DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2015

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXV NO. 201 | SHRABAN 24, 1422 BS | SHAWAL 22, 1436 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: TK 12.00

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Trump slates moderators after the debate went not so well for him
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Blogger killed once again

Killers brandishing machetes storm Goran house in broad daylight, hack Niladri to death; 'Ansar Al Islam' claims responsibility thru' email

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a chilling attack on free speech, unidentified assailants hacked to death a secular blogger inside his house in the capital in broad daylight yesterday.

Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, 28, who also was a Gonojagoron Mancha activist, is the fourth blogger to have been killed this year by suspected Islamist militants.

Four men armed with cleavers tricked into his Goran house in Khilgaon posing as potential tenants and then killed him in his bedroom around 1:15pm, police and family members said.

He was hacked over a dozen times in the neck, face, shoulder, chest and hands, said sources in Dhaka Medical College morgue, where the body was taken for an autopsy.

Niloy's wife and sister-in-law were home during the murder, but while one assailant held his wife at gunpoint, his sister-in-law was shut in the kitchen.

Later in the evening, a group identifying itself as Ansar Al Islam claimed the responsibility for the murder in an email sent out to almost all media outlets.

In the email, the group said: "Alhamdulillah! Mujahidin of Ansar-Al-Islam (AQIS, Bangladesh Branch) carried out an operation to slaughter an enemy of

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Niladri's wife Asha Moni wailing after the blogger was hacked to death inside his Goran home in the capital yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UN, Amnesty Int'l condemn killings

STAR REPORT

Strong condemnations poured in following the brutal murder of secular blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy by suspected Islamist extremists yesterday.

Criticising the killing, the United Nations, the Amnesty International and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) expressed deep concerns over threats to free speech.

"The violent killing of another critical voice in Bangladesh shows that serious threats to freedom of expression persist in the country," the UN special rapporteurs on freedom of expression, David Kaye, and on extrajudicial executions, Christof Heyns, said in a

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FIFTH BLOGGER KILLED

Since Feb 2013

NILADRI CHATTOPADHYAY
AUGUST 7, 2015
Killed at his house in East Goran, Dhaka

AHMED RAJIB HAIDAR
FEBRUARY 15, 2013
Killed near his house at Palash Nagar in Mirpur, Dhaka

AVIJIT ROY
FEBRUARY 26, 2015
On the footpath along Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka

OYASIQUR RAHMAN BABU
MARCH 30, 2015
At Begunbari in the capital

ANANTA BIJOY DAS
MAY 12, 2015
At Subid Bazar in Sylhet city

His plea for security went unheeded

Police deny allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fearing for his life, Niladri Chattopadhyay approached police to file a general diary but the law enforcers refused to record it, the wife and a friend of the slain blogger told The Daily Star yesterday.

Niladri's wife Asha Moni said her husband went to capital's Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur police stations on May 14 and 15 after he was followed by two unknown persons while returning to his Purbo Goran house from a programme at Shahbagh.

But police officers at both stations declined to record a general diary. "My husband would be alive if police had

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Not a single case made headway

Perpetrators of blogger killings go unpunished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcement agencies could not yet arrest the masterminds behind the gruesome killings of bloggers and freethinkers, although they repeatedly claimed that militant outfits had links with the murders.

With yesterday's murder of Niladri Chattopadhyay, four bloggers have been killed in a span of just seven months. However, investigators have yet to make any visible progress into the killings of bloggers -- Avijit Roy, Oyasiqur Rahman and Ananta Bijoy Das -- except the arrest of a handful of suspects.

Family members of the slain bloggers believe that fatal attacks on freethinkers continue as the government has failed to detect the perpetrators, let alone bring them to book.

They said every time a blogger is killed, law enforcement agencies come up with the statement that militant outfits are behind the killings and that is all.

Seven months have elapsed since the murder of Avijit Roy, a US-based

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TOP! QUOTE

ASK (Ain o Salish Kendra) is appalled at the state of affairs, which gives reasons to believe that the law and order forces are not acting seriously enough to stop such violence on the free

ASK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SULTANA KAMAL
AFTER BRUTAL MURDER OF SECULAR BLOGGER NILADRI CHATTOPADHYAY

Alarming rise in child killing

191 killed this year

STAR REPORT

The rate of children being killed in the country had increased by 61 percent in 2014 than that of the previous year, according to a statistics of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and it's not looking good at all for this year either.

Based on newspapers' reports, the BSAF said at least 191 children were killed till this July, 350 in 2014, 218 in 2013 and 209 in 2012.

The leading network of child rights organisation expressed concern, saying incidents of brutalities against children in different forms are increasing every year. At least 968 children were killed after brutal torture from 2012 to July 2015.

This year, incidents of murder, kidnap, human trafficking, rape, sexual harassment and violence against children are also on the rise, the BSAF noted.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CHILDREN KILLED
2015 (Till July)	191
2014	350
2013	218
2012	209

Following the recent gruesome murders of three children, NGOs, law enforcers, rights organisations and international organisations have expressed serious concern over child abuse in Bangladesh.

Thirteen-year-old Samiul Alam Rajon was beaten to death in Sylhet last month; twelve-year-old Rakib was tortured to death in Khulna on August 3, as two men inserted a high-pressure air pump nozzle into his rectum; and 10-year-old Rabiul was beaten to death for "stealing fish" in Barguna on Wednesday.

Besides, the body of a minor boy, aged around eight to nine years, was found in an abandoned travel bag in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital last week. The boy was beaten to death, said sources at the DMC morgue after an autopsy.

BSAF Director Abdus Shahid Mahmood said most of the victims of violence were child workers, mostly from underprivileged families.

"Though this sort of incidents also happened in the past, the number is on the rise, and the nature of torture is becoming worse," he said.

"The reason being people do not see perpetrators getting

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