MAILBOX

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Communal Terror continues

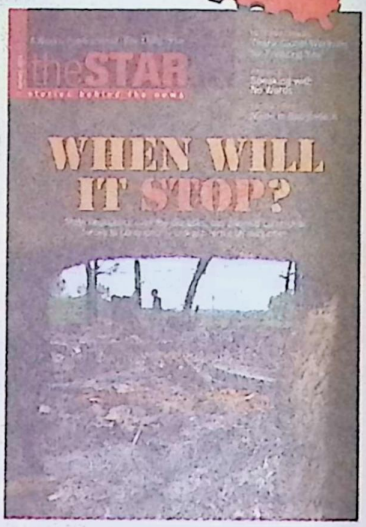
The continuous attacks on the Hindu and other religious communities in Bangladesh since 1971 are an attempt by the attackers to prove the two-nation theory right. Now the attackers are oftentimes described as activists of BNP and Jamat. In reality, oppression of the Hindu community is done by criminals who do not really have any political affiliation. When it comes to treating the minority community, the AL, the so-called flag bearer of secularism is not an angel. The fact that there have been hundreds of attacks on Hindu and Buddhist communities all over Bangladesh while AL has been in power is evidence that AL is not sincere in stopping these inhuman crimes. The writer is right in observing that if the government is sincere about its promise to stop these communal attacks and punish the perpetrators, it should start with the recommendations given in the Judicial Commissions report submitted three years ago.

Moinul Islam
Lalmatia, Dhaka

Humanity at Stake

The continuous migration of the Hindu population to India due to religious oppression, as pointed out by the writer, proves the fact that ever since winning independence in 1971, Bangladesh never really became the tolerant country which it envisioned to be. It is sad that successive governments have made only half-hearted attempts to stop communal repression. In my opinion, communalism is an evil that must be tackled at the family level. We must teach our children that we should respect all religions. Those who think that Bangladesh would be better off if it became a mono religious country need to take a hard look at Pakistan that has become one of the most violent countries of the world despite having a 97 percent Muslim majority among its population. A country only prospers when people with diverse ethnic and religious background can realize their potential as citizens.

Masud Helal
Baridhara, Dhaka



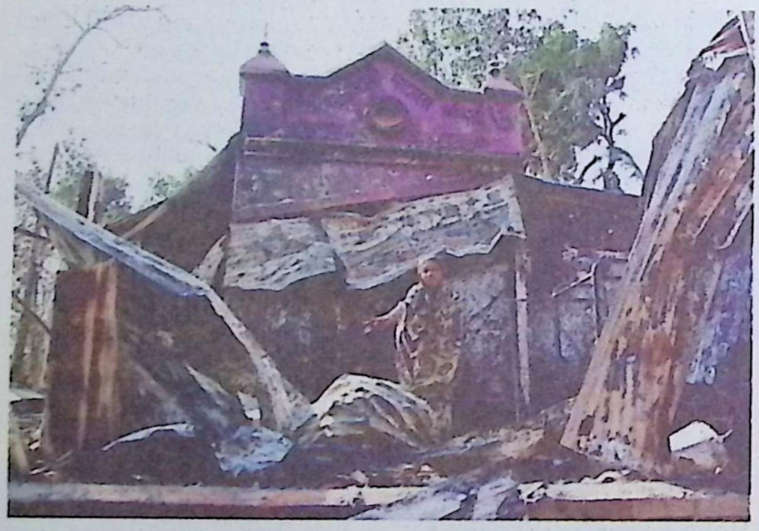


PHOTO: STAR FILE

Ugly Hometruths

This is by far the strongest piece condemning the recent communal violence I have read. The writer, in a few well composed sentences, managed to capture the insecurities of the minority communities and what kind of long-term effects such violence has on the country. Articles like these and the cover stories [January 17, 2013] show why the *Star* is the number one English magazine of the country.

Kona Reza
Uttara, Dhaka

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views held by *the Star*.

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Letters to the Editor, Star Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While The Star welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

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