

Lynch mobs acting with impunity

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Incidents of mob lynching spiked with 21 people beaten to death over the last 38 days, raising public safety concerns.

Although cases have been filed over most of these incidents, only eight people have been held in connection with two cases as of yesterday.

Legal experts and human rights activists say the interim government's response to lynching has so far been inadequate and that it failed to quickly take decisive actions against the perpetrators.

They also say the rising incidents indicate that law and order has not been properly restored and that perpetrators are not being penalised.

In just three hours between Wednesday night and early yesterday, two people were beaten to death by mobs in the country's two top universities.

A former Chhatra League leader of Jahangirnagar University Shamim Molla was beaten up by students twice on JU campus. He died of his injuries around 9:15pm on Wednesday.

At Dhaka University, Tofazzal Hossain, known to be a wanderer on campus, died early yesterday after a mob in Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall beat him.

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"We'll not tolerate any mob violence or extrajudicial killings. If it happens, we will take stern actions."

Law Adviser
Prof Asif Nazrul

- » 21 people lynched in last 38 days
- » Only 8 held over two incidents
- » Cops cite 'chaotic state' for poor probe progress
- » Experts blame failing system

"Why is there no attention to law and order? Do they [interim govt] not read newspapers? Do they not live in this country?"

Veteran lawyer
ZI Khan Panna

SAVAGERY AT DU
They beat him, fed him, then killed him

 MASHFIQ MIZAN and
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Tofazzal Hossain was a familiar face to many resident students of Dhaka University. He would often wander about the campus, dorms, and gladly eat if somebody offered him food.

His cousins say he "lost his mind" after the death of his parents and brother and became a drifter.

The Dhaka University students who tortured the 35 year-old to death at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on Wednesday night thought he was a thief and assumed the roles of a judge, jury, and executioner.

From 6:30pm onwards, they tortured him, paused for a while, made him walk from one building to another, fed him, and then tortured him again. The dorm authorities and proctor's office were informed,

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JU SUSPENDS 8 STUDENTS — PAGE 2

MOB JUSTICE

Three advisers warn of stern action against the culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three advisers of the interim government yesterday warned of stern actions against those involved in the recent mob violence.

Their statements follow recent incidents of mob beatings, including two separate ones at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar university campuses that resulted in the deaths of two people.

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said that the interim government is shocked by recent incidents of mob violence and termed it "totally unacceptable".

"We'll not tolerate any mob violence or extrajudicial killings. If it happens, we will take stern actions," he said at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"Already, three accused have been arrested over the killing of a man at the Dhaka University."

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Schoolgirl abducted 2 weeks after getting threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A tenth grader was abducted in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila on Wednesday evening, just over two weeks after posters saying that the "girl of the family" would be picked up and converted to Islam were found pinned to trees near her home.

A resident of Anantapur village, home to around 30 Hindu families including the victim's, filed a general diary with police on September 4 about the threats.

The abduction took place around 5:00pm on Wednesday when the 15-year-old was returning home from a coaching centre.

Her father filed a complaint yesterday morning with Phulbari Police Station accusing one Alinur Rahman of kidnapping, said Nawabur Rahman, officer in-charge of the police station.

Locals and police said Alinur, 32, a known drug smuggler from the same village, was behind the abduction.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the victim's father said, "My daughter is very gentle. She is dedicated to her studies. She was on her way home from the

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CARRYING OUT REFORMS

Commissions to file reports by December 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reform commissions declared by the interim government will start work on October 1 and submit their reports by December 31, said Asif Nazrul, the law adviser.

After that, consultations will be held with the political parties and other stakeholders, he said at a press briefing yesterday after the first meeting with the heads of the six commissions.

Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, presided over the meeting that was attended by advisers Rizwana Hasan, Ali Imam Majumder, Nazrul and Adilur Rahman Khan and Mahfuj Alam, special assistant to the chief adviser.

"We discussed how the commissions will work, their terms of reference, how the commissioners will be appointed," Nazrul said, adding the reports would contain recommendations.

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The advisers will hold consultations with political parties, experts, professional bodies, student bodies and the general public.

Govt okays draft of an ordinance on its validity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government's advisory council yesterday approved the draft of the "Interim Government Ordinance - 2024", seeking to provide legal validity to the formation of the government and determine its authority and responsibilities.

The approval came at the seventh meeting of the council with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair at the Chief Adviser's Office.

The Cabinet Division issued a press release that said prime minister Sheikh Hasina sent her resignation letter to the president on August 5 amid a mass uprising and left the country.

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DU suspends politics on its campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Syndicate last night decided to suspend all kinds of political activities by teachers, students, and staff on campus until further notice.

The decision was made at an emergency syndicate meeting held at the DU Senate Bhaban, several members of the syndicate told The Daily Star.

They said the syndicate made the decision unanimously.

A committee would be formed to have expert opinions on whether such politics on campus should be completely banned in future, they said.

The 15 syndicate members present argued for and against it and then decided to suspend such politics.

The vice-chancellor of the university called the emergency meeting and presided over it.

Banning politics on campuses was one of the nine-point demands made by Anti-discrimination Students Movement leaders at one stage of the quota reforms movement.

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Rejoinder, our reply

The Orion Group has sent a rejoinder to our report headlined "BB's Strange Bid to Save Orion Plant" published on September 03.

Here is the full rejoinder:

"We carefully read your report and feel it lacks adequate research, resulting in incomplete information. Please find our clarification regarding the report published by you.

Firstly, regarding single borrower limit exemption, as coal power plants require significant LC facilities for coal import, Bangladesh Bank, through its BPRD Circular No. 2, exempted companies engaged in the energy sector from the single borrower exposure limit. Secondly, regarding the decision of the syndicate, the syndicate made the decision unanimously. A committee would be formed to have expert opinions on whether such politics on campus should be completely banned in future, they said.

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Traders set up makeshift shops along the rail lines in the capital's Jurain rail gate area. This not only puts the traders themselves at risk but also the shoppers and train passengers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

30 indigenous homes, shops set on fire in Khagrachhari

STAR REPORT

At least 30 houses and business establishments belonging to indigenous people came under arson attacks in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila yesterday.

The incident took place around 5:00pm in the Larma Square area of the upazila headquarters.

Witnesses say the attacks followed the death of a Bangali man, Md Mamun, in a mob beating on charges of stealing a motorbike in Khagrachhari town on Wednesday morning.

Protesting the killing, a group of Bangali settlers brought out a procession in Dighinala upazila headquarters in the afternoon.

Many of them delivered provocative speeches from the procession. At that time, some people from Bangali and indigenous communities got into heated arguments, said Inasta Chakma, who was present there.

"At one stage, an announcement was made using a local mosque's loudspeaker that indigenous people had attacked Bangalis. Immediately, several hundred people gathered there and

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SAFE. STRONG. SUSTAINABLE.



Prime Bank