

MADARIPUR TEACHER HACKING

# Suspect on remand killed in 'gunfight'

Staff correspondent

THE lone detained suspect in the hacking of Madaripur college teacher Ripon Chakrawarty, Golam Faizullah Fahim, held by local people and remanded in police custody by a court, was killed in a reported incident of gunfight Saturday morning

Golam Faizullah Fahim, who was held by local people and students after

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Golam Faizullah Fahim

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Madaripur Nazim Uddin College mathematics lecturer Ripon Chakrawarty was hacked at his house on June 15, was brought dead to Madaripur district hospital in the morning, doctors said.

With the killing of the suspect, reportedly an activist of the banned Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir, four people, mostly suspected members of banned Jamaatul Mujahedein Bangladesh were killed in reported incidents of 'gunfight' since June 5 when the government launched a fresh crackdown against Islamist extremists following the killing of superintendent of police Babul Akhter's wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu in Chittagong.

On June 7, JMB suspect Kawsar, 25, allegedly involved in the attack on Shia mosque in Bogra on November 26, 2015, was killed by police in a 'gunfight' in Bogra.

Two other JMB suspects were killed in 'gunfights' in Dhaka and Rajshahi on June 7. Police officials alleged that the two were involved in the killings of Rajshahi University professor Rezaul Karim Siddique and attack on Rajshahi Ahmadiya mosque.

Golam Faizullah Fahim was killed within less than 12 hours after a judicial magistrate's court in Madaripur remanded the college student from Dhaka in police custody for 10 days for interrogation in the attempted murder of the college teacher.

Madaripur superintendent

of police Sarwar Hosain said that they conducted a drive with Fahim based on his statements in Mearchar area in Madaripur at about 7:30am.

Assailants, all of a sudden, opened fire from inside a jute field at the police vehicle, prompting the cops to retaliate, triggering a gunfight, he claimed.

The suspect tried to escape seizing the opportunity, added the district police chief.

After the gunfight, the suspect was found bullet-wounded and taken to the hospital where physicians declared him dead, said Sarwar, adding that police also seized arms and bullets from the spot.

He said, 'We have got horrifying information from Fahim...People cannot believe those...We are in a terrible situation.'

At about 9:30am on Saturday, investigation officer of the case sub-inspector Ayub Ali told New Age that he did not know 'where and how' the suspect was killed.

Police officials said that a team of 20 cops went to Mearchar in the morning.

Local people said that they heard several gunshots and some of them were willing to see what was going on but the cops barred them from going there.

Local union council member Abdus Sobhan Sheikh said that most of the villagers were sleeping during the incident after having their sehri.

'I went the spot and saw

few bullets and empty cartridges on ground. The police officials asked me to sign a seizure list,' he said, adding, 'I am not sure what exactly happen.'

The district hospital's duty doctor Emanur Rahman said that the youth was brought dead.

The hospital's resident medical officer Shashangka Kumar Ghosh said they conducted post mortem examination of the body.

A morgue assistant told reporters that the victim sustained one bullet in the left chest from 'point blank range.' The bullet pierced through his chest, said the morgue assistant.

The suspect was found handcuffed on the stretcher at the district hospital. It was not confirmed which type of bullet pierced his chest.

After hearing the news, Fahim's father Golam Faruk said he along with his wife had stayed in Madaripur police station until 11:30pm on Friday just to meet their detained son.

'We have been cooperating with the investigators since my son was detained... We wanted to meet my son but failed...Police allowed us to call my son and I requested him to assist police with information...but, they [the police] killed my son,' Faruk said.

'We had booked a local hotel to stay the night but police officials told us not stay there saying that the local people might beat us if they [local people] were informed,' said Faruk.

'Police gave me a lift to catch a Dhaka-bound bus and later I came to know the matter this morning when I reached Dhaka,' he added.

Asked for comments on the claim of Fahim's father, Madaripur police chief said that Faruk was trying to grab sympathy.

On Friday, district senior judicial magistrate Saidur Rahman remanded the suspect in police custody for 10 days for interrogation.

Madaripur police filed an attempt to murder case against Golam Faizullah Fahim and five others, whom the arrested suspect named as Jahin, Mejbah, Raihan, Polash and Salim.

Ripon Chakrawarty was hacked by three assailants at his rented house near his college immediately after he returned home on June 15.

A group of three miscreants knocked Ripon's door at College Road behind the college at about 4:00pm. As soon as the teacher opened the door, the attackers hacked him.

Local people detained suspect Golam Faizullah after the attack.

According to Dakkhinkhan police station in Dhaka, Fahim's father filed a missing complaint with the police station after his son went missing on June 11. The investigators said the father received a mobile text stating 'I am going abroad, there is no other option. Will meet if [I] remain alive.'

The family said they were not sure whether their son was radicalised.