



The mother of Sujon, one of the two boys killed by a pickup fleeing an attack in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday, breaks down in tears at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The boys were "supporters" of an Awami League nomination seeker. The pickup was attacked by a rival group. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

2 teenagers killed

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and Adabar 10 and 12 areas, leaving at least 25 injured.
The incident happened as the AL leader was about to go to a party office in his motorcade to buy nomination paper, said witnesses and his supporters.
Sadek's men blamed the supporters of an aide of Jahangir Kabir Nanak -- another AL MP aspirant in the same constituency (Dhaka-13) -- for the attacks.



Sujon



Arif

"Mohammadpur Awami League has a friendly environment. There is no conflict here. Mohammadpur Awami League had no programmes on Saturday [yesterday].
"The death of the two young men is sad and deplorable. The cause of their death will be found out through investigation. The culprits must be punished," he told reporters.
Tuhin alleged that yesterday's incident was a drama staged by Sadek's men.

Both Nanak and his aide rejected the allegation.
Yesterday, the two were killed after some 40 people with iron rods, hockey sticks, knives and daggers attacked some 20 supporters of Sadek who were waiting on a pickup near Nobodoy Housing Lohar Gate area to join the AL leader's motorcade, witnesses said.
Frightened, some jumped off the vehicle. As the driver started driving back hastily, Sujon and Arif were run over. They sustained serious head injuries, said Mohammad Sagar, who was also on the pickup. It happened around 10:30am.
They were declared dead after being taken to hospitals.
Although several AL leaders said the victims were party supporters, many other teenagers, who were about to join Sadek's motorcade, claimed that all of them were hired for Tk 300 each for yesterday's programme.
At least seven of them told The Daily Star they had joined Nanak's programmes in the past.
AL Joint General Secretary Nanak is the current lawmaker in the constituency (Mohammadpur-Adabar and a part of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar) while Sadek is the Dhaka city (north) AL general secretary.
"The attackers were men of Adabar Thana Jubo League's former secretary Arifur Rahman Tuhin who is blessed by Nanak," said Shahjahan Mian, Ward-30 AL president.
Jubo league's Health Affairs Secretary Kamran Shahid Prince Mohabbat blamed Nanak's men for the attack. He alleged that the AL leader orchestrated the attack to establish supremacy in the area.
Contacted, Nanak said he had nothing to do with the incident.

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Earlier on Thursday, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda announced that the 11th Jatiya Sangsad polls would be held on December 23.
Sadek said, "I don't want to blame anyone. You [journalists] better ask those who have come under the attack." He demanded a proper investigation into the incident.
Visiting the spot yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents found at least four CCTV cameras installed in nearby buildings. However, police and the building owners claimed none of the cameras could capture the incident.
Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Jamal Uddin Mir said they were investigating to find out whether it was a political clash.
Adabar Police Station OC Kawsar Ahmed said they were yet to confirm whether it was a result of infighting.
Meanwhile, the family members of the victims demanded that the attackers were caught and punished right away.
Arif's elder brother Md Alauddin said, "We heard that my brother was killed after Nanak's supporters attacked them. We want justice, we want them behind bars."
Sujon was the only earning member of his five-member family. His father Ruhul Amin and an elder brother are mentally challenged.
PM ORDERS PROBE
At a press briefing at the AL chief's Dhanmondi office yesterday, party's General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the prime minister directed the authorities concerned to submit a probe report over yesterday's incident within two days.
Whoever found involved will be given exemplary punishment, he said, adding that the prime minister wanted to know "who destroyed the peaceful election environment".

Parties

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"The commission will take a final decision in case anyone wants more time," he said while talking to reporters at the Nirbachan Bhaban.
He made the comment as ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said they would seek more time from EC to inform it if they would contest the polls under an alliance.
Asked about what measures the EC would take as a clash between two factions of AL centring collection of nomination papers left two dead, Helal said the matter was yet to come to their notice.
He said the commission has asked law enforcers to take necessary steps so that no violence or breaching of the electoral code of conduct occurs.
The EC is considering a plan to deploy army at the polling booths equipped with electronic voting machines (EVMs) to "ensure technical support and security" alongside serving as a striking force, he added.
The EC secretary said he does not think the AL rank and file are violating the electoral code of conduct by bringing out processions while collecting party nomination forms.
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Parkinson

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of the seven people who will be involved in the pioneering study.
Scientists from Kyoto University injected induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells into the man.
These are cells which occur naturally in the body -- more so in babies -- and have the potential to transform into one of many other types of cells.
The man was stable after the operation and he will now be monitored for two years, the university added.
The researchers injected 2.4 million iPS cells into the left side of the patient's brain in an operation which took about three hours.
If no problems are observed in the coming six months, they will implant another 2.4 million cells into the right side.
The iPS cells from healthy donors have been developed into dopamine-producing brain cells, which people with Parkinson's disease do not have.
The operation came after the university announced in July they would carry out the trial with seven participants aged between 50 and 69.
It is the first involving implanting stem cells into the brain to cure Parkinson's.
Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the body's motor system, often causing shaking and other difficulties in movement.
Worldwide, about 10million people have the illness, according to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.
Currently available therapies 'improve symptoms without slowing or halting the disease progression,' the foundation said.

Tigers

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the 151-run humiliation in the first Test.
The authorities have decided to start the game half an hour earlier compared to the previous game, with play scheduled to start from 9:30am BST at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.
Batting remains the biggest concern for the Tigers as they have been unable to cross the 200-run mark for eight consecutive innings.
There were also questions over the team combination for the first Test in Sylhet and it was learned that the Tigers' think-tank are likely to do away with the one-seamer strategy.
Left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman is set to return after being rested in the first Test and will surely add a much-needed punch to the bowling department while another pacer, Khaled Ahmed, is likely to make his Test debut.
Mohammad Mithun, who has been in fine form in limited-overs cricket is also set for a Test debut with the team management likely to drop pacer Abu Jayed, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam and the struggling Nazmul Hossain from the previous team.
On the other hand, even a draw would see Zimbabwe win their third-ever Test series away from home and the Hamilton Masakadza-led side are confident following a first away Test win after 17 long years in Sylhet.
The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur remains a mystery, even to the hosts, but winning the toss may prove to be crucial in the context of the game.

Amazing

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Prize for outstanding PhD dissertation from Stanford University, Fluid Dynamics Prize by the American Physical Society, Bangladesh Society of Mechanical Engineers Gold Medal, 2003, and Institution of Engineers Bangladesh Medal, 2004.

Mash may buy

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Quader had said.
"I have talked to Shakib and I was told that they don't want to think about participating in politics and elections right now," added the Awami League general secretary at that time.
But as things stand at the moment the wind has changed. It may be a spectacular addition in ruling Awami League's campaign for a third consecutive victory in the national election, but the news of Mashrafe and Shakib contesting in the polls yesterday morning came as a surprise to the sports fraternity.
The reaction on social media platforms was intense, with the general notion that it would be a distraction destined to harm Bangladesh's build-up to the all-important World Cup.
Under Mashrafe's leadership since 2015, Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in the one-day format of the game. The Tigers made it to the World Cup quarterfinal in 2015. They have won more games than lost under Mashrafe since then, winning 38 of 55 ODI matches.
Besides, Bangladesh also made it to the semifinals in the 2017 Champions Trophy in England and reached consecutive Asia Cup finals, with the last one in Dubai where the Tigers suffered a last-ball defeat to India.

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Now that Mashrafe, who will arguably be the most important component in Bangladesh's first real shot at World Cup glory in England next year, will be running in the 11th parliamentary election does not come as a surprise. It was in the making for quite some time. Planning minister AHM Mustafa Kamal first made it public on May 29 this year.
"Mashrafe will contest the elections from Narail," Kamal, also a former Bangladesh Cricket Board president, said while briefing reporters after an ECNEC meeting.
"Shakib will also be contesting the elections," Kamal had also said.
However, two days later, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader snubbed that suggestion.
"There is a surprise in nominating candidates for the next general election indeed but we do not want to comment over Mashrafe and Shakib in this regard before the next World Cup,"

Tensions soar

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minister Rajapakse could not prove his majority when the assembly was set to reconvene on Wednesday.
This is despite several legislators saying they were offered millions of dollars to switch allegiance.
Rajapakse, 72, was prime minister for two weeks without ever stepping into parliament. He will now continue as a caretaker premier until a new parliament meets on January 17.
A leader of Rajapakse's party, Susil Premajayantha, said Sirisena sacked the legislature to end the power struggle and allow people to elect a new parliament.
"Now we have a caretaker government with limited functions," Premajayantha said. "We will conduct a free and fair election."
He accused Wickremesinghe of causing instability by refusing to vacate his official residence.
POWER STRUGGLE
Rajapakse and the ousted Wickremesinghe have been battling for power for two weeks as international concern grew over the mounting turmoil in the strategically important island nation.
Sirisena signed a decree dismissing the legislature in a bid to head off any revolt against his actions which included suspending parliament for nearly three weeks.
Rajapakse was yet to address the nation after his disputed elevation, but early yesterday attempted to justify the dissolution.
"... A general election will truly establish the will of the people and make way

300 left to rot

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service available, he added.
Qatar-based organisations working for workers rights have come up with similar accounts over the condition in the camp.
Migrant-Rights, a GCC-based organisation aimed at protecting rights of migrant workers, said the workers inside the camp were suffering from chest pain. Recent heavy rains had worsened the situation, according to its video report published on Sunday.
The report echoed Motiur's claim that two workers died in the camp.
Migrant-Rights noted that despite formal complaints filed in September with several Qatar-based rights organisations, relevant ministry, and police, the workers saw no change in their situation.
Complaints have been filed with the Qatar police, labour ministry, National Human Rights Committee, International Labour Organisation's Qatar office, Qatar Red Crescent, and Qatar Charity, it claimed.
"Over the last few weeks, the authorities had promised the workers of resolving the issue over unpaid wages. But no sign of meeting the

for a stable country," he said on Twitter.
US 'DEEPLY CONCERNED'
Washington's criticism of Sirisena's move was swift.
"The US is deeply concerned by news the Sri Lanka parliament will be dissolved, further deepening the political crisis," the US State Department said in a statement.
"As a committed partner of Sri Lanka, we believe democratic institutions and processes need to be respected to ensure stability and prosperity," it said.
Just before sacking the parliament, Sirisena also inducted more ministers into his cabinet. The move was seen as giving them access to state resources in the run up to the January vote.
The leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP), which regards the sacking of Wickremesinghe as unconstitutional, accused Sirisena of trying to consolidate his power grab.
"Dissolving parliament at this time is illegal and goes against the constitution," JVP general secretary Tilvin Silva told reporters.
Wickremesinghe had late Thursday thanked his supporters in a Facebook video for not letting Sri Lanka be "plunged into the darkness of dictatorship".
It was not immediately clear if he would vacate the official Temple Trees residence following the dissolution of parliament.
The power struggle on the island of 21 million people has paralysed much of the administration, according to legislators on both sides of the dispute.

Teknaf

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in the list of drug traders and patrons prepared by the home ministry, the OC added.
According to the OC, a police team rushed to the spot following a tip-off that said two groups of drug peddlers had been locked in a gunfight in Dorgapara area. Sensing police presence, the drug traders opened fire at the law enforcers.
Shaheen died on the spot during the "gunfight", the OC said. Three policemen were also injured, he added.
Other drug traders fled the scene, he claimed, adding police recovered three firearms, 18 bullets and 15000 pieces of yaba pills from the spot.
The death of Shaheen in so-called shootout surprised his family members and locals, raising question on how a detained man got killed in gunfight.
Since OC Pradip joined the Teknaf police on October 20, at least eight alleged drug traders, including Shaheen, were killed in similar incidents of gunfight in the area.

Trump's new justice chief assailed over anti-Mueller stance

AFP, Washington
President Donald Trump's new acting Justice Department chief Matthew Whitaker drew tough criticism Friday over his denial of Russia's meddling in the 2016 elections and his past involvement in a company fined millions for bilking clients.
Just two days after being named acting attorney general, the former federal prosecutor and TV commentator faced questions over his ability to fairly supervise Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia, given Whitaker's proposal last year to starve Mueller of funding.
Questions were also being asked about his role on the board of a patent marketing company fined \$25 million last May to settle fraud allegations.
Late Friday, the Wall Street Journal said the FBI -- which is now under Whitaker -- is conducting a criminal investigation of the company, World Patent Marketing Inc.
And members of Congress said his appointment was unconstitutional, because he has never been confirmed for top office by the US Senate.
"As an unconfirmed political appointee, Mr Whitaker has not been subject to the scrutiny that the Constitution requires to ensure that he has the character, integrity and ability to fulfil the grave responsibilities of this job," top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said in a letter addressed to Trump Friday.
"These concerns are heightened by specific expressions of bias against the special counsel investigation that Mr Whitaker made just last year," Schumer said.
Whitaker was named to the powerful job Wednesday after Trump fired attorney general Jeff Sessions.
His appointment was greeted by protests in different cities calling for the protection of the Mueller probe, which potentially threatens the president and his family.

Facebook stops requiring arbitration of sexual harassment claims

AFP, San Francisco
Facebook on Friday said it will no longer require employees to resolve sexual harassment claims via arbitration, mirroring a move by Google.
The change of workplace rules at the world's leading social network will allow complaints of such improprieties to be aired openly in court.
"Today, we are publishing our updated Workplace Relationships policy and amending our arbitration agreements to make arbitration a choice rather than a requirement in sexual harassment claims," Facebook corporate media relations director Anthony Harrison told AFP.
"Sexual harassment is something that we take very seriously and there is no place for it at Facebook."
The Silicon Valley-based internet firm's policy about workers dating one another was also modified to require executives of director level or higher to tell the human resources department when they are dating another employee at the company.
Google on Thursday outlined changes to its handling of sexual misconduct complaints, hoping to calm outrage that triggered a worldwide walkout of workers last week.
Arbitration of harassment claims at Google will be optional instead of obligatory, according to chief executive Sundar Pichai, a move that could end anonymous settlements that fail to identify those accused of harassment.
"Google has never required confidentiality in the arbitration process and it still may be the best path for a number of reasons (e.g. personal privacy, predictability of process), but, we recognize that the choice should be up to you," Pichai said in a memo shared with AFP.
Pichai promised that Google will be more transparent with how concerns are handled, and provide better support and care to those who raise such issues with the company.
A section of an internal "Investigations Report" will show numbers of

substantiated sexual harassment concerns as well as trends and disciplinary actions, according to the California-based company.
He also said Google is consolidating the complaint system and that the process for handling concerns will include providing support personnel and counselors.
Google will update its mandatory sexual harassment training, and require it annually instead of every two years as had been the case.

Bulgarian president sees democracy 'under threat'

AFP, Sofia
Bulgarian President Rumen Radev issued a stinging critique of the government's record on corruption and press freedom Friday, saying "the foundations of democracy are being threatened to a critical degree".
In a televised speech, Radev said the freedom of speech won by Bulgarians after they toppled communist dictator Todor Zhivkov was now "only a memory".
Radev used the speech, given to mark the eve of the 29th anniversary of the fall of communism, to mount a scathing attack on the right-wing government led by Boyko Borisov.
Radev has been a thorn in the side of Borisov since he was elected in November 2016 with the backing of the opposition Socialist Party (BSP).
Although the presidency is a largely ceremonial role, according to the constitution it is meant to "embody the unity of the nation".
Radev said that "lobbying and corruption have permeated the entire system of government and have made it arrogant."