However, this is one of many such incidents where a mob becomes blind to law and order. The state hardly questions the action of mob violence. Although the Aminbazar murders have been highly publicised, no one has been given any jail term so far for the murder they had committed on the fateful night.

Had the culprits been punished, Al-Amin the lone survivor of the mob beating and his parents would have finally felt relievedof the constant fear. There has been no respite from the insecurity they have been living with ever since that day.

"Since he is the one who witnessed the killing of six of his friends right before his eyes, the fear never leaves us that the killers may murder him to ensure that no witness remains alive," said Khabir Bapari, Al-Amin's father.

His parents think twice before letting him walk alone even in his own neighbourhood even in broad daylight. Still suffering from the trauma, the boy has hardly anything to lose. His back still bears bruise marks from that night. He had been a sales representative of a juice company before the tragic incident took place. For physical injuries, the youth left the job that had earlier helped him contribute a little to his poor family.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Al Amin–the lone survivour still lives in fear.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Everything is still the same - the bed, the cupboard, the picture; only the occupant will remain missing.

He shuddered when recounting terrifying ordeal he had gone through two years ago. It was a joyful night that eventually turned into his worst nightmare. Seven friends were roaming around after saying prayers at a mosque near their residence in the capital's Darus Salam area. As they reached Aminbazar, some one kilometre away from the mosque, they took a stroll on the bank of the Turag river. They could not believe their eyes when a mob turned up out of the blue with sticks and sharp weapons in their hands.

"You are dacoits," were the first words of the mob giving no chance to defend themselves. The rest is the headlines of newspapers. Six dead on the spot and one severely injured. The beating took place in the very presence of law enforcers who played the role of silent spectators.

The dead are Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College, Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College; Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School, and Sitaf Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

Two years have gone by. It was only a few weeks ago that the first hearing against the 60 accused in the murder case took place. There is no police in the list of accused, although a judicial probe had found police negligence in saving their lives.

Parents of the victims demanded the case be transferred to a speedy tribunal for quick disposal. They even went to the prime minister's office on May 28, 2012. They wanted to meet the premier for placing their demands. But an official assured them of fixing a later date for the meeting. They have waited so long, but the date is yet to come. ■