

PANCHAGARH TEMPLE ATTACK

Priest killed, devotee shot

Another hurt in blast

STAR REPORT

Criminals slit the throat of a Hindu priest at a temple in Debiganj of Panchagarh just after dawn yesterday and fled the scene firing shots and exploding homemade bombs, which injured two devotees.

Deceased Jogeswar Dasadhikari, 50, is the latest victim of a recent string of attacks on clerics and prayer houses of minorities in Bangladesh over the last few months.

SITE, an intelligence group, on its website news.siteintelgroup.com said Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for killing Jogeswar but this paper could not independently verify the claim.

A top official of Panchagarh police denied that there was any presence of the terror outfit in the district. "Yet, we will verify the claim."

Police arrested Khalilur Rahman of the upazila yesterday evening in connection with the killing, said Babul Akhter, officer-in-charge of Debiganj Police Station.

Yesterday, Jogeswar was arranging his offerings for his morning puja at his Sri Sri Shonto Gaurio temple of



Pagla Jahangir standing in front of a Shaheed Minar in Durakuti village at Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat yesterday. Defeating religious bigotry, he along with other progressives set up the first ever Shaheed Minar in the village to show respect to the Language Movement martyrs.

Love for language wins finally

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Some influential local bigots had always stopped others from setting up a Shaheed Minar in Durakuti village of Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat.

They would describe placing wreaths at the monument for showing respect to the Language Movement martyrs as an act against their religion and a sin.

However, Pagla Jahangir, a poet and a sadhu, which literally means "good man", accompanied by some educated progressive villagers have defeated the zealotry and constructed the first ever Shaheed Minar in the area, 64 years after the movement.

The monument stands on the premises of Kadamchand Bidyapith, a

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

KILLING OF THREE MIRPUR BOYS

Police role questioned as probe going nowhere

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and EMRAN HOSSAIN



Police have overlooked evidence, ignored court orders and due legal procedures, and barred victims' families from seeking justice -- all allegedly to cover up how three boys were actually killed in the capital's Mirpur on February 22 last year.

Even a year after the killings, they have not mentioned the victims' names in the legal papers.

The documents submitted to court by police -- the first

information report in particular -- still portray the victims as unidentified boys.

Soon after the incident, this paper was able to know the identities of the three. They were Sumon, 14, Robin, 15, and Jewel, 15 -- all neighbours, living at Adarshanagar slum in Kalshi area of Mirpur.

The Mirpur police do not even know who is currently investigating the case. Sub-inspector Syed Asaduzzaman, the original investigation officer, was transferred to Savar

Blasts in Syria kill 119

IS behind the series of attacks; US says 'provisional agreement' on terms of ceasefire reached with Russia

AFP, Sayyida Zeinab

Separate bomb attacks claimed by the Islamic State group in Syria yesterday killed at least 119 people as Washington pursued efforts for a ceasefire.

As US Secretary of State John Kerry said a provisional deal had been reached on the terms of a truce, violence intensified on the ground.

Double car bombings killed at least

57 people and wounded dozens in the Al-Zahraa district of the central city of Homs, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said.

And near Damascus, a series of bomb attacks, including a car bombing, ripped through the area of the Sayyida Zeinab Shia shrine and killed 62 people, the monitor said.

The jihadist IS said it was behind the carnage.

State television footage from Homs showed emergency workers carrying a charred body on a stretcher past devastated shops and mangled cars and minibuses.

The attack was the worst since twin blasts in October 2014 hit a school, killing at least 55 people, including 49 children.

Al-Zahraa -- whose residents are mostly from the same Alawite sect as



Bullet-riddled body of one of the three youths killed in a "mob beating" on February 22 last year in the capital's Mirpur. Police said the youths were caught while trying to torch vehicles. However, their bodies had 56 bullet injuries. Inset, two of the victims.



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

TOP QUOTE

"A government controlling almost all seats in parliament and all national executive authority has to be particularly protective of a free press -- or risk turning Bangladesh into an authoritarian state."

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

RAID, ARREST ON IN MALAYSIA

Irregular workers pass tense time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Undocumented Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia are passing days fearing they would be arrested as the immigration police there are cracking down on illegal foreign workers.

"Police raids are being conducted every day over the last few days. Therefore, the undocumented Bangladeshis [in Malaysia] are worried," Mohammad Shaheen, a Bangladeshi, told The Daily Star over the phone from Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

They are not going out to hangout at places like Kota Raya, a popular hangout in Kuala Lumpur, even on weekends, he said.

He claimed that many foreign workers in Malaysia became undocumented after being cheated by their employers or the agents.

The raids were stepped up after Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Friday announced that all irregular foreign workers would be detained and deported while the recruitment of new workers had been suspended.

Hamidi made the announcement just a day after Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on recruiting Bangladeshi workers.

On Saturday, however, Malaysian Human Resources

Withdraw cases against 2 editors

Urges Human Rights Watch

STAR REPORT

Human Rights Watch yesterday called for the withdrawal of all criminal charges brought against the editors of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo.

"Bangladesh should repeal its criminal defamation and sedition laws, which violate international standards," the New York-based international rights body said in a statement.

As many as 75 cases, 17 of which are pleas to bring sedition charges, have been filed against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam since February 9, days after he made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgment in

Bank Asia Ltd. achieved SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Award and SAARC Anniversary Award for Corporate Governance Disclosures 2014 First Runner Up

OTHER RECENT AWARDS

Sustainability Report Award 2015 Runner Up-1 by NCSR, Jakarta

ICAB National Award 2015, Second Prize

South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) (An apex body of SAARC) 1st Runner up Best Presented Annual Report Award 2015 Category: Private Sector Banks (Including Cooperative Banks) Bank Asia Limited, Bangladesh

SAFA is the South Asian Federation of Accountants, an apex body of SAARC. SAFA conferred the awards based on evaluation of improvement in Transparency, Accountability and Governance of the published annual reports of entities from South Asian countries

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