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BRAHMANBARIA MAYHEM

Role of admin in question

Two radical groups stoked anger for days; blanket looting amidst outburst over questionable Facebook post

"A vested quarter always wants to destabilise the government. And it is the government's duty to resist such attempts."

MOZAMMEL HAQUE KHAN, SENIOR HOME SECRETARY

RASHIDUL HASAN from Brahmanbaria

Sunday's attacks on the Hindus in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar Upazila could have been averted had the local administration and police acted promptly and taken preventive measures, say victims and locals.

Tensions had been brewing in the area since Saturday, as two Islamist groups -- Touhidi Janata and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat -- called two protest rallies for Sunday over a local Hindu youth's alleged Facebook post "hurting religious sentiment of the Muslims," they say.

But neither the law enforcement agencies nor the administration took the matter seriously. They didn't take steps to ward off any untoward incident, a number of victims and locals told this correspondent yesterday.

The administration and police remained almost "inactive" while the religious bigots carried out attacks on temples, Hindu houses and businesses.

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A Hindu priest shows a vandalised room of another priest at Goura Temple in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila yesterday. *Inset*, a few bank notes lay in the smashed donation box of the temple. Religious zealots attacked the Hindus, vandalised their homes and temples and looted valuables allegedly over a Facebook post.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



'Let the salute remain a mystery'

NAIMUL KARIM

"I don't know. Let some things remain a secret," chuckled Shakib Al Hasan when asked why he celebrated Ben Stokes's wicket with a salute. That is all he said and then paused for the next question of the interview.

It is something that the all-rounder does when he is not too keen on further elaborating on an issue. All you can do then is quickly hope to find a complementary question out of the corner of your head.

But was it fun to dismiss England's most threatening batsman of the tour? To that he replied: "Yes, of course! They have a few main players... Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Alastair Cook, [Jonny] Bairstow... you always feel excited when you get any of those wickets. That's pretty much it."

He further adds that he had a good rapport with the English players and that they hung out quite a bit off the field.

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DARING JAILBREAK IN INDIA

Police gun down 8 Islamist prisoners

AFP, Bhopal

Indian police gunned down eight Islamists yesterday after they escaped from a high-security jail by slitting the throat of a prison guard and scaling the walls with knotted bedsheets.

The members of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) had staged the breakout from the prison in Bhopal by attacking and murdering the warden with sharpened prison-issue steel kitchen plates in the middle of celebrations to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Police said they were later cornered on the outskirts of the city in the central state of Madhya Pradesh but resisted efforts to take them back into custody and were subsequently shot dead.

"We asked them to surrender but they tried to break the police cordon," Yogesh Choudhary, Bhopal's inspector general of police, told AFP.

"They were unarmed but attempted to attack the police with stones. We had to shoot them."

Choudhary, however, later told reporters

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End 'dual rule' in judiciary

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday blamed "dual rule" for hampering the judicial work and for increasing the litigants' sufferings, and sought restoration of the Supreme Court's full control over the lower courts to bring an end to the present situation.

The original article 116 of the 1972 constitution had given the SC power over the lower courts. The apex court had the power to control lower court judge's postings, promotions and grant of leave. It could also discipline people employed in the judicial service, and had control over the magistrates' exercise of judicial power.

But over the years, article 116 was amended several times,

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JMB leader involved in doctor killing

Say police after the militant killed in Kushtia 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A leader of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) who according to police was involved in the murder of homeopath Sanaur Rahman was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Kushtia Sadar upazila early yesterday.

SM Moniruzzaman, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police of Khulna range, made the claim at a press briefing in Kushtia after the death of JMB's regional commander Tulu Mollah, 33, of Khajanagar village in the upazila.

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A team of archaeologists, led by Shahnaj Husne Jahan, professor and director of Centre for Archaeological Studies at ULAB, excavates a 1,500-year-old city named Bhitargarh in Panchagarh.

The ancient fort city in the North

Archaeologists unearthed 9 new structures in recent years

ANANTA YUSUF

No book offers any chronological history of the ancient fortified city of Bhitargarh. But ruins of this 1500-year-old city are so loud and clear that the city's outlines are visible from space. Try Google Earth, hover over Panchagarh where this city was located and see it for yourself.

As archaeologists have unearthed nine new structures in recent years, Bhitargarh is emerging as the biggest fortified

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COURTESY: SHAHNAJ HUSNE JAHAN

2 gun-toting BCL leaders expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League has expelled two leaders over brandishing firearms during a hawker eviction drive in the capital's Gulistan on Thursday.

The two are general secretaries of BCL Dhaka south and Wari thana units Md Sabbir Hossain and Md Ashiqur Rahman.

The central executive committee of the pro-Awami League student front took the decision at an emergency meeting on Sunday night. The leaders were expelled for breaching organisational discipline, said a press release.

On October 27, several Bangla dailies published

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BANGLADESH DENIM EXPO

BANGLADESH DENIM EXPO

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