Talukder Para and another 277 houses were looted and ransacked.

Two-month-old Asharani Chakma died as a result of this horrific attack, at the Khagrachari general hospital on August 10. Her father alleged that during the hideout in the forest she became ill after being exposed to the torrential rains. Exposure to the elements proved to be too much for the baby.

Behind the Scenes

Many indigenous people believe that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party backed former Member of Parliament (MP) Wadud Bhuiyan deliberately aggravated the tense situation in Khagrachari. During his reign he started reforming the political arena of hill tracts. To run his vision successfully he formed a Bengali organization SOA (Sama Odhikar Andolan, Equal Rights Movement). The members of the organisation become more powerful since it was headed by the MP himself.

The local Benglali and indegenious people confirm that there is significant evidence that he has conducted countless harassment, such as covering up land-grabbing cases, causing delays in prosecution of rape cases, delaying approval of development projects, and so on.

Since then acts of repression have become a common phenomena in Khagrachhari. Moreover local Bengalis admit that many members of the Bengali community are involved in different criminal activities. And to get rid of criminal allegations they used to hide dead bodies in the indigenous villages.

While referring to the situation Union parishad councillor Phoni Bhushon Chakma says, "In Khagrachhari we have been victims of rumours for years. I believe it is a conspiracy to uproot us from our land. And for that reason they try their best to make us perpetrators of any crime. And the rumour of attacks by the ethnic people continues. This kind of stories gives birth to incidents like that in Taindong."



During the attack, miscreants burnt to ashes more than 35 households.

On August 29 an unidentified dead body of a Bengali was recovered from Jharnatila area in Tabalchari-Panchari road the incident blowing up tensions among Bengalis at Taindang. The bottled up anger became a catalyst to establish such rumours as the truth leading to the attack on the villages.

The Khagrachhari police confirm the Star that they found the perpetrators and they are all Bengalis. Officer-in Charge (OC) of Khagrachari Sadar Police Station, Mostafizur Rahman Tells *the Star*, "We found his name and identification. And now we are pretty sure that some of his friends were