

NAHID MURDER

Cops zero in on killers

Law enforcers, other sources say the culprits, primarily identified, are activists of Dhaka College BCL

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MUNTAKIM SAAD

The youths who beat up and hacked 19-year-old Nahid Mia during the New Market clashes on Tuesday have primarily been identified and are now under police surveillance, said multiple sources, including law enforcers.

Many of those who were carrying local weapons are also under watch, they said.

Nahid, a delivery man of a computer accessories shop on Elephant Road, died later that night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses and sources involved in the investigation said Dhaka College students, led by three Chhatra League factions, took part in the deadly clashes with New Market shopkeepers that led to Nahid's death.

Those groups were led by BCL leaders Jullikar, Firoz, and Jashim.

Jashim and his men were the fiercest that day, said the sources.

They marched on the street holding machetes, iron rods, and sticks. They were the ones who attacked Nahid, officials involved in the probe, said, preferring to remain unnamed.

They said many of those carrying sharp weapons during the clashes have been identified. Most of those are from BCL, the pro-Awami League student body.

They also said most BCL men in Dhaka College used their motorbikes' helmet to hide their identities and also not to get harmed while taking part in the violence. The person that hacked Nahid was also wearing a helmet.

As the Dhaka College Chhatra League currently has no committee, the unit is run by several factions. In 2016, a convening committee was formed for three months, but it failed to constitute a full-fledged committee.

Many of those carrying sharp weapons during the clashes have been identified. And most of them are from Chhatra League.

Said sources involved in investigation

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Dhaka College students and Chhatra League leaders who hit Nahid during the clash on Tuesday. From left, Kaiyum, who hit Nahid first; Monayem wielding a hammer; Kawsar AKA Sada Kawsar; and Sadik Mirza, wielding a machete. They were identified by law enforcers.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

147 sued, 67 arrests a month

Says CGS report on 11 months till Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On an average, 67 arrests were made every month under the Digital Security Act in the 11 months preceding February, said a new report by the Centre for Governance Studies.

Way more people were being arrested under the act in recent times than before, it concluded.

Between January 2020 and March 2021, the average number of people arrested every month was about 18.

At least 842 people were detained between January 2020 and February 2022, said the report

titled "The Unending Nightmare: Impacts of Bangladesh's Digital Security Act-2018".

The report also recorded the occupations of 315 of the arrestees: Eighty of them were politicians, 59 journalists and 47 students.

Since most of the provisions of the act state that the offenders are not supposed to get bail, the arrestees get incarcerated for extended periods of time even before the trials begin, said the speakers who unveiled the report at a virtual ceremony yesterday.

The number of cases filed under the act has also shot up in recent times.

An average of about 147 individuals were accused each month in the 11 months until February.

In the fifteen months prior to that, 61 people were accused on an average each month, indicating that the number of cases being filed have more than doubled in the past year.

Speakers said the law was being used "indiscriminately".

The report says 2,244 people have been accused in 890 cases in the last two years.

Lead researcher of the report Prof Ali Riaz, distinguished

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FLOODS IN HAOR

Forecast gives window to harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Farmers in the haors are now busy harvesting Boro paddy as the sky was clear and no flash flood was forecasted anytime soon.

Jyotimohon Das, a farmer in Sunamganj's Jamalganj upazila, said, "I have harvested most of the paddy in the last couple of days as we have sunny weather and no worries of flash floods."

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension, around 70 percent of the total Boro paddy was harvested in Sylhet division till yesterday.

Mosarrat Hossain Khan, additional director of DAE in Sylhet division, said, "It will take another week to harvest cent percent

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RANA PLAZA MURDER TRIAL

Only 1 out of 594 witnesses testified so far

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The trial progress in the murder case filed over the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse has been dismal as only one out of 594 prosecution witnesses has so far testified.

It has left the survivors and families of those who died in the tragedy utterly frustrated.

The prosecution said testimonies could not be recorded as some of the accused in the case filed appeals with the High Court challenging indictment orders.

A Dhaka court framed charges against 41 accused, including building owner Sohel Rana, in 2016.

Of the witnesses, only Wali Ashraf



Khan, the complainant, testified. It was recorded on March 16 this year, said the prosecution.

Three other witnesses have been asked to appear before the court for statements on May 29, it said.

With the slow progress in trial proceedings, many survivors and families of the deceased said they might not see justice served in their lifetime.

"We want the judgment. The authorities should take steps to ensure it as soon as possible, said Nilufar Yesmin, a survivor who lost her ability to work.

Another survivor, Mahmudul Hasan Hridoy, said, "It's extremely

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Children with spinning tops in their hands instead of mobile phones -- a rare sight when most of their likes spend hours glued to screens. The photo was taken in the capital's Shahjahanpur recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CORROSION AWARENESS DAY 2022

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