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Ahead of CM's visit, bomb hurled at biryani shop in Burdwan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BURDWAN, 24 AUGUST

Tension scaled up in Burdwan town after bombs were hurled at a biryani shop when the owner failed to respond to an extortion demand asking for Rs 10 lakh. This was the second such instance in the last 48 hours in the town.

Such frequent incidents, that too when security has been beefed up as the chief minister is scheduled to hold her administrative meeting on Monday morning, have landed the police in trouble.

The shop at which bombs were hurled is located within barely half a km of the Zilla Parishad-owned auditorium where the CM is to hold the meeting. Today, the SP, Burdwan (East), Bhaskar Mukherjee, pleaded for 48 hours' time to take action against the

extortionists. He said: "A few persons have been booked on suspicion and we have already initiated a probe into this."

Ratan Sonkar, owner of the biryani shop, located beside the historic Burdwan Town Hall received an extortion demand over the phone at 10:10 pm yesterday. The caller asked for Rs 10 lakh in cash. Sonkar received a second call at 11:05 pm from the same number but he refused to bow to the demand.

Sonkar's son Raja rushed to the Burdwan Police Station but according to him, "the policemen were busy with another incident and paid no heed to me."

Raja Sonkar added: "When we were closing our shop, the miscreant suddenly rushed in and started hurling bombs and we were panicked. Six of our staff suffered splinter

injuries and we rushed them to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital."

Raja stated: "The caller spoke in Hindi and asked us to arrange Rs 10 lakh by today morning or we would have to face fierce consequences."

On 19 August, miscreant sought Rs 5 lakh as extortion from an electrical goods seller at Khagragarh locality in Burdwan town and planted a live bomb on the table of the shop owner. The police had failed to book the actual culprit in the Khagragarh incident too.

Chandravijay Yadav, secretary, Burdwan Chamber of Traders said: "Since the chief minister is arriving the town on Monday, we shall wait till the completion of her meeting. We shall intensify our movement if police fail to book the culprits by that time."

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PAYING HOMAGE



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125/WBHR/Sheet 10

W.B. HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
KOLKATA-27

File No. /25/ /2019

Date: 26.08.2019

Enclosed is the news clipping of the 'Statesman,' an English daily dated 25th August, 2019, the news item is captioned " **Ahead of CM's visit, bomb hurled at biryanishop in Burdwan** "".

Superintendent of Police, Purba Bardhaman is directed to enquire into the matter and to furnish a report to the Commission within four weeks from the date of communication of this direction.

(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)
Chairperson

(Napanarajit Mukherjee)
Member

26/8/2019

Encl: News Item Dt. 25..08. 2019.

Asstt. Secy.(L & R Wing) / S.O.
is to take immediate action

SDB

mmr
26.08.19

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC and upload in the website..

order above -
files put up for approval.
26/9/19

Done
9/9

AS