

How could they kill a man so brutally?

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Hasan Mohin, 41, and Tarek Rahman Robin, 22. A firearm was recovered from Robin's possession.

Sources said Mohin is affiliated with Jubo Dal. He was placed on a five-day remand on Thursday in connection with the murder case. Meanwhile, a separate case was filed against Robin under the Arms Act, and he was placed on a two-day remand in that case.

Meanwhile, the Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested two more people in connection with the murder.

They are case accused Alamgir, 28, and Monir alias Lomba Monir, 32.

A video of the brutal killing has gone viral on social media, sparking outrage. People criticised how such a barbaric attack took place in broad daylight and in full view of the public, without any intervention.

According to the case filed by the victim's sister, Monjuara Begum, with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday, Sohag had been running his scrap business in the Rajani Bose Lane area under Wari's DC Roy Road for years.

His growing business presence allegedly sparked tensions with a rival group seeking control over the area's scrap trade and local influence.

The family alleged that the accused had previously padlocked Sohag's warehouse and threatened him on several occasions in an attempt to drive him out of the neighbourhood.

"The accused had asked my uncle to close the shop or give them Tk 2 lakh and a portion of his income every month. My uncle did not agree, and for this, they killed him so brutally," Sohag's niece Bithi Akter told The Daily Star.

She also alleged that some of the accused

are involved in Jubo Dal politics.

On the day of the incident, around 5:40pm, a group of 15 to 20 individuals, some named in the case and others unidentified, attacked Sohag at his shop, Sohan Metal, in Bangshal.

They were armed with sharp and blunt weapons.

According to the case details, the attackers stormed the shop, dragged Sohag outside, and began beating him indiscriminately.

Even as Sohag's employees and other witnesses begged them to stop, the attackers assaulted the staff and others trying to intervene.

They then dragged Sohag to the premises of Mitford Hospital's Gate-3, where they continued to beat him with blunt and sharp weapons. At one point, they crushed his head and torso with concrete blocks.

Witnesses said Sohag was stripped during the assault.

When he collapsed near a drain, the attackers pulled him out to the paved road in front of the hospital around 6:20pm and left his bloodied body there.

The assailants celebrated loudly before leaving the scene, added the case statement.

Police later recovered the body and sent it for autopsy.

The accused in the murder case are Mahmudul Hasan Mohin, 41; Sarwar Hossain Titu, 42; Monir alias Chhoto Monir, 25; Alamgir, 28; Monir alias Lomba Monir, 32; Nannu, 27; Sajib, 25; Riyad, 22; Titon Garji, 32; Rajib, 35; Saba Karim Laki, 45; Kalu alias Swachhchasebak Kalu, 40; Rojob Ali Pintu, 46; Sirajul Islam, 55; Tarek Rahman Robin, 22; Mizan, 27; Apu Dhata Das, 32; Himmat Ali, 24; and Anisur Rahman Hawlader, 40.

Rohingya

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within the camps. The majority are women and children.

"There is a huge gap in terms of what we need and what resources are available. These funding gaps will affect the daily living of Rohingya refugees as they depend on humanitarian support on a daily basis for food, health and education," Baloch told reporters.

The humanitarian sector has been roiled by funding reductions from major donors, led by the US under President Donald Trump and other Western countries, as they prioritise defence spending prompted by growing fears of Russia and China, reports Reuters.

"With the acute global funding crisis, the critical needs of both newly arrived refugees and those already present will be unmet, and essential services for the whole Rohingya refugee population are at risk of collapsing unless additional funds are secured," Baloch said.

The refugee response is facing a critical funding shortfall, with UNHCR's appeal for \$255 million only 35 percent funded. Without additional support, health services could collapse by September, and food assistance may cease by December, affecting 230,000 children, including 63,000 recent arrivals, the agency warned.

Baloch added that the situation is fuelling desperation and anxiety, prompting some to undertake dangerous sea journeys in search of safety.

Despite the border with Myanmar remaining officially closed, the Bangladesh government authorised emergency assistance for the new arrivals. UNHCR and its partners have called on Dhaka to continue providing managed access to asylum, while urging the international community to step up support.

Bangladesh has long been praised for its generosity in hosting Rohingya refugees, but officials and aid agencies warn that without sustained global solidarity, the humanitarian response may falter.

Another

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said Ripon suffered 60 percent, Chandni 45 percent, Tamim 42 percent, Rokon 60 percent, and Ayesha 63 percent burns.

"All of them have suffered burns to their respiratory tracts as well. Their conditions are critical," the doctor said.

Earlier on Thursday, a woman and her husband died, while their three-year-old daughter sustained burn injuries in another "gas explosion" in Jatrabari.

Experts from the Fire Service and Civil Defence and law enforcement agencies said there is no risk if leaked gas from pipelines, cylinders, air-conditioners, or septic or water tanks escapes into open spaces.

But if the gas accumulates inside a closed room, it becomes akin to a ticking time bomb. When the gas comes in contact with a spark – either from an electric short circuit or a lit matchstick – an explosion can rip through the room.

Ex-Jubo Dal

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Locals said Mahbub had a long-standing rivalry with a group involved in drug dealing and had come under attack on multiple occasions since August 5 last year.

OC Atahar said police were conducting drives to arrest the attackers. The body of Mahbub was sent to Khulna Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

PRAYER TIMING		JULY 12			
Faaz	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:40	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17	
AZAN 4-45 12-15 5-00 6-55 8-17					
JAMAAT	4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Consensus talks set to enter

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Meanwhile, the commission has proposed a new plan to form the caretaker government and appoint the chief adviser through an inclusive parliamentary process.

The previous proposal suggested appointing the chief adviser via the National Constitutional Council and selecting an individual from retired chief justices, in accordance with the 13th amendment of the constitution.

According to the new proposal, a seven-member "chief adviser selection committee" will be established 30 days before the conclusion of the parliament's term.

The committee will include the prime minister, the opposition leader, the Speaker, the opposition deputy speaker, and three upper house members nominated by the government, the opposition, and other parties.

Within 24 hours of its formation, the ruling coalition and main opposition will each propose five eligible names, while other parties represented in both houses will jointly propose four more.

The committee will hold a hearing in the lower

house within five days, with upper house members also present there to review all 14 nominees.

After the hearing, the ruling coalition and the main opposition will pick one name from each other's list and one from the list proposed by the smaller parties. A common choice will automatically be the chief adviser.

If there is no common choice, upper house members will vote using a ranked-choice system – in which candidates are ranked in order of preference – to select one. Then the president will appoint him/her as chief adviser.

The chief adviser will then appoint up to 15 advisers.

On June 18, BNP and its allies opposed the formation of a proposed National Constitutional Council (NCC), which was intended to oversee appointments to constitutional bodies and the chief adviser.

In contrast, parties like Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) supported the proposal.

On June 19, political parties remained sharply divided over the process of electing the president. The BNP rejected a proposal to elect the president through

an electoral college of MPs and local government representatives.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh and the LDP favoured retaining the existing system where only MPs elect the president, while Jamaat and NCP supported the electoral college model.

On June 22, after two days of discussions, all parties except the BNP and two others agreed on limiting a person's tenure as prime minister to 10 years.

On June 25, the commission revised the structure and functions of the proposed NCC, renaming it the Committee for Appointments to Constitutional and Statutory Bodies.

It also excluded the chief adviser's appointment from its purview, responding to objections from BNP and its allies.

Additionally, the word "pluralism" was dropped from the proposed basic constitutional principles due to opposition from the BNP, Jamaat, and several Islamic parties.

798 killed

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cemeteries, families, Palestinian health authorities, NGOs and its partners on the ground.

Most of the injuries to Palestinians in the vicinity of aid distribution hubs recorded by the OHCHR since May 27 were gunshot wounds, Shamdasani said.

"We've raised concerns about atrocity crimes having been committed and the risk of further atrocity crimes being committed where people are lining up for essential supplies such as food," she said.

Meanwhile, Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), has accused Israel of engineering the "most cruel and Machiavellian scheme to kill" in Gaza, in an outraged response to the killing of nine children who were in line for food supplements.

Rizvi slams

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The BNP leader said reforms are an ongoing process across countries and over time. "Reform is not something fixed like the Thai mountain range – it is a dynamic process."

He said reforms should be carried out when needed for the sake of democracy, the state, or the people, and appropriate laws should be enacted accordingly.

"This is the very nature of a democratic constitution. But insisting that reforms must come first and that the July Charter must be included in the Constitution's fundamental principles is misleading. It is creating confusion among the people," Rizvi said. "Why are you trying to mislead the public in this way?"

The BNP leader urged political parties to prioritise returning power to the people over making confusing demands.

At another programme yesterday, BNP Standing Committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said the party is not desperate to come to power but is committed to restoring democracy. "I hope Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus will honour his promises and conduct a fair election. And no one can obstruct that – because the people are here," he said, while speaking as chief guest at a cultural event organised by Jatitabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Meanwhile, BNP Vice Chairman Shamsuzzaman Dudu yesterday demanded the interim government announce a specific date for the national election, although it has already hinted at February.

Speaking at a protest rally in the capital, Dudu alleged that "certain quarters" are trying to block the election by raising issues related to reforms and justice.

Don't allow

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National Mosque, organised by its Dhaka city chapter, according to a press release.

It said the move to open the UN rights office will be an "interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs and a threat to the country's sovereignty".

Presiding over the rally, Hefazat Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque said the interim government is taking decisions that go against public sentiment and the spirit of independence.

"The so-called human rights of the United Nations are actually tools of Western ideology, which go against Islam and humanity," he claimed.

Mamunul added that the government has no right to make decisions that ignore public opinion.

He warned of a stronger movement if the decision is not withdrawn.

No polls alliance with Jamaat

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shortcomings in how the meetings are conducted by the National Consensus Commission, which is making the whole process time-consuming.

"I hope that the discussion would not continue much longer. We should move towards a summary and conclusion."

Salahuddin said there is significant development that the caretaker government system has almost been restored – only the Supreme Court's review is pending. "We hope the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will deliver a positive verdict on the review petition."

He said the people of Bangladesh agree that national elections should be held under a neutral caretaker government. "But there is still debate over its structure or

whether the immediate past chief justice should remain the first option for the chief adviser of a caretaker government."

The BNP leader said discussions on alternatives are still ongoing. "If no better option is agreed upon, the current structure will be in force."

Salahuddin, who is representing the BNP in discussions with the Consensus Commission, strongly opposed the idea of introducing a proportional representation (PR) system in the formation of the upcoming parliament.

He argued that the PR system could disconnect voters from their direct representatives, discourage voter participation, and create instability by resulting in fragmented parliaments with no clear majority.

The BNP leader explained that voters in Bangladesh prefer to vote for a person they know from their own area, not just for a political party.

Even within alliance partners of BNP, Salahuddin said different views may arise. "That could be part of their bargaining strategy, like seat sharing."

Asked about the Awami League's future, he said, "My view is that the Awami League is no longer a political party. They lost their political ideals and character long ago. They have transformed themselves into a mafia-like organisation – an undemocratic, fascist force. Throughout their history, from before 1975 until now, they have never practised democracy. Democracy is simply not in their DNA."

Trump slaps 35% tariff

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Trump had not made a final decision on those issues, an administration official said.

Trump complained in his letter about what he referred to as the flow of fentanyl from Canada as well as the country's tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that hurt US dairy farmers and others. He said the trade deficit was a threat to the US economy and national security.

"If Canada works with me to stop the flow of Fentanyl, we will, perhaps, consider an adjustment to this letter," Trump wrote.

Canadian officials say a minuscule amount of fentanyl originates from Canada but they have taken measures to strengthen the border.

Trump has broadened

his trade war in recent days, setting new tariffs on a number of countries, including allies Japan and South Korea, along with a 50 percent tariff on copper.

His latest salvo rattled investors anew, with US and European stock futures dipping in Asia yesterday as markets nervously awaited ahead of expected tariff on European Union later yesterday.

The potential escalation between the EU and the US is a big deal for financial markets," said Joseph Capurso, head of international economics at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "If you get something similar to (the US-China trade war in April), that's going to be very destabilising."

People won't allow

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Central NCP leaders held the rally as part of their month-long "July March to Build the Nation" campaign, which is being carried out across all districts throughout July.

Criticising the Election Commission, Nahid said, "The most dysfunctional institution in the country is the Election Commission. The people of Bangladesh will not accept any election without justice and reform."

He also demanded that neutral individuals be appointed to the Anti-Corruption Commission, the police operate impartially with promotions based on merit and competence, and that the army focus on strengthening the country's defence system.

"We do not want any officer of the army or DGFI

to be involved in enforced disappearances. We want to build a state rooted in justice, responsibility, and compassion," he said.

At a separate event in Benapole, NCP chief organiser (South) Hasnat Abdullah also criticised the EC, saying, "The commission is again moving towards a staged election and pre-determined results. We don't want a BNP-backed or NCP-backed commission. We want a Bangladesh centric Election Commission."

He made the remarks during a views exchange meeting with July uprising victims and families of the martyrs at a hotel in Jashore town.

Addressing the BNP, he said, "We urge you not to betray the blood of your own activists."

Washington, Dhaka try to iron out key tariff

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh reduce its reliance on China for sourcing industrial raw materials, the official familiar with the discussions said.

Bangladesh, however, stuck to its demand that the US lower the tariff on Bangladeshi exports to at least 10 percent, as the country remains a member of the least developed countries (LDC) group.

US Trade Representative negotiators expressed concern over Bangladesh's heavy dependence on China for industrial inputs, the official said.

He added that it was difficult to predict the outcome of the ongoing talks, especially as US President Donald Trump had already sent a letter to Dhaka imposing a 35 percent tariff on all Bangladeshi goods entering the US starting August 1.

According to the official, the steep tariff was triggered by the high concentration of Chinese content in Bangladeshi exports, a move seen as part of Washington's broader

strategy to curb China's economic influence.

In FY24, Bangladesh imported \$16.63 billion worth of goods from China, about 26.4 percent of its total import bill, Bangladesh Bank data shows. Over 80 percent of those imports were industrial raw materials, particularly for the garment sector, including fabrics, chemicals, and accessories.

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin met with US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer at the USTR office in Washington, DC, at 11:00am local time on Thursday, according to a statement from the Chief Adviser's Office.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral ties and discussed key issues in trade and commerce, with special focus on the tariff negotiations.

The talks were comprehensive, covering nearly all aspects of the Bangladesh-US trade relationship, the statement

added.

Bashir Uddin is leading the Bangladesh delegation in Washington, DC. National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman and the Chief Adviser's Special Assistant on ICT and Telecommunications Faiz Ahmed Tayeb joined the talks virtually from Dhaka. Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman and an additional secretary also attended the meeting in person.

Senior US officials from various sectors, including agriculture, labour, environment, Treasury, innovation, intellectual property, and investment, participated in the discussions.

Meanwhile, business leaders in Dhaka expressed deep concern over the potential impact of the new tariff. At a meeting with four advisers at Rail Bhaban on Thursday evening, they warned that exports, which reached around \$8 billion to the US last year, would take a major hit.

Industry insiders estimated that nearly 200 small and medium

enterprises could be forced to shut down, resulting in job losses for more than 100,000 workers.

They also said US retailers and clothing brands were already delaying work orders due to the prevailing uncertainty. Business leaders claimed they had urged the government two months ago to appoint lobbying firms in the US to help negotiate the tariff issue with the Trump administration.

On Thursday, Trump suggested he may raise the baseline tariff on foreign imports from 10 to 20 percent.

This rate would still add on to some other pre-existing levies such as 'Most Favored Nation' tariffs, according to a US official who requested anonymity to discuss the matter.

That would push the typical total average effective rate even higher. US sectoral tariffs, such as on automobiles and steel, are separate from the baseline rate but not cumulative – importers pay one or the other.