



## 5-MINUTE HORROR

### Of the murderers

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beg for his life.

While recalling the Sunday's attack inside the clinic at Johnson Road in Old Dhaka, the boy reacted abnormally. He said he could not sleep that night as the sickening scenes of the attack kept coming back before his mind's eyes.

"I was so scared that I hid in another room when they hacked Bishwajit with machetes and other sharp weapons," Saiful, who works at the clinic, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Wailing and grieving parents and relatives of Bishwajit in the meantime cremated him at Naria in Shariatpur on Sunday.

Among the group of 10-12 attackers, The Daily Star has managed to identify five BCL activists who directly took part in the murder. They are all students of Jagannath University (JNU) and are activists of the university's Chhatra League unit, according to their political peers, general students and eyewitnesses who know them.

But the killing of Bishwajit was not the first crime that the five have been involved with. In the past, they committed other crimes as well, including assaulting a female teacher and stalking

In less than 40 minutes, a young life was cut short. Bishwajit Das, barely 24, was murdered by some Chhatra League brutes that mercilessly beat him, taking him for a blockade supporter. Around 9:00am on Sunday, Johnson Road, Old Dhaka. An explosion was heard. Chased by some unruly activists of BCL, Bishwajit ran for life and scurried onto the second floor of a nearby building. But his murderers hunted him down as he was trying to take shelter in a dental clinic on the floor. For about five minutes, they beat and hacked him indiscriminately as they dragged him down to the streets. Some of them continued pounding him even as he tried to escape. In a desperate attempt, Bishwajit did manage to free himself from his attackers and cross the road, but collapsed around 9:10am. Some pedestrians then put him on a rickshaw that took him to Mitford Hospital in about 10 minutes. He gasped for air in the hospital for 15-17 minutes. Then silence. And as a precious life met an untimely end, hundreds of curious onlookers watched it as silent observers.

PHOTO: STAR

### Protect people

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female students of the university.

But thanks to their link with the ruling Awami League, police never took any action against them.

Police on Sunday night filed a case against 15-16 unnamed people in connection with the killing, but none was arrested as of last night.

#### Noore Alam

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the first floor of the building.

A group of Chhatra League activists chased Bishwajit on the road and started hitting him again when he frantically tried to escape the attack," a witness told this correspondent.

Photographs published in newspapers show that Noore Alam was among the assailants.

Campus sources say he is a cadre of Sirajul Islam group.

Noore Alam was involved in BCL factional clashes at the JNU since the student organisation established its supremacy on the campus in 2009. His offences are evident in newspaper clippings compiled by the university authorities.

#### Obhidul

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Photographs taken by photojournalists on Sunday show that Obhidul hacked Bishwajit in the head, back and hand.

In the last few years, he had been involved in various criminal activities, including extortion, mugging, stalking girls and taking drugs in and around the university, sources said.

#### Rafiqul

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taken by the media show Rafiqul, also known as Shakil, hacking the victim in the hand and other parts of the body.

He took part in most of the criminal activities on the campus since the AL came to power in 2009, a number of JNU students and journalists told The Daily Star.

Rafiqul was temporarily expelled from the university for insulting a female teacher in 2009, says a journalist who is the JNU correspondent of a national daily.

In the same year, the BCL expelled him for his involvement in various criminal activities, including stalking girls on the campus.

Newspaper clippings also bear evidence of his involvement in various criminal activities.

He is known as a notorious and merciless boy on the campus. He leads from the front whenever any clash takes place in our university," a close friend of Rafiqul said, requesting anonymity.

### Fakhrul arrested

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by the opposition alliance.

Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, who was present at the discussion, said active participation of other stakeholders including lawmakers, civil society members, the media and non-government organisations is needed for raising awareness about human rights.

UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner said there is much to be done to improve human rights situation in Bangladesh with participation of vulnerable groups.

Danish Ambassador Svend Olling, NHRC full-time member Kazi Reazul Hoque, among others, spoke at the occasion.

At another discussion programme in Chittagong, speakers observed that it would be possible to ensure human rights for everybody if all people including the deprived ones raise their voice collectively.

NHRC in association with the UNDP, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, DANIDA and Sweden, district administration and a local NGO organised the discussion at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy.

The theme of this year's International Human Rights Day is "Inclusion and right to participate in public life."

### Army arrest powers

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on certain conditions.

Votes in Egypt are traditionally supervised by the judiciary but the 22 November presidential decree led thousands of judges to go on strike.

Now, with the decree rescinded, the State Council Judges' Club has agreed to oversee the vote as long as pro-Morsi supporters call a halt to a sit-in outside Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court.

The court suspended work on December 2, citing "psychological pressure" from Islamists who had prevented a meeting on a draft of the new constitution. The protesters had wanted to block a ruling on the legality of the document.

'Division and sedition'

The opposition argues that the constitution was drafted by an assembly dominated by Mohammed Morsi's Islamist allies.

In a statement after talks on Sunday, the opposition National Salvation Front said it would not recognise the draft constitution "because it does not represent the Egyptian people".

"We reject the referendum which will certainly lead to more division and sedition," spokesman Sameh Ashour said.

Police said a group of youths vandalised two buses in Bijoyanagar area around 3:15pm. The attackers fled as soon as a police patrol team reached the spot.

Two more buses were set on fire in Shib Bari bus stand and Gazipur while four buses were reported to be set ablaze in Lalmonirhat district.

On Sunday night, a city corporation employee, Aynal, filed a case with Paltan Police Station against Mirza Fakhrul, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and 200 to 250 unnamed BNP men in connection with vandalising a vehicle of the city corporation during the road blockade.

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### Journos

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The announcement was made at a gathering of journalists yesterday at the press club. Sobhan said their next programme will be declared on that day.

Sagar, news editor at the private TV station Maarsanga and his wife Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11 at their apartment in the capital's West Rajabazar.

On October 9, the home minister named seven suspects in the brutal murder of the journalist couple.

"As four of the arrestees are professional killers, we want to know who hired them and what their motive was," Iqbal Sobhan said.

Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of another faction of BFUJ, said no journalist will be safe if the killers of Sagar-Runi are not punished.

"You cannot escape by trying another Joj Miah ploy," Gazi said, indirectly referring to the home minister.

Members from journalists' organisations including BFUJ, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity participated in the rally.

### Fog disrupts

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fog, said sources in the port's radio control room.

A total of 40 launches usually report at Sadarghat launch terminal in Dhaka by 8:30am daily. But only six reported till 12:30pm yesterday, Arif Uddin, deputy secretary of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), told The Daily Star.

The thick fog halted ferry services on the Mawa-Kawrakandi route for 11 hours and on the Paturia-Daulatdia route for 12 hours, leaving around 900 vehicles and thousands of commuters stranded on the river banks.

The ferry services resumed around 10:00am as the fog gradually cleared with the morning sunshine, said Sirajul Islam, manager of the BIWTA Mawa office in Munshiganj.

Ferry services on the southern routes like Barisal-Bhola, Barisal-Kuakata also remained suspended for about 12 hours till yesterday morning.

Sources at the Chittagong railway station said all the trains left the station on time. But they reached the destinations much later than scheduled as they had to run slowly due to the fog.

Our correspondents from Chittagong, Barisal and Munshiganj contributed to this report.