

## How could they kill a man so brutally?

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Scrap trade refers to collecting, buying, and selling junk items – typically metal, plastic, paper, and other discarded or recyclable goods.

A day after the murder, police arrested two suspects, Mahmudul 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.

### 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 Mumunul 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.

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He warned of a stronger movement if the decision is not withdrawn.

## People won't allow polls without reform

FROM PAGE 12  
person can stand equal to lakhs."

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

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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 Bhawan 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

27; Sajib, 25; Riyad, 22; Titon Garji, 32; Rajib, 35; Saba Karim Laki, 45; Kalu alias Swachchhasebkal Kalu, 40; Roboj Ali Pintu, 46; Sirajul Islam, 55; Tarek Rahmat Robin, 22; Mizan, 27; Apu Dhata Das, 32; Himmat Ali, 24; and Anisur Rahman Hawlader, 40.

### JUBO LEAGUE LEADERS EXPELLED

The Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the youth wing of BNP, has expelled two of its leaders, Roboj Ali Pintu and Saba Karim Laki, over their alleged involvement in the murder.

Pintu, former assistant secretary for climate affairs of the Jubo Dal central executive committee, and Laki, joint convener of Dhaka South Jubo Dal, have been expelled from the party, including their primary memberships, following a case filed by the victim's family, said the party in a statement yesterday.

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,

that voters in Bangladesh prefer to vote for a person they know from their own area, not just for a political party. "In PR, even if a party gets more votes in a region, someone from another area may be selected, which does not reflect the people's choice. This could discourage voters and weaken democracy."

Another problem, he mentioned that independent candidates will be left out in PR. "Even if someone is very popular, they can't get elected unless they belong to a party. That's unfair and undemocratic."

He believes that small parties want PR because it would help them get more seats even with fewer votes. "But this would lead to unstable coalition governments, and the country may not have strong leadership."

"We respect new political

structures 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. "Our party and others will submit their proposals, as will the reform commission in this regard. 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 upcoming election.

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. "In PR, even if a party gets more votes in a region, someone from another area may be selected, which does not reflect the people's choice. This could discourage voters and weaken democracy."

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."

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

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