

SATPATKI MAJHIPARA IN LALMONIRHAT

8 BNP men charged for attack on Hindus

Panicky situation prevails as 7 including the alleged mastermind still out of dragnet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday filed charge sheet against eight people for attacking Hindus at Satpatki Majhipara in Sadar upazila under the district on November 4 last year.

Of them, only Hamidul Islam, 44, is now in jail, while others -- Shawon Islam, 25, Alamgir Hossain, 25, Maznu Miah, 50, Abu Taher, 45, Badsha

Miah, 45, Soleman Miah, 60, and Rabi Hossain, 24, are still at large.

The eight accused, all residents of Satpatki village of Mohendranagar union in Lalmonirhat Sadar, were members of union units of BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal and got expelled from the party for their alleged involvement in the attack on the Hindu village, police and locals said.

As some Hindus at Satpatki village declined to pay illegal toll, BNP men on November 4 attacked the village, searched around 40 houses, looted four of them and assaulted several Hindus include women and children, police said.

Afterwards, teams from the district administration, police, Bangladesh Minority Watch, Ain O Salish Kendra and a few other human

rights bodies and NGOs visited the affected village to investigate and exchange views with the locals but the culprits remained scot-free and threatened the victims to withdraw the case filed for the barbaric attack, affected people alleged.

"A panicky situation still prevails among the local Hindus as mastermind of the attack Shawon Islam and several other culprits are yet to be arrested. We are still under the threat of further attack," said Nikhil Chandra Roy, plaintiff of the case.

"Despite my request, the investigation officer (IO) of the case did not seek remand of arrested Hamidul. Besides, Lion Islam, 19, who was in the front line of the attack, has not been included in the charge sheet," he said.

Contacted, IO of the case SI Asaduzzaman said, "I prepared the charge sheet against eight accused after proper investigation. I did not include Lion Islam in the charge sheet as no clue was found against him during the investigation."

But the IO failed to give any satisfactory answer when asked why he did not appeal for remand of arrested attacker Hamidul to the court.

Several Hindus said they will appeal to the court for re-investigation of the case and revision of the charge sheet.



PHOTO: STAR

Ease and joy of normal life still eludes the Hindus at Satpatki Majhipara village in Mohendranagar union under Lalmonirhat district as all but one perpetrators of the barbaric attack and looting at the village on November 4 last year have remained scot-free, posing threat of further assault on the minority people.

Missing schoolboy found murdered

Body of 'missing' youth found floating in river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Police on Monday night recovered the body of Meherpur school student Shaikh Hasan Pranta after five days of his missing, triggering protest by the people of the district town.

People from all walks of life, including students of various schools of Meherpur town, formed a human chain yesterday, demanding proper investigation and punishment to the killers.

Pranta, 14, son of Zahid Hasan, was a student of Class IX at Meherpur Government Technical School and College. Pranta's father is an accountant at Meherpur municipality.

Kamal Hossain, sub-inspector (SI) of Meherpur Sadar police station, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, told this correspondent that Pranta went into missing soon after he went out of home at about 2.30pm on January 9.

Pranta's father filed a general diary (GD) with Meherpur Sadar police station the next day.

Police recovered the body of a 'missing' BCL leader from a land beside the Karkhana River under Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district yesterday morning.

The deceased, Alamgir Hossain, 25, was general secretary of Kanchipara union unit of the ruling party-backed student body.

Family members said Alamgir went out of the house at around 8:30pm on Tuesday and did not return.

Locals found Alamgir's body lying on the riverside and informed the police and his family.

Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Patuakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge Naresh Chandra Karmaker of Baufal Police Station said injury marks were found on the head of the BCL leader.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that unidentified criminals stabbed a Sramik Dal leader and hit two Jubo League and Chhatra League men with sharp weapons in Sadar and Dighinala upazilas yesterday and on Monday.

Mohammad Rajob Ali, joint organising Secretary of



Shaikh Hasan Pranta

On Monday, a boy saw the body of another boy at an abandoned room of Meherpur municipal bus stand while playing there at about 5.00pm.

Later a team of Meherpur Sadar police recovered the body and the parents identified it as Saikh Hasan Pranta.

Away in Bagerhat, police recovered the body of Mir Mostafa Kamal alias Batul, 36, from the bordering Bishkhali River on Tuesday, four days after his 'missing'.

Son of Mir Ashraf Ali of Phultala village in Kachua upazila, Batul was abducted and strangled by rivals and dumped into the river, and dumped into the river, station the next day.

BCL man killed, Sramik Dal leader stabbed

STAR COUNTRY DESK, Patuakhali

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Bhai-bonchhara union Sramik Dal under Sadar upazila, was stabbed by a gang in the area on Monday night.

He was admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital. No case was filed with the police station concerned as of yesterday. Family members blamed local Awami men for the attack.

Unknown criminals swooped on Srikanta Deb Manik, 28, president of Chhatra League Panchhari unit, and Nazir Mahbub, 33 general secretary of Jubo League upazila unit, in Kalanal area of the upazila at around 11:30am yesterday.

The gang hit the two with sharp weapons, leaving them critically injured. They were admitted to Panchhari Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Mohammad Bahar Mia, president of Panchhari upazila unit of Awami League, held the armed cadres of local BNP and Jamaat-Shibir for the attack.

Upazila BNP President Mohammad Belal Hossain refuted the allegation and said Awami League activists vandalised local BNP office



PHOTO: STAR

This bailey bridge at Khagrapur in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila collapsed under the pressure of a timber-laden truck on Tuesday afternoon, snapping road communication with Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari and Baghaichhari and Longudu upazilas of Rangamati district. Despite dilapidated condition of the bridge for several years, authorities concerned had conducted only minor repair works, locals said.

Main accused in election official killing case held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police on Tuesday arrested the main accused in the case filed for killing assistant presiding officer Zobaidul Haque at Dogachi village under Baliadangi upazila of the district.

The arrestee is Siddiqui Islam, 36, son of Abdul Ali of Bhelajani village in Hazipara of Sadar upazila and a local leader of BNP.

Sub-Inspector of DB police Rowshan Ara told this correspondent over cell phone that acting on a tip-off, a DB police team led by her raided the village in the evening.

At one stage of their drive, the police team detained Siddiqui from a crop field at about 7:30pm.

According to the police case, a group of 100 to 150 BNP-Jamaat men, equipped with sharp weapons and sticks, swooped on Molani Chhapriura Govt Primary School polling centre in Roypur union under Sadar upazila around 8:45pm 4 January night.

They first charged crude



Zobaidul Haque

and petrol bombs and then attacked the polling officers and law enforcers.

The attack left assistant presiding officer Zobaidul Haque, 55, also a demonstrator at Salondar College, and two police constables critically injured.

After one and a half hour of the attack, a striking force went to the spot and rescued them and brought them to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared Zobaidul dead.

Police constable Zaherul Islam filed the murder case, accusing 150/200 people with Thakurgaon police station in connection with the killing of Zobaidul Haque on 4 January night.

Of the accused, 24 were identified while the rest

Police rescued an abducted schoolgirl from China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge area in Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victim was a Class Ten student and daughter of a school teacher in Hobirbari of Bhaluka upazila.

Police arrested two people, identified as Monir Hossain, 18, a worker at a textile mills in Bhaluka and his brother Morshed Alam, 12, of Holdivita village in Jhenaigati of Sherpur for their involvement in the incident.

Police quoting the girl said, the arrestees went to her house of around 12 noon and tied up the house maid as her parents were outside for their jobs.

When she returned home from school around 12.30pm, the culprits also tied her up and later pushed a sedative injection to make the girl senseless, said police.

After the girl lost sense, the culprits put her in a tin-made huge trunk and boarded a Sherpur bound bus around 1:00pm.

Regaining sense, the girl started beating the trunk from inside when the bus was crossing the bridge area.

The driver noticed the matter and stopped the bus. Later, the passengers and locals found the girl wearing school uniform inside the trunk and caught its two owners red-handed and informed police, SI Hafizur Rahman of Bhaluka PS said.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the girl and took her to local police station.

Golam Sarwar, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said, the arrestees and the victim were handed over to Bhaluka police.



PHOTO: STAR

Teams of coastguard seized 200 maunds of jatka (young hilsa) from four launches on the Meghna and Tentulia rivers in Bhola district on Monday and Tuesday as a section of fishermen have continued the callous act, defying ban. The photo shows officials observing one of the hauls.



অভিনন্দন

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