



Full Report of the Human Rights Fact-finding Team

The simultaneous destruction of Buddhist and Hindu temples with flammable substances and explosives resulting in enormous damage to people's property and trust

Prepared by Fact Finding Team after visiting the crime scenes in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong

On September 29, 2012 about 7.30pm, a controversial photo showing disrespect for the Holy Quran was shared from the facebook profile of a local Buddhist young man called Uttom Kumar Borua of Haitupi village, Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazaar district. The chairman of Ramu upazila's Awami Motshojibi League Ansarul Haque Bhutto was on Uttom Kumar Borua's friend-list. When Bhutto came across the picture that was demeaning towards the Muslim's Holy Book, 'The Al- Quran', on Uttom's facebook profile, he talked to him on the phone and they argued. After that, at about 9pm, Bhutto himself led a procession demanding the punishment of Uttom Borua for defaming the Holy Quran. After the procession, a meeting was held at the Choumuhoni Chottor in Ramu. In the meeting they demanded the punishment of Uttom Borua and a strike to be called on September 30, 2012. Jubo League leader Nurul Islam Selim; Fotekharpul Union's Shechhashebok League's President Azizul Haque along with the local Awami League activists were present at the meeting. After the meeting another procession took place. It went through many different roads in Ramu. When the procession entered the Boruapara, the President of Ramu Upazila Awami League and Upazila Chairman Sohel Sarwar Kajol joined the procession. A few young men on motorcycles followed Sohel Sarwar Kajol. Quickly a few thousand men joined the procession. At first they looted the Buddhist temples in the Boruapara, threw stones and finally torched the temples. Soon after, along with Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazaar, the Buddhist temples in Ukhia Upazila and Teknaf Upazila, all came under attack at once. Beside the Buddhist temples, the houses of members of the Hindu community were looted, vandalized and torched.

Odhikar carried out a fact-finding mission and interviewed:

- the priests in the Buddhist temples
- the members of the temple committee
- the eyewitnesses
- the victims
- the local administrative officials
- the members of law enforcement agencies

Ramu Upazila of Cox's Bazaar district:

Mr. SKB, Moddho Merongloa, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. SKB informed Odhikar that on September 29, 2012 about 9.00 pm a few activists of the ruling party held a meeting at Choumohoni Mor (Square). The President of Ramu Upazila Awami League and Upazila Chairman, Sohel Sarwar Kajol spoke at the meeting.

A huge, disrespectful photograph of the Holy Quran was shown at the meeting and it was said that the Buddhists should be driven out of the country. For that reason they told the local people to join a procession which walked around the area several times. A few of his acquaintances informed him that the people might attack his home and told him to go away. At 11.00 pm the procession came near his house and some people began verbally abusing Buddhists and throwing stones. He then took his family members to an adjacent road. After some time another procession came and he saw a few local people he recognized. They entered his house and looted their valuables. Another group came on motorcycles, and set the place on fire using petrol, gunpowder and kerosene. He then sought help from the Fire Services for extinguishing the fire. After some time, an official of the Fire Services told him that they were trying to reach the scene but local people put trees on the road as barricades. Also, the people in the procession were threatening to beat them. He informed the other Buddhist temples in Cox's Bazaar that the local Muslims were attacking the Buddhists and burned down his house in front of him. After that the procession left moving towards the Ramu Central Shima Bihar.

On September 30, 2012 officials of the Army and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) visited the place where the confrontation took place. They gave one tent, 25 kilograms rice and Taka 25,000 in cash to every family as primary assistance. However, many people are still living under the open air due to insufficient tents.

Mr. BMB, a witness at Moddho Merongloa, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Bhubon Mohon Borua told that in the night of September 29, 2012 he was in his shop. At about 11.30 pm a group of people forming a procession against the Buddhists, led by his acquaintance and local leader of Awami League, Nurul Islam Selim, came to his shop and started looting. They took all his cash and goods, then set the place on fire and left for Ramu Central Shima Bihar. As Selim is a very influential person he did not have the courage say anything.

Mr. Nurul Islam Selim was not available for his opinion regarding this matter. It has been learned that he was in hiding since the incident.

Mr. TKB, a witness at Ramu Central Shima Bihar, Merongloa, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. TKB stated that on September 29, 2012 about 9.00 pm some leaders of the ruling party led a procession of 50/60 people in Choumohoni. They went around the area gathering Muslims saying that the Buddhists have defamed the Holy Quran. They held a meeting at Choumohoni Mor in Ramu. Due to their provocative speeches, local Muslims began gathering. At one point the procession entered the Boruapara. The people present in the procession began throwing



Sima Buddhist Temple, Ramu, Cox's Bazar-2

stones. At one point the Chairman of Ramu Upazila, Sohel Sarwar Kajol and Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Ms. Debi Chondro arrived at the scene. After that a few men on motorcycles pulled up. They brought tires, kerosene and jars full of inflammable substances.

After that the Officer in-charge of Ramu Police Station A K Nozibul Islam came with more policemen. The temples were looted and set on fire in their presence. Even though the police were present, they did nothing. The President of Cox's Bazaar BNP and Member of Parliament of Cox's Bazaar-3, Lutfor Rahman Kajol arrived when the place was burning. He left the scene after failing to bring the situation under control. The attackers set the Bihar on fire and went towards Moitry Bihar in Haitupi village.

Ms. RB, witness at Haitupipara Ramu Moitry Bihar, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Ms. RB told that on September 30, 2012 about 2.00 am a procession of local Muslims entered Moitry Bihar. She recognized some of the attackers but was unwilling to disclose their names. They looted, vandalized and torched U-Mongri Boddho Bihar (Lal Shing), U-Mongri Boddho Bihar (Shada Shing), Ramu Moitry Bihar and Shri Arponachoron Mohajon's temple, one after another. Then, the attackers were about to torch another Buddhist temple beside the Shada Shing Bihar. Her neighbour, who had joined the attackers, told them not to set the fire on that side because a few homes of Muslims might also burn down. Then the attackers broke down the corrugated walls of her house and left. The police did not come even though this rampage went on for almost two and a half hours. Several days passed since the attacks, but police have shown no initiative in recovering the valuable goods that were looted.



Moitri Shada Shing Buddhist Temple, Ramu, Cox's Bazar-4



Moitri Lal Shing Buddhist Temple, Ramu, Cox's Bazar-1

A senior monk, a witness at Ramu Moitry Bihar, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

A senior monk told that September 29, 2012 was the day of the Buddhist Modhupurnima festival, while on that night prayers were going on in the temple. At about 11.30 pm he heard the sound of many people walking in procession. They were shouting slogans against the Buddhists. At one point after throwing stones at the temple they entered the temple and started breaking up sculptures of the Buddha, even wanting to torch the place. However, they refrained from doing so, upon the request of a few local people whose houses were beside the temple. But, valuable stone sculptures were looted. The attackers attacked, vandalized and torched three more adjacent temples after Adhokhho Shripur Puraton Buddha Bihar. Police arrived long after the incident took place even though the police station was just one kilometer away.

A senior monk, witness at Bhubon Shanti 100 foot Shingho Shojja Goutom Buddha sculpture, Uttor Mithachhori, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

A senior monk informed that on September 29, 2012 about 11.00 pm a group of people, forming a procession entered the temple and set fire to a library along with many religious books. They even tore up a few books. For the purpose of research there was a Holy Quran with a Bengali translation, which they tore into pieces and burned. He said that they also set fire to some parts of the sculpture of Gautama Buddha, which did not completely burn. They destroyed the Bimukti Bidorshon Bhabna Kendra (meditation room). Then they went towards Proggamitro Bon Bihar. The local people began threatening them. They said that now they are under the protection of BGB and the army. But, once they leave the Boruas, they will be driven out of the country. All are living under great fear.

Mr. BBB, a witness at Proggamitro Bon Bihar, Uttor Mithachhori, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. BBB informed that he has a shop just opposite to the temple. On September 29, 2012 about 9.00 pm a procession of some 300 people, chanting slogans, came from the road beside the Electricity office and went towards the Choumohoni bazaar. At that time the Officer in-charge of Ramu Police Station, A K Nazibul Islam assured them that the people in the procession would not cause any harm. Then, about 11.30 pm a procession of almost two thousand people, chanting slogans, entered Boruapara again, and began throwing stones indiscriminately. At that time the Chairman of Ramu Upazila Sohel Sarwar Kajol was present. The attackers began looting and destroying the temples. After some time, the Member of Parliament of Cox's Bazaar-3 constituency Lutfor Rahman Kajol arrived in the area. He left, being unable to stop the attackers who then set fire to the temples. They slashed the sculpture of the Buddha around the throat as the police played a silent role the entire time.

Ms. DB, a witness at Proggamitro Bon Bihar, Uttor Mithachhori, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Ms. DB told that on September 29, 2012 about 11.00 pm a group of people entered the temple, destroying the place by setting the temple on fire. She said activists of all the political

parties were present. Their names cannot be disclosed, as they are very influential persons. Using threats, they are still trying to drive the Buddhists away. And there is the possibility that the temple could be attacked at any time.

Mr. BB, a witness at Ushit Shan Boddho Bihar, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Bidhu Borua informed Odhikar that on September 30, 2012 about 3.00 am a procession of some 1500 people, chanting slogans, were approaching the temple, then entered the temple destroying everything. Because the temple people protested, the attackers did not set it on fire.

A senior monk, witness at Srikul Boddho Bihar, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

A senior monk said that on September 29, 2012 the Buddhist festival of Modhupurnima was being celebrated. About 11.45 pm, some two thousand people attacked the temple with iron rods and sharp knives. The people praying in the temple were frightened and ran away to hide in the surrounding bushes. The attackers first looted the valuable stone sculptures of the Buddha and then set the temple on fire using kerosene and other flammable substances. Next they attacked the Srikul Moitry Bihar beside the Srikul Buddha Bihar in the same way. Even though the local police were informed, they rendered no assistance.

Mr. BKB, a witness at Arjo Bongsho Boddho Bihar, Jadipara, Ramu, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. BKB informed that on September 29, 2012 about 11.00 pm a procession of about one thousand people were walking toward the temple. At that time the "Modhudan" festival was going on at the Bihar. Everyone became frightened at the sudden attack. They all fled to save themselves. Some very valuable sculptures of the Buddha were looted, while the rest of the furnishings were set on fire. Later, a few local people informed him that the procession was led by one Mr. Kayes, who is known to be an Awami League supporter.



Arjo Bangsho Buddhist Temple, Ramu, Coxesbazar 3

Mr. Sohel Sarwar Kajol, Chairman of Ramu Upazila and president of Awami league of Ramu Upazila unit, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. Sohel Sarwar Kajol informed Odhikar that on September 29, 2012 about 10.45pm he went to the Boruapara after hearing about the attack on the temples. He saw the attackers loot the donation box and valuable sculptures of the Buddha. When he tried to stop them he was injured. He immediately tried to inform Police Superintendent, Selim Mohammad Jahangir through his cell phone but found it to be off. He saw the attackers carrying jars of petrol. Due to the non-cooperation of the law enforcement agencies, he asked for help from Assistant

General Secretary of Awami League, Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Organising Secretary of Awami League, Jahangir Kabir Nanok. Later, the Member of Parliament, Lutfor Rahman Kajol came. When he left after some time, the attackers set fire to the temples. Even though there were some people among the attackers who supported his party, there were no leaders of the district level Awami League there. Police did not take any action although several hours passed.

Mr. Lutfor Rahman Kajol, Member of Parliament, Cox's Bazaar-3, and president of Bangladesh Nationalist Party of its Cox's Bazar district unit:

Mr. Lutfor Rahman Kajol told that on September 29, 2012 about 10.00 pm a few local people informed him via cell phone that after finishing a meeting at Choumohoni, a group of people, entered the Merongloa village and were now torching the homes and temples of the Buddhists. He quickly went there and saw that a few thousand people were processing and among them a group of people were entering the temples, looting and destroying them. Another group of men on motorcycles carrying petrol, huge jars of kerosene and other flammable substances were going from one temple to another, setting them on fire. He saw that in the front of the procession was the Chairman of Ramu Upazila committee of Awami Motshojibi League Ansarul Haque Bhutto. Ramu unit Jubo League leader, Nurul Islam Selim; Fotekharpul Union Shechhashebok League President, Azizul Haque along with local Awami League members. They were taking sections of the procession and entering and attacking different areas. Despite doing his best, he was unable to stop the procession or the destruction because no one responded to his call for help. He saw that a few policemen standing by the procession were immobile. He repeatedly requested assistance from the Officer in-charge of Ramu Police Station and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ms. Debi Chondro. They said they were helpless in the face of so many people. At last he went home. Party leaders and activists told him that some time before the attack, the President of Ramu Upazila Awami league and Chairman of Ramu Upazila Porishod, Sohel Sarwar Kajol spoke at the meeting held at Choumohoni Mor. At that meeting, a photo defaming the Holy Quran was shown. It was said that the Buddhists had disrespected the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Holy Quran. The local people began joining the procession after seeing the photo. The procession went through many roads, gathering people from different areas. When the procession was entering the Boruapara, Sohel Sarwar Kajol followed with a few men on motorcycles. They joined the procession.

Mr. Shakhwat Hossain, Officer in-charge (OC) of Ramu Police Station, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. Shakhwat Hossain, Officer in-charge (OC) of Ramu police station told that his predecessor Mr. A. K. Nazibul Islam was the Officer in-charge of Ramu Police Station on September 29, 2012 when the attack on the Bihar took place. Since he was responsible for the Ramu Police Station he had been trying his utmost to uphold law and order. Six cases have

been filed in Ramu. The accused have been arrested. As the case is under investigation he was unwilling to say anything further.

As A. K. Nazibul was transferred to the Police line during the collection of this information it was not possible to talk to him.

Ms. Debi Chondro, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Ramu Upazila Porishod, Cox's bazaar:

Ms. Debi Chondro told Odhikar that on September 29, 2012 the attack on the Buddhist monasteries was unexpected. Additional police had been put on guard immediately after being informed of the incident. It had come to his knowledge that during the attack the Chairman of Ramu Upazila Parishad, Sohel Sarwar Kajol was present at some of the monasteries. An inquiry committee has been formed to identify the attackers.

Ukhia Upazila of Cox's Bazaar District:

A senior monk, witness at South Morichcha Diponkur Boddho Bihar, Ukhia, Cox's Bazaar:

A senior monk of South Morichcha Diponkur Boddho Bihar of Ukhia told that on September 29, 2012 he came to know about the attack on the monasteries in Ramu via cell phone. On September 30, 2012 about 9.00 pm the police of Ukhia Police Station came and inspected the Bihar. Then at 9.30 a procession of around two thousand local people led by Awami League activist Mohammad Alam, son of Nurul Haque driver of South Morichcha village were approaching the Bihar chanting "Torch everything! Burn everything!" They looted Shujon Borua, Shonaton Borua and Borendro Borua's house. They also caused destruction in the temple. Then after looting valuable stone sculptures they set fire to the temple. This occurred from 9.30 pm to 11.00 pm. The police did not come at that time. Assistant Sub Inspector Omor Faruk filed a case with Ukhia Police Station regarding this incident. The case number is: 2; dated: 02/10/2012.

Mohammad Alam (38), son of Nurul Haque driver, South Morichcha, Ukhia, Cox's Bazaar:

Mohammad Alam told Odhikar that in the evening of September 30, 2012 a group of local people attacked the Bihar. Even though he was present there, he did not tell anyone to destroy the Bihar. He said, as the news of the Buddhists disrespecting the Holy Quran spread around the area, people from all political parties participated in destroying the Bihar. He informed that ASI Omor Faruk of Ukhia Police Station filed a case as the complainant accusing him in this incident.

A senior leader of South Rotna Shashon Tirtho Shudorshon Bihar, Court Bazaar, Ukhia, Cox's bazaar:

A senior leader of the South Rotna Shashon Tirtho Shudorshon Bihar stated that on September 29, 2012 about 3.00 pm a local Jubo League leader Shahjada and founding Chairman of Probhati Shobujshongho Club arranged a protest meeting. Shahjada is the son of Siraj Mia, who is a microphone businessman in the court area. The General Secretary of

Ukhia Awami League, Hamidul Haque Chowdhury; Former Upazila Chairman, Mahmudul Haque Chowdhury; Awami League supported and Chairman of Ratna Palong Union Parishad, Nurul Kabir Chowdhury and the Chairman of Holudia Palong Union Parishad, Mintu Chowdhury were present at the meeting. They carried out a procession at the end of the meeting, which later on went on protesting for the punishment of those who disrespected the Holy Quran. At 9.30 pm, when almost one thousand people wanted to set the Bihar on fire, the chairman of Rotna Palong Union Parishad Nurul Kabir Chowdhury tried to stop them. However, the people of Shahjada did not listen to him. Later police fired blanks, making the attackers disperse. However, they regrouped setting fire to the priests' kitchen beside the temple.

A Member of the Rajapalong Jadi Buddha Bihar Committee, Ukhia, Cox's bazaar:

A Member of the Rajapalong Jadi Buddha Bihar Committee stated that September 29, 2012 after getting to know about the attacks at Ramu, everyone was terrified. On September 30, 2012 about 11.30 pm the police of Ukhia Police Station along with local influential leaders came to the Rajapalong Jadi Bodhho Bihar and they assured them they would be safe. Being thus assured, no one tried to stop the procession coming from the road in front of the temple at 3.30 pm. However, the people in the procession suddenly attacked the temple, looted the donation box and broke two large temple sculptures. Local Awami League leader Mahmud Alam led the procession.

Mr. Nilu Kanti Borua, Officer in-Charge (Investigation), Ukhia Police Station, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. Nilu Kanti Borua informed that after hearing about the attack on the temples in Ramu, the security of the temples in Ukhia had been strengthened. He said that the Poshchim Morichcha Diponkur Boddho Bihar was attacked after he had inspected the Bihar on September 29, 2012 at 9.00 pm. On September 30, 2012, as the people were taking positions in front of the Poshchim Rotna Shashon Tirtho Shudorshon Bihar situated at Court Bazaar, he immediately went there with additional police. They had to fire 20 rounds of blanks to control all the excited people. As a result the people ran away. He said that local leaders supported by Awami League were present in the procession.

Teknaf Upazila of Cox's Bazaar district:

Mr. SKM, Duarikhola, Whaikong, Teknaf, Cox's Bazaar:

Mr. SKM informed Odhikar that on September 30, 2012 about 3.00 pm a group of people led by local Awami League supporter Mohammad Jahed Ali of Whaikong Amtoli village held a meeting in the field of Haji Mohammad Registered Primary School. Later, another meeting was held at the same location led by Moulvi Kamal Uddin, Syed Alam and Mohammad Alam. The agenda priority was the driving out the people who defamed the Holy Quran. At 6.30 pm the local people chanted slogans and walked around at the same location. At 10.00 pm they went towards Shakko Mouli Boddho Bihar from Whaikong Bazaar to destroy it. At

that time the chairman of Whaikong no.1 Union Parishad, Nur Mohammad Anowari arrived. The police stopped him. Later they carried out walking on the road. At one point the police had to fire in order to control the procession, which was trying to go towards the Bihar. The people, while returning home, looted his house, destroying it by torching it. At the same time they burned down Jatindro Sharma and Kalipod Das's houses. Moreover, when they looted, vandalized and then set fire to the houses of Shudhir Mollik, Sojol Sharma, Kalu Kumar Dhor, Bijoy Mollik, Shubho Mollik, Shofor Bodor and Amullo Dhor's, ten other houses were partially or even entirely burned to the ground. At one point the police came and fired. As a result, some people were injured causing the group to disperse. He said that if the police were present at the beginning of the incident, perhaps they could have saved their houses. He also said that they have no enmity with the Muslims. However, a few local Muslims taking an aggressive stance towards the Hindus burned down their houses. On October 1, 2012, the local Member of Parliament Mr. Abdur Rahman Bodi visited and donated 30kgs of rice to each family. Mr. Shadhon Mollik, one of the victims, filed a case, as a plaintiff, accusing 70 people at the Teknaf Model Police Station. The case number is 1; dated: 01/10/2012.

As Awami League supporter Mohammad Jahed Ali of Whaikong Amtoli village is in hiding in fear of being arrested, his statement could not be obtained.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Assistant Sub Inspector of Hoaikong Police outpost, Teknaf, Cox's Bazaar:

ASI Mahfuzur Rahman told that on September 30, 2012 the local people set fire to the houses and attacked the policemen. In this incident SI Bakhtiar Uddin Chowdhury, Constable Abdur Rob and Nayek Joyonto Chakma were injured. He filed a case with the Teknaf Model Police Station. The case number is: 1; dated: 01/10/2012. He said that SI Bakhtiar Uddin Chowdhury is the investigating officer of this case. He said to contact him to know more about the case.

Mr. Alamgir Hossain, Duty Officer cum Sub Inspector of Teknaf Model Police Station, Cox's Bazar:

SI Alamgir Hossain claimed that when the news of the attack on the Bihars in Ramu spread, the security in the Bihars in Teknaf was strengthened. On September 30, 2012 the in-charge of Whaikong Police Line SI Bakhtiar Uddin Ahmed informed him that the local people had formed a procession and were proceeding towards Shakko Mouli Boddho Bihar from Whaikong Bazaar to destroy the Boddho Bihar. At that time when the police stopped them they had set fire to ten houses and attacked the policemen. Then he increased the number of policemen and went to Whaikong and brought the situation under control. Later, ASI Mahfuzur Rahman filed a case as the complainant regarding the incident. Twenty-six people were arrested and taken into remand.

Mr. Selim Mohammad Jahangir, Superintendent of Police of Cox's bazaar district:

Mr. Selim Mohammad Jahangir told that on September 29, 2012 about 9.00 pm a peaceful procession was held by the local people protesting the disrespect allegedly shown the Holy Quran at Choumohoni Mor. Some vested interest groups steered this into another direction. About the police not taking any action although the attackers were destroying one Bihar after another, he said that the events took place so quickly that the police was unable to tackle them completely. Later, to increase the speed of work, Nazibul was replaced by Shakhwat Hossain as the Officer in-Charge of the police station. An investigation committee consisting of 4 members has been formed in order to identify the culprits and unearth the real reasons behind the incident. The chairman of the investigation committee is Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, Nurul Islam. The members are Superintendent of Police of Bandorban district Kamrul Ahsan, Additional District Magistrate of Cox's Bazaar district Abdur Rouf and Additional Superintendent of Police, Babul Akhtar. He said a great deal more could be known about the matter once the investigation committee submits their report.

On September 30, 2012, 4 Bihars and Temples were destroyed under Patia Thana of Chittagong district.

- Lakhera Boddho Bihar
- Kolagaon Nabarun Shongho Sri Sri Durga Mondir
- Kolagaon Talukdarbari Shib Mondir (family temple) and
- Kolagaon Shorbojonin Rotnankur Bihar

Mr. SKB, a leader of Lakhera Boddho Bihar Committee, Patia, Chittagong:

Mr. SKB informed Odhikar that on September 30, 2012 about 10.45 am a worker of the Western Marine Shipyard Limited and his acquaintance informed him via cell phone that the workers inside the factory were planning to destroy Hindu and Buddhist temples and Buddhist monasteries. He then went to Kolarpur Police Outpost and told the in-charge of the outpost Habildar Abdur Rahim about this matter. Then four policemen came with him to Lakhera Boddho Bihar. At around



Buddist and Hindu Temples in Potia, Chittagong 5

11.30 am, 50/60 workers from the Western Marine Shipyard approached the Bihar chanting aggressive slogans, being armed with sticks, rods, hammers and various other dangerous weapons. When he saw the aggressive behavior of the people he went to the other side of the pond situated in the east side of the Bihar. He saw that almost 1500/2000 local people had joined the 50/60 workers. The attackers entered the Lakhera Boddho Bihar and beat up the

temple priests. First, they looted the cash, valuable stone sculptures and religious books. Then they destroyed other idols, rooms and doors. They poured kerosene and petrol on the *Chibor* (the clothes the Bhikku's wear), tent, *Chhamiyana*, blankets and pillows, rejoicing as they burned. When the four policemen advanced towards the people, they got together and started towards Kolagaon Nabarun Shongho Sri Sri Durga Mondir located at the end of Wapda road at around 11.45am.

Mr. MRS, a leader of Kolagaon Nobarun Shongho Sri Sri Durga Mondir, Kolagaon, Patia, Chittagong:

Mr. MRS told that on September 30, 2012 he was at the temple. About 11.45 pm three to four thousand people coming from Lakhera Boddho Bihar carrying sticks, rods, hammers and various other dangerous weapons broke the gate and entered the temple. From there he went to the road and saw that the attackers were local people and workers of the Western Marine Shipyard Limited. The attackers looted valuable idols from the temple and set fire to the rest. Some other people brought the idols of the Kolagaon Talukdarbari Shib Mondir (family temple) out on the road and broke them. Then the attackers formed a procession and started towards the Kolagaon Shorbojonin Rotnankur Bihar.

A senior monk and witness at Kolagaon Shorbojonin Rotnankur Bihar, Kolagaon, Patia, Chittagong:

The senior monk informed that on September 30, 2012 about 12.15 pm three to four thousand people coming from Kolagaon Nabarun Shongho Sri Sri Durga Mondir carrying sticks, rods, hammers and various other dangerous weapons broke the gate, entered the temple and began looting. They took granite sculptures, a Thai Buddha sculpture, a Shibli sculpture, a Bodhi Buddha Sculpture, a Burmese Buddha Sculpture, a gold sculpture, a bronze sculpture, a laptop, a television, cash, show pieces, electrical objects, a grill, doors, windows, different books from the library, Chibor and many other things. They poured Kerosene around, setting fire to the things remaining. After everything had been reduced to ashes they left; some going to the Western Marine Shipyard Limited while others went home. Later he went to Patia Police Station and filed a case accusing 37 known people and 450/500 other unknown people. The case number is 33; dated: 30/09/2012. Section: 143 /147/140/149/447/448/323/379/380 /436/427/295/34 of the Penal Code. SI Kamal Uddin is investigating the case.

Mr. Aminur Rashid, Officer-in-Charge, Patia Police Station, Chittagong:

Mr. Aminur Rashid claimed that on September 29, 2012 the Superintendent of Police told him that there has been an allegation that a Buddhist man had defamed the Holy Quran. For this reason the Muslims in Ramu of Cox's Bazaar destroyed the Buddhist monasteries and Hindu temples. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2214836/It-place-clouds-big-puffy-pink-white-The-prominent-neurosurgeon-convicted-there-is-heaven-body-experience.htm>. Upon hearing this news he increased the police security in the Bihars and temples in Patia.

On September 30, 2012 he became aware that a few people with batons were destroying Kolgaon Lakhera Abhoy Bihar. He went there with a police patrol and moved them on. However, the attackers were high in number. As they were leaving they caused some damage to Kolgaon Nabarun Shongho Sri Sri Durga Mondir, Kolgaon Talukdarbari Shib Mondir (family temple) and Kolgaon Shorbojonin Rotnankur Bihar. The attackers went to The Western Marine Shipyard in the Lalpole area. He, along with other policemen went to the factory and asked for assistance from the factory authority. They identified the culprits through the closed-circuit camera images and arrested them. An Additional Police Superintendent, on taking the culprits to the police station was attacked by a few local people who tried to vandalize the factory. After seeing to the culprits at the police station, he returned to the factory. However, the local people barricaded the road by felling a tree on it. When he kept on advancing with the police, the local people attacked them. A brick thrown by a local hit his elbow and he was injured. Other policemen were also injured. In order to control the situation and to save themselves they were forced to release tear gas. They then managed to reach the factory and rescue their fellow officers. The situation came under control after tear gas and rubber bullets were fired. Then SI Kamal Hossain filed a case as the complainant and SI Zakir Hossain filed another case as the complainant. 167 people were arrested in this case, but there were no political persons; they were all locals and Muslims. The injured policemen were admitted to the hospital and the case was under investigation.

Major Jalal Khaled, Quality Manager, Western Marine Shipyard limited, Kolgaon, Patia, Chittagong:

Major Jalal Khaled informed Odhikar that on September 30, 2012 about 10.30 am, a few workers talking on the phone, went to factory gate number 2, wanting to go outside. But the security guard would not permit them. After some time they returned with more workers in tow, attempting to exit one more time. Again the security guard refused to let them go. The workers continued talking to someone on the phone. At one point they disregarded the guards, broke down gate number 2, and went outside where some other people were waiting. Khaled then informed the police that after the workers left the factory they went to destroy the Buddhist Bihars and Hindu temples. Now about 1.00 pm the workers came back and resumed work. Meanwhile, the police also arrived at the factory. The police accused the workers of destroying four Bihars and temples. He identified the workers who broke the factory gate by viewing closed circuit TV camera footage and called them in. The police arrested 26 workers as being involved in the incident.

When news of the workers arrest got out, the local people attacked both policemen and the factory. Later, a large number of police arrived, bringing the situation under control. He said that those who perpetrated these misdeeds of destroying the Buddhist monasteries and temples would be brought to justice.