Due to convenience, broad reach, availability and affordability, terrorists group use social media very often.

New communication technologies have not only made our life easier, they have also made it far easier to disseminate the messages of terrorists through images, videos and other propaganda based activities. The Islamic State is more strategic online, demonstrates greater social media sophistication, and operates in cyberspace on a larger scale and intensity than previous terrorist groups. Its online propaganda is linked with radicalized individuals traveling to fight in Syria and Iraq or committing "lone-wolf" terrorism in the West. Islamic State territorial gains, the influx of foreign fighters, the volume of its online propaganda, and extremist attacks in Paris converged to catalyze more policy action in 2015.

ISIS has proven itself to be an especially social media-savvy organization. While Twitter shuts down accounts when it finds them, plenty of terrorists have used the site to discuss their mission and connect with other fighters before being ousted. The terrorist group ISIS is known for its sophisticated social media outreach. Now it seems they are bringing that sophistication to their video propaganda, too.

ISIS videos include the executions of western aid workers and journalists, Syrian government soldiers, alleged spies and suspected homosexuals, a Jordanian pilot, Christian migrant workers, and others. Some have been decapitated, others shot, blown up, hurled from tall buildings or burned alive. Many of the clips serve a dual purpose, inspiring one group of people while disgusting and frightening another.

The research has been conducted to show the frequent use of social media in the attack of Holey Artisan Bakery by the terrorists. Even panic is going through the wind because of the post of ISIS. People of Bangladesh also came to know the identification of the terrorists through their Facebook and twitter account. To conduct the research the researcher has used the posts of twitter and

Facebook given by the terrorist's group, Intelligence agencies. Most of the twitter posts are found through using some hashtags like #dhaka_attack, #amaq, #site_intelligence, #isis etc. In Facebook, the researcher also used the tags but most of the posts are found through the different pages of national and international media, Bangladesh intelligence departments etc. Some Facebook posts had been picked given by the popular Facebook users by random selection.

The posts are analyzed through the theory of representation because the research is showing how the social media posts are created, how the words had been disseminated and how the pictures worked for spreading panics, news and rumors.

{Theory of Discourse Analysis}

Objectives:

The research has wanted to find the things mentioned below:

1. How ISIs had disseminated their propaganda and how they become successful to flourish fear of terror among people around Bangladesh through twitter?
2. How the facebook had become the main source of Identification for the terrorists of the Gulshan Attack before the security intelligence?

Term related to the article:

Social Media: Social media is the collective of online communications channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration. Websites and applications dedicated to forums, microblogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation, and wikis are among the different types of social media.

Facebook: Facebook is an American for-profit corporation and online social media and social networking service based in Menlo Park, California, United States. Created in 2004, Facebook is what is known as a "social network". It's an online community set up to facilitate people finding and forming friendships with each other through an exchange of different content. Facebook is one of the biggest social networks because of how much you can do with it.

Twitter: Twitter is a free microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets. Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users' tweets by using multiple platforms and devices.

IS: The jihadist group Islamic State (IS) burst on to the international scene in 2014 when it seized large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. The Islamic State is also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The UK government has encouraged the use of the Arabic acronym Daesh, which the terrorists hate and regard as an insult. It has become notorious for its brutality, including mass killings, abductions and beheadings. The group though has attracted support elsewhere in the Muslim world - and a US-led coalition has vowed to destroy it. IS seeks to eradicate obstacles to restoring God's rule on Earth and to defend the Muslim community, or umma, against infidels and apostates.

Amaq News Agency: Amaq is a news outlet that functions much like an official part of the ISIL media apparatus – though ISIS does not acknowledge it as such. Amaq is putting out the Islamic State's message, and the veneer of separation between the terrorist group and what has now become its unacknowledged wire service is quickly disintegrating. Though the group is not officially part of the ISIS media apparatus, it functions much that way.

Site Intelligence: SITE Intelligence Group is a for-profit Bethesda, Maryland-based company that tracks online activity of white supremacist and jihadist organizations. From 2002 to 2008, **SITE Intelligence Group** was known as the Search for International Terrorist Entities (**SITE**) Institute. **SITE** is led by the Israeli analyst Rita Katz.

JMB: Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen is an Islamic fundamentalist group. It's also banned by Bangladesh Government. On 17 August 2005, JMB claimed responsibility for the serial bombings across Bangladesh when 459 bombs were detonated in 63 out of 64 district towns within seven minutes.

Background of ISIS

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria was designated by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist organization in 2003 (as Al Qaeda in Iraq). In June 2014, ISIS renamed itself IS, the Islamic State, reflecting its claims of territorial sovereignty in parts of Iraq and Syria.

ISIS was founded in 2003 as Al Qaeda in Iraq with a mission of defeating the U.S. coalition forces that had invaded Iraq and, imposing Islamist governance. In 2006 it became The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and, while still affiliated with Al Qaeda, incorporated a number of additional insurgent groups into a coalition.

Following the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, ISI forces began fighting along with other rebel forces there as well. In 2012, the group renamed itself the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (Syria), reflecting its new regional ambitions. While fighting in Syria, it acquired strength and greater numbers of foreign recruits, drawn specifically to that conflict. However, it also began clashing with other rebel organizations including Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syria Al Qaeda affiliate.

In February 2014, Ayman al-Zawahiri, the head of Al Qaeda, formally disowned ISIS for disobeying his orders to stay in Iraq and for clashing with JN and other groups. Rather than disbanding, ISIS apparently grew stronger, attracting more recruits and gaining a reputation for brutal tactics.

In June 2014, ISIS renewed its attention toward Iraq. It organized a series of successful attacks in Iraq and quickly conquered significant territory stretching between Iraq and Syria. At the end of the month, it declared the territory it held in Syria and Iraq the third Caliphate and renamed itself the Islamic State. Abu Bakr al Bagdhadi, the group's leader, was named Caliph under the name Caliph Ibrahim.

The Uprising of Jihad and Islamic Fundamentalism in Bangladesh

There is no true source of Bengali identity as it is mixed with many religious traditions as well as Sufism but, unfortunately, the recent pseudo- democratic politics has tainted this fine identity. The Bangladeshi Nationalism did not come out from a single religion but the narrow politics of religion creates the bigotry of Muslims where the communalism is growing day by day. There are hundreds and thousands of reasons behind the growing militancy attacks in Bangladesh. It's not the outside

factors that lay behind the Bangladeshi fundamentalist activities rather it's more of the internal issues which are more important to understand the recent extremism in Bangladesh. From the beginning of the independence of Bangladesh, the major political parties and military dictator regime's left a little space for direct democracy and the political wisdom. Moreover, the nation has been growing without the secular and leftist intellectuals after the massive killing of Bengali Intellectuals on 14 December 1971 by the Pakistani forces and its collaborators.

During Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's regime from 1971 to 1975, Bangladesh became a democratic secular republic. He and his party Awami League started to pursuit parliamentary democracy with secularism, socialism and nationalism. After the assassination of Banga Bondhu in 1975, Khondokar Mushtaq Ahmed had overthrown Awami League. He declared Bangladesh as an Islamic Republic. After military coups, General Zia ur Rahman, leader of Bangladesh National Party (BNP) became the president of Bangladesh and developed a close relation with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic nations as well as western countries to collect foreign aids for the development of the newborn country; Bangladesh. He also made a good relation with the country's Islamic clergies and involved them in direct politics and replaced secularism with the statement "the absolute faith in the Almighty Allah". In 1981, after the assassination of Zia, Lt. General Ershad became the president of Bangladesh and announced Islam as the state religion of Bangladesh. However, Ershad fell down from power in 1991 after the continuous public discontent and demand for democracy led by the both major political parties (BNP and AL) and democracy was restored again.¹

A claimed number of 239 (another 33 remained unclaimed) murders have been caused by the Islamist jihadist in Bangladesh since 1999. The initial attacks were mostly concentrated on political rallies and politicians, but later individuals critical to religion have been targeted. If we observed the whole case from 1999 to 2013, we found Atheist bloggers have been victim since 2013.

Before attack on bloggers, two militants groups i) Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B), ii) Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were active in the country. Among them HuJi killed 93 people during 1999-2005 and JMB killed 90 people during 2001-2016.

¹ Puri, Balraj, Religious Militancy and Security in South Asia, P 35-36.

In 2013 another two groups emerged, i) Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) who were mainly responsible for bloggers killing and so far killed 11 bloggers/online activist; and ii) 'Neo JMB' who conducted fatal attacks on general people and expatriates killing 45 people till today including Gulshan Attack on July 1, 2016. 'Neo JMB' claimed that they connected with IS, but Bangladeshi intelligence organisations discovered this "Neo JMB" mainly consists of tech-savvy young educated people, whether in the past JMB leaders used to recruit mostly Madrassa boys from rural and poor background.

For all of these blogger killings there have no strong government action and protest by the civil society. Therefore in next two years ABT have gained huge success in killing more bloggers one after another as well same for the Neo JMB. Out of fear many bloggers have emigrated/immigrated and many have lost their job and displaced.

The important issue on the IS or Neo JMB attack they have used social media on a large scale. A research conducted by Deutsche Welle had found some fact related to social media in recent terror attacks in Bangladesh. Here are they:

In the siege, 20 foreigners, two police officers and six militants were killed

IS has been stepping up attacks in Bangladesh in recent years, DW's social media expert in Germany said, adding that the group seemed to have a uniform strategy before and after every strike. The Gulshan attack had been occurred after a long week drive against militants when over 15,000 people were arrested and many of them were BNP-Jamaat men with no priors.

"The Islamists' research is very thorough and they find reasons to kill people. Once they murder the victim, they release 'press statements' to justify the person's death. These are accompanied by lines from the Quran and the victims are pronounced guilty for being Murtada - or carrying an Islamic name but speaking against the religion," the social media expert explained. The militants use machetes because it is considered more Islamic than killing someone with a bullet.²

Bloodshed in the capital

² <http://www.dw.com/en/how-is-terrorists-used-social-media-for-updates-on-dhaka-cafe-attack/a-19373763>

Earlier on the night of July 1, seven gunmen (later they were identified as the neo JMB backed by ISIS) stormed into the Holey Artisan Bakery, an upmarket at capital's Gulshan area, the diplomatic enclave and took more than 30 hostages. DB assistant commissioner Rabiul Karim and Banani police station officer-in-charge (OC) Salahuddin were killed and at least 40 others cops injured in grenade attacks when they tried to conduct a rescue operation. The extremists slaughtered 20 hostages with sharp weapons early Saturday (July 2).

Later on morning of July 2, a commando team of Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Forces and RAB conducted a rescue drive "Operation Thunderbolt", killing six extremists and capturing one. They also rescued 13 hostages from the restaurant.

The new tool of terroristic propaganda: Social Media

Terrorism, in its modern form, has its origins in the mid to late 19th century – in the same era that saw the spread of both the mass media and democracy. Without the media, only a small number of people would know that an attack has taken place, and without democracy, those wielding power would have little reason to heed the sentiments that such violence provokes. In the article of Jason Burke published in the Gurdian, he showed, *The new wave of violent propaganda has prompted much debate about the role of Isis videos in attracting militants, as well as the degree to which the media itself is responsible for providing terrorism with the "oxygen of publicity".*³

Both the media and social platforms like Facebook and Twitter play an increasingly vital role in shaping how the public reacts to terrorism. In the Mumbai attacks of 2008, wide use of unfiltered social media channels aided the attackers in maximizing media attention. For example, a rumor that the Indian government was asking tweeters to stop live updates to avoid compromising its security efforts was published and republished on the site.⁴

In September 2013, at least 4 militants of Al-Shabaab, a Somalia al-Qaeda ally, attacked an upscale shopping mall in Nairobi. Shortly after the gunmen stormed the mall—shooting civilians and reportedly using grenades—the terrorists began "live-tweeting the carnage" from within the mall.⁴

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/25/how-changing-media-changing-terrorism>

⁴ <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/11/27/mumbai.twitter/>

Twitter quickly shut down that account, but almost immediately another Twitter account opened which purportedly was also operated by the militants. This happened repeatedly for days—with a new Twitter account being opened by the group (or someone posing as their spokesperson) as soon as the one before was shut down. At the time, Twitter declined to discuss its specific reasoning for deactivating the Twitter accounts.⁵

The Islamic State maximized its reach by exploiting a variety of platforms: social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook, peer-to-peer messaging apps like Telegram and Surespot, and content sharing systems like JustPaste.it. More important, it decentralized its media operations, keeping its feeds flush with content made by autonomous production units from West Africa to the Caucasus—a geographical range that illustrates why it is no longer accurate to refer to the group merely as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a moniker that undersells its current breadth.⁶

The case of Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik : They murdered 14 people at a holiday party in San Bernardino, California. The story featured a photograph of the infamous crib, which it inverted into a tribute to the killers' courage: "Syed and his wife did not hold back from fulfilling their obligation," read the caption, "despite having a daughter to care for."⁷

Most of the terrorist groups try to create these types of images of course, because their power derives from their ability to inspire or to give threats. The Islamic State has been singularly successful with the blessings of internet as it has changed the dark arts of making and disseminating propaganda.

According to **Documenting the Virtual Caliphate**⁸, an October 2015 report by the Quilliam Foundation, the organization releases, on average, 38 new items per day—20-minute videos, full-length documentaries, photo essays, audio clips, and pamphlets, in languages ranging from Russian to Bengali. The group's closest peers are not just other terrorist organizations, then, but also the Western brands, marketing firms, and publishing outfits—from PepsiCo to BuzzFeed—

⁵ Baker, Lisa, *The Islamic State's Use of Online Social Media*, Vol-1, Issue-1. Military Cyber Affairs.

⁶ <https://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/>

⁷ (Rafidah, Issue 13)

⁸ Winter, Charlie (October, 2015), *Documenting the Viral Caliphate*, Quilliam Foundation, UK.

who ply the Internet with memes and messages in the hopes of connecting with customers. As a result, the Islamic State's brand has permeated our cultural atmosphere to an outsize degree.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS USED BY IS

Recruitment, Brain-washing and Radicalization:

Social media has become an essential and exciting part of how we live. Millions of young people use these platforms daily to share content. But there are a small minority of users who exploit social media to radicalize and recruit vulnerable people. Since February 2010, over 95,000 pieces of terrorist content have been removed from the internet and the social media companies continue to work for limiting the abuse of their platforms by terrorists and their supporters.⁹ However, more content is uploaded all the time by people from this country and elsewhere who have joined ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

Many community based organizations respond to ISIS propaganda and debunk its messages. For example, London-based group Families Against Stress and Trauma (FAST) have designed an online guide for parents on the dangers of radicalization, as well as producing a YouTube film with testimonies from parents whose children have travelled to Syria. They are currently sharing their knowledge in a series of parenting workshops.

ISIS supporters use Facebook to share content, such as news stories and YouTube videos, among their peer groups. Multiple 'dummy' accounts have been set up by IS so that when videos are taken down they can be reposted quickly. In Twitter, it is very easy to open an account being an anonymous and share materials with a large number of people. Users will post YouTube links across their own social media platforms in order to disseminate material, particularly Twitter and Facebook. Even they use ASK.FM to support their followers to travel Iraq and Syria. They also use Instagram, Tumblr, WhatsApp, Kik, SureSpot, Viber etc. Even sometimes they use private messaging apps among the supporters.

⁹ Evening Times, July 1, 2015, 100,000 net terror postings deleted, Available at <http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13364171.100_000_net_terror_postings_deleted/>

As politicians and the media develop new ways of responding to acts of terrorism, videos released by ISIS exhibit the same multi-disciplinary approach to disseminating information. Recruitment videos posted online have helped to draw around 30,000 fighters from 104 countries to ISIS-held territory and inspired attacks abroad. Footage from the aftermath of ISIS actions has also radicalized new members. During the Mumbai attacks one terrorist called into a local broadcaster, greatly amplifying the sense of crisis and mass participation around the event.¹⁰

The images and videos made by ISIS continuously ignore that IS is a terrorist organisation engaged in killing innocent men, women and children. When IS's official media groups release material online the group encourages supporters on social media to share the material – this is what gives ISIL its large reach, particularly to young people.¹¹ IS celebrates and promotes an image of success online in order to attract young people – it tells them that ISIS are the winning side and can offer them an exciting life. The IS slogan 'Baqiyah wa-Tatamaddad' (remaining and expanding) presents the group as one that consistently achieves success. IS propaganda ignores the reality that IS are not winning and are opposed by the majority of people in Syria and Iraq.

IS portray their 'Caliphate' as an ideal, utopian state where Muslims will find status and belonging. IS propaganda claims that it is the duty of Muslim men and women in the West to travel there and regularly states that all foreigners are welcome in its ranks, so long as they are Sunni Muslims. The propaganda output of IS insists that it is the personal duty of Muslims to support them and travel to the 'Caliphate'. IS wants to portray itself as the only group able to defend Sunnis from the Assad regime, the Iraqi army or the threat of the West.

ISIS Language used in Social Media:

Belief is something so strange because if someone starts to believe their mind cannot be changed. This is the matter IS takes so seriously for that reason the organization do not keep any stone

¹⁰http://www.cjr.org/tow_center_reports/fear_ballot_box_political_media_terrorism_elections.php

[\(https://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/\)](https://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/)

¹¹ Rafidah, Issue 13

returned to establish Zihadi belief in people's mind. For this reason, they are using social media to reach the young people to attract them in IS led Zihad.

ISIS relies heavily on Islamic terminology, and often twists its meaning, to reinforce the impression that it is fighting for a religious cause and has established a truly Islamic state. Cotham School of Bristol had made a list of terminologies used by IS in the social media. Some of them are given below:

Caliphate - A Caliphate (or Khilafah) is a form of government used by early Muslims, under a single leader, or Caliph. ISIL supporters describe the territory the group controls in Iraq and Syria as the 'Caliphate'.

Dawla/Dawlah - A term used to describe ISIL by its supporters, an alternative to 'Islamic State.'

Hijrah - Referring originally to the journey made by the Prophet Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina, today hijrah is used by many to mean moving from a non-Muslim country to a Muslim country. ISIL uses this term to reinforce the idea that there is a religious obligation to travel to their so called Caliphate.

Jihad - Literally meaning 'struggle,' jihad can also refer to violence. Extremists may claim that undertaking violent jihad is obligatory for Muslims.

Kaffir/kuffar - A pejorative term used to describe non-Muslims, on the basis that they reject the tenets of Islam.

Mujahid - Someone who fights jihad, the plural of which is mujahideen.

Rafidha - The Arabic word for 'rejecters' or 'those who refuse', it is a term used to describe those believed to reject Islamic authority and leadership. 'Rafidha' is often used by ISIL supporters as a pejorative or sectarian term against Shia Muslims.

Shahada - This can refer both to the Islamic declaration of faith (the first of the five pillars of Islam) and to someone considered to have achieved martyrdom. In this case they will be referred to as a 'Shaheed'.

Sham - A classical Arabic term used to describe the region of the Levant, largely focused on Syr

Ummah - This is the concept of the world community of Muslims, who are bound by common faith. ISIL regularly makes claims to be representing the 'one true Ummah' and that it is building a community for them.¹²

Phases of Social Media use in Gulshan Terror Attack

3 Phases of Attack in Holey Artisan Bakery

There are 3 phases of social media use in Gulshan Terror Attack:

Pre Attack:

This phase should be the forecast of the attack. After the attack media had reported that there were threats about the attack.¹³ In the Dabiq's 12th Edition, there was an article about the attacks in 2015. In this article IS had taken the charge of the attacks in 4 incidents like killing of Tabela Ceaser, Kunio Hosi, the attack of Shite Mosque and the attack of police.

In a DW report mentioned about the attack on Friday July 1st, before the attack happened. The report is attached below:

*On Friday, monitoring the internet for updates on the IS siege in Dhaka, showed IS militants were using Twitter and the instant messaging app Telegram to "report" on their attack's progress. Security forces seemed to have paid no attention to these crucial clues, the expert said. "IS warned long ago that it would stage attacks during Ramadan in many countries, including Bangladesh. The government seems to have paid no attention," he said.*¹⁴

¹² www.cotham.bristol.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=46&type=pdf

¹³

<http://www.dw.com/bn/%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B7-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0/a-18869061>

¹⁴ DW.com (23 November 2015), আইএসের সর্বশেষ ছমকি আমলে নিচ্ছে না সরকার, Available at <http://www.dw.com/bn/%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B7-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0/a-18869061>>

Even on the day of attack, there were two more attacks in the day time. There were two cases of assassination in Jhinaidah and Bandorbaon. One of them were converted Christian and another is a Buddhist priest. Both of the incident were organized by the IS as the Amaq had tweeted about them.

During Attack

Shortly after the militants stormed Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery and O'Kitchen restaurant on Friday, IS published an update. "The IS claimed responsibility for the attacks through its news agency Amaq," a statement tweeted by the intelligence group SITE's head reported. A verified account of the Syrian citizen journalism group, Raqqa SL, had earlier posted the original pictures.

The news of the attack had been disseminated through the social media. Before that our security agency did not search anything about the place.

Our intelligence team has updated themselves with the blessings of technologies. But they had failed to track the condition inside of the Holey Artisan Bakery. The news agency of IS named Amaq had said they had killed 24 but our intelligence failed to make sure how many people were inside and how many were dead at this incident. The twitter account of site intelligence had confirmed us by the news of Amaq. But our security forces started their commando battle one and half hour after their tweets.

People found the news of the inside of the café through the posts of ISIS (AMaq) and through their analysis of Site intelligence. Several kitchen employees who had locked themselves in a bathroom inside the restaurant, the Holey Artisan Bakery, posted a picture of themselves on Facebook, bare chested against the stifling heat.

During the attack a Korean man lived beside holey artisan bakery shoot 5 or 6 video clips and he shared them in the Facebook. The videos had gone viral and mainstream media had used them as sources. Even the conspiracies about Hasnat Karim and Tahmid Haseeb Khan are still going on for the video footages.¹⁵

¹⁵ <http://www.dw.com/bn/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%87->

After Attack:

After the attack, our intelligence had given the terrorists name as Akash, Bikash, Don, Badhon etc. But those were not their real names. Even IS had given some different name. After getting the pictures of the terrorists from the tweets of IS, the kith and kin of the terrorists posted their Facebook identities where people had found their actual identities. The Facebook ID of the terrorists also helped people to find who the men were and how they lived.

The police declined to name the young men because nobody had shown up as of Sunday night to identify their bodies, but friends and relatives recognized photographs that were posted on a messaging app by the Islamic State, along with praise for the violence.

The men, all in their late teens or early 20s, were products of Bangladesh's elite, several having attended one of the country's top English-medium private schools as well as universities both in the country and abroad.¹⁶

After the identification of the terrorists of Gulshan terror attack Bangladeshi people had astonished to see the terrorists. As people have a stereotype that terrorists are from lower class family and their educational background must be Madrassas. So when people got that they were educated with the modern educational system they got shocked. Even in the operation time police killed one of the chefs of the restaurant named Saiful.¹⁷ People also found his identification through facebook. International media reported that they had been brain washed by the videos, images and texts by the social media propaganda of IS.

%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%93%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2/a-19376007

¹⁶ NYTimes.com (July 3, 2016), After Slaughter, Bangladesh Reels at Revelations about Attackers, Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/04/world/asia/bangladesh-dhaka-terrorism.html?action=click&contentCollection=Opinion&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=Marginalia&pgtype=article>

¹⁷ bdprotidin.com (4th July, 2016), পুলিশ যাকে জঙ্গি বলছে তিনি আসলে শেফ, Available at < <http://www.bd-pratidin.com/last-page/2016/07/04/155226>>

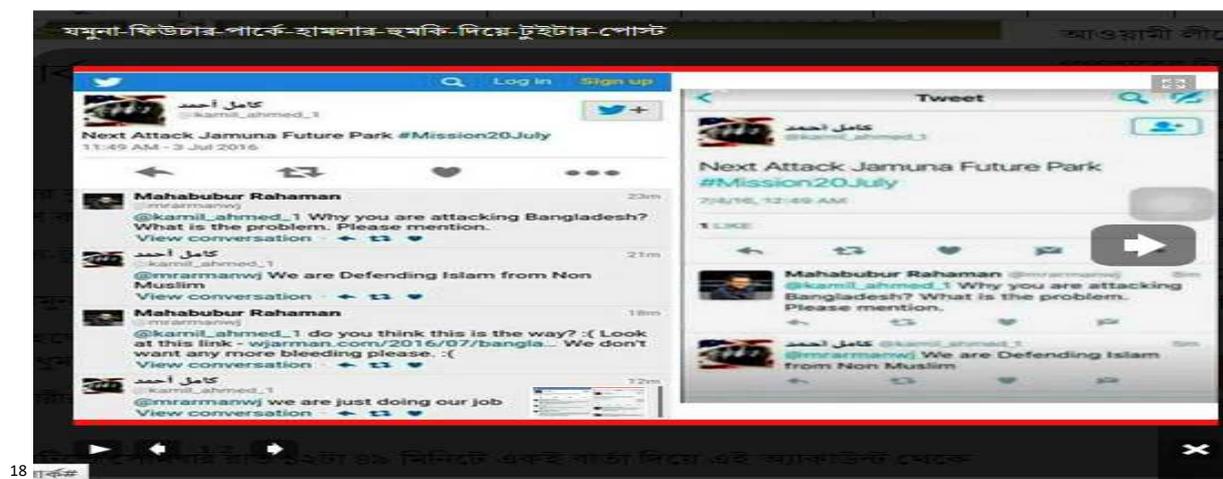
After 2 or 3 days of Gulshan Attack, there were rumors in Dhaka about more attacks in the big shopping malls. But they were just the hoax. People became fearful and they got panicked. ¹⁸

Even one of the people who got killed at terror attack Faraz, some people spread rumor that he was one of the terrorists. Some people had shared video claiming a man to be Faraz. In the previous point there was something about Tahmid and Hasnat. There were so many rumors about them. Some days ago, they had got bail from the security agencies.

Social Media: Influencer for IS or Lighthouse of Consciousness:

This research shows us the negative and positive effect of social media in Gulshan Terror Attack.

- ISIS disseminates information almost exclusively via Twitter, where it can quickly share its views and enable supporters to take part in that process.
- ISIS relies on a network of support to increase the reach and influence of its messages.
- ISIS is organized by the people who are from different regions and they target the people who are from different regions. For that reason they use different languages to legitimate their presence.
- The vast majority of non-Arabic propaganda distributed by ISIS is designed to get attention, enhance ISIS's image and encourage Westerners to join.
- For the nature of the social media it is very easy to disseminate any kind of rumor.



- Sometimes it is helpful for the security forces to find the people they are looking for.

Social media could be used by the terrorist site as well as the common people. How you use the social media depends on your mind. There are no limitations for making account and there are nothing to scrutinize for that reason you could use it as per your wish. It is important to make people understood and conscious. Without raising awareness, people could not be make social media as lighthouses.

Recommendations

- Social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter must also do much more to limit the opportunity given to members of Al-Qaeda and ISIS in broadcasting their messages.
- Media regulators in both traditional and new, online media should be in regular dialogue with news organizations to ensure the editorial staff are trained in processes to institutionalize accuracy.
- Media Regulations should not be something like the breakdown of privacy of the social media uses. It could be a Social Media Monitoring Cell by the security intelligence.
- A meeting could be held with the government and the social media Heads to regulate the posts of ISIS or other radical organisations.
- Traditional media must have scrutinized the issues before they publish or telecast them.
- Educational institutions could arrange special classes and workshops about negative and positive aspects of social media.
- A new law could be commenced to regulate the social media in a sober way with the help of distinguish Social Media Experts, general people, academics and so on.

Conclusion:

Social Media is a blessing in the modern age of communication. But nothing in the world has just the positive aspects. If you just say take the positive side and remove the negative, it is kind of impossible for a human being. This is the theme the terrorist organizations take for granted. People of the whole do not let them win in the social media war. As there is light behind the darkness, humanity win and will always win against the fear of terror. It is the duty of mankind to make

themselves ready to fight against the war which is bestowed upon us in the name of religion. It is the duty of our government to be more cautious about the religion based terrorism and not to be stubborn with their short term success. They must have had that courage to make Bangladesh united on that issue.