that a motorbike driver Kamal Hossain of Battali, Taindong had been abducted allegedly by indigenous terrorists. It was the spark to ignite the inferno.

Kamal is a leader of Taindang's ward 4 chapter of Jatiyatabadi Jubadal, youth wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Bengalis from Para, requested the indigenous people to help them to find Kamal. Union parishad councillor Phoni Bhushon Chakma, Bokul Bikash Chakma and Supayon Chakma from Boga Para rushed to the place called Crossing where Bengalis gathered to rescue Kamal.

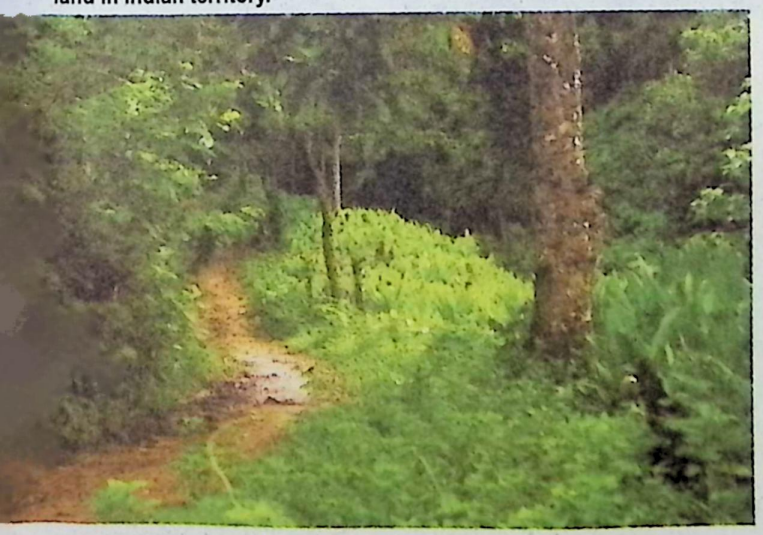
The same day a procession led by former chairman MD Siraj and different political leaders went on to the nearby Panichari and mobilised a big gang to attack the ethnic community.

Bokul Bikash Chakma recalls, "When we arrived at Crossing agitators threatened us and framed a time limit of one hour to give him back. They repeatedly warned that unless we give him back, our households would be demolished and set on fire."

Within a short span of time the Bengali mob became as large as a thousand people, many of them were equipped with sharp knives, machetes, and local weapons. In groups they started searching for Kamal in the jungles near bordering areas with India. Around 2:00pm the mob got violet and started shouting slogans against the *paharis*.



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Meanwhile announcement via microphones were made from the mosques about the abduction calling on people to take up arms to hunt the kidnappers down. All those assurances of safety rang empty in the wake of this terror. Five villages were attacked, many houses ransacked and hundreds of people were left homeless.

According to statistics prepared by Supayan Chakma, a local activist, during the attack, miscreants burnt to ashes more than 35 households in Bagapara, Sarbeshwar Para, Bandarsing Para, Headman Para,