



FREETHINKING MAULED once again

One publisher of Avijit Roy's books stabbed to death, another critically injured in separate attacks; 2 bloggers also hurt; Ansar Al Islam claims responsibility



Dipan, KILLED



Tutul, CRITICALLY INJURED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In what appeared to be synchronised attacks on publishers of slain secularist writer-blogger Avijit Roy, unknown assailants hacked to death Faisal Arefin Dipan of Jagriti Prokashani and critically injured Shuddhoswar's Ahmedur Rashid Tutul yesterday.

The body of 43-year-old Dipan was recovered from his second-floor office at

Aziz Market in the capital.

Tutul and two bloggers Ranadipam Basu and Tareque Rahim came under machete attacks at the Lalmatia office of Shuddhoswar. Tareque was also shot in the chest.

The three were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The condition of Tutul, 43, and Tareque, 32 were critical while Ranadipam, 52, was out of danger,

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Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq, father of slain publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan, talks to his family after Dipan was found murdered inside his publishing office at Aziz Super Market in Shahbagh yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Outrage all around

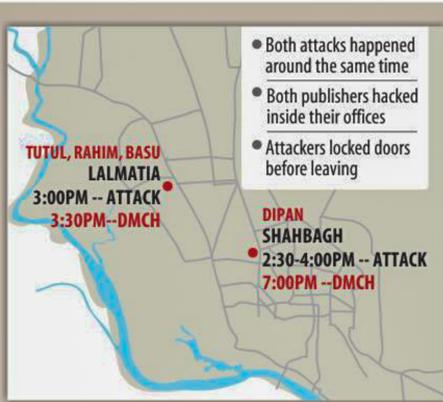
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attacks on publishers and secular writers by suspected militants in the capital yesterday have set off a storm of outrage.

Writers, academics, foreign missions, online activists and different political, social and cultural organisations have condemned the gruesome attacks.

Faisal Arefin Dipan, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, was hacked to death in Shahbagh in the afternoon. In a similar attack around the same time, Ahmedur Rashid

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Lax probe led to latest attacks

Observe families, friends of slain bloggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Had police made any headway in the murder cases of four bloggers and done their jobs properly, yesterday's attack on publishers and writers could have been avoided, said the slain bloggers' relatives and friends.

Believing yesterday's attacks were no stray incidents, they said police failure in solving the earlier cases and hunting down the killers allowed the criminals to go wild and attack freethinkers one after another.

Four secular bloggers -- Avijit Roy,

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'Crime' was rooting for freethinking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Publishers Faisal Arefin Dipan and Ahmedur Rashid Tutul came under brutal militant attacks because they both promoted freethinking.

A number of writers, bloggers and publishers shared this view with The Daily Star yesterday evening.

According to them, Dipan and Tutul were targeted as they published and promoted books written by free thinkers, especially those by Avijit Roy, a secular-humanist writer who was hacked to death by Islamist militants in February this year.

Dipan, proprietor of Jagriti Prokashani, published Avijit's magnum opus *Biswaser Virus* (The Virus of Faith). He also reprinted his *Obishwasher Dorshon*.

Tutul, proprietor of Shuddhoswar, published four of Avijit's books -- *Obishwasher Dorshon* (The Philosophy of Disbelief), *Victoria Ocampo O Rabindranath*, *Shunya Theke Mohabiswa* (From Zero to the Universe) and *Shomokamita* (Homosexuality).

Tutul published a number of books written by

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TOP QUOTE

"I don't want any trial. I want good sense to prevail. Both sides -- the one that's doing politics using secularism and the other that's doing politics using state religion -- are pushing the country towards destruction. Let good sense prevail on both sides."

ABUL QUASEM FAZLUL HUQ
FATHER OF SLAIN PUBLISHER FAISAL AREFIN DIPAN

BLOGGERS KILLED

Since Feb 2013



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



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



OYASIQR RAHMAN
MARCH 30, 2015
At Begunbari in the capital



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



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

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October 2015