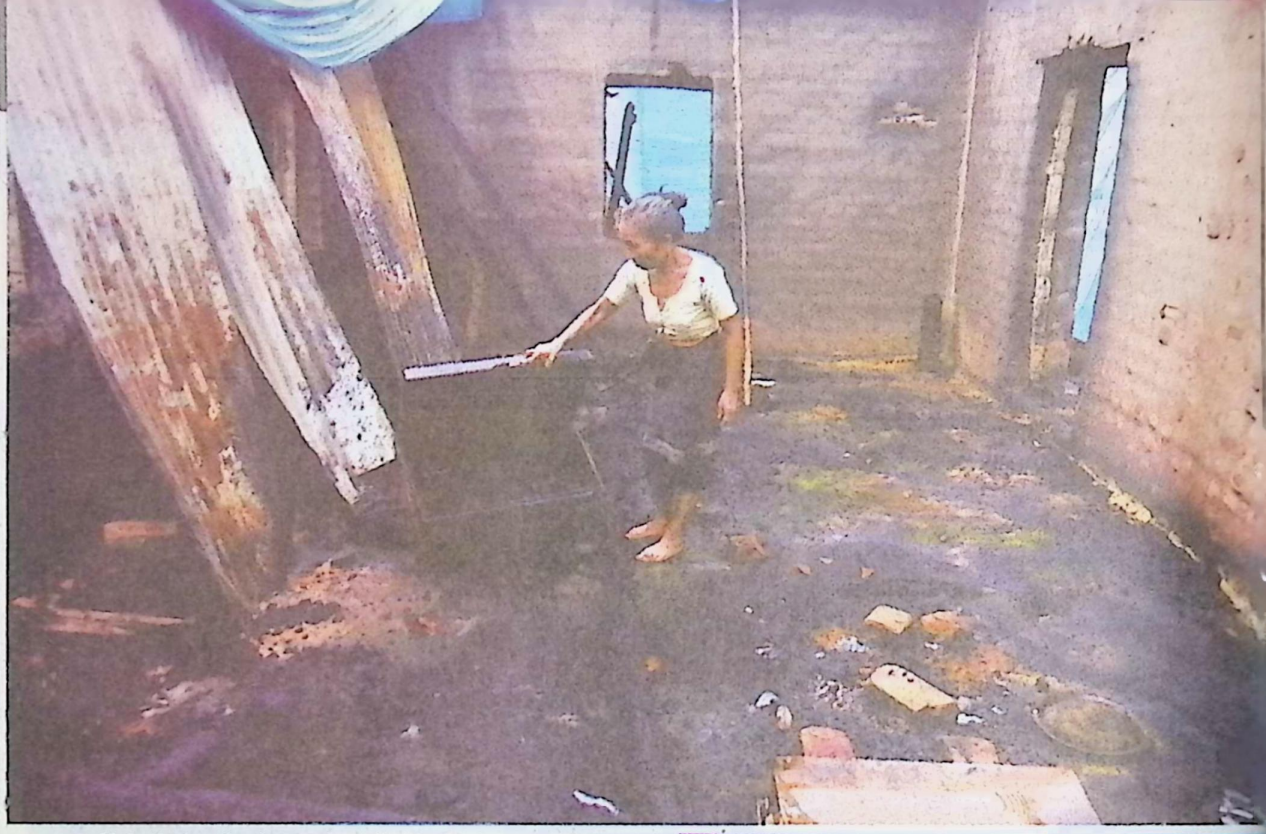


Majoritarian dominance is quite blatant leaving little choice to the ethnic communities except to suffer in silence.

Although Osman or his family are not able to recognize the assailants the story that spread like wildfire all over Taindong was that it was an indigenous terrorist who had attacked him. Consequently, thousands of people from different parts of Matiranga were agitated and demanded the highest punishment for the attacker.

A day later, on July 31 around 11:30pm announcements were made on loudspeakers that indigenous miscreants were preparing to attack the Bengali villages. Consequently they brought out a procession in Taindong chanting slogans such as, *'Bangalider kichhu hole jolbe agun ghore ghore'* (Homes will be on fire if anything happens to Bengalis) and *shantibahinir astana jaliye dao, puriye dao'* (Burn the Shantibahini's den, set it on fire).

In the meantime, a group of people affiliated with all political parties started cashing in on the incident. The agitators tried to move towards two indigenous villages- Headman Para and Boga Para, but stopped when Bengalis requested them to be patient.

Panicked, the indigenous people fled the troubled area to the nearest border - a no man's land at Jolaya BSF camp. That night the attackers were not able to come to the ethnic villages but the hate speeches continued on August 1 and 2.

The Imam of Battali Shahi Jame Masjid, Khalilur Rahman, confirmed that the microphone of different mosques had been used on that day.



Local people from Battali confirmed that the mosque's microphone was used by MD Rubel of Majhpara, who is also general secretary of Taindang union chapter of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of Awami League.

On August 2, Major Shihabuddin Shoaib, zone commander of Zamini Para Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) called a meeting with the indigenous and the Bebgalis in the BGB camp. During the meeting he assured the ethnic people that as long as he wore the uniform no one would harm them. He told the Star, "We requested them to inform us if they needed any kind of help because crossing the border is not a solution."

Next morning on August 3, Bengalis from Tanakka Para informed the indigenous people