

Man killed in mob attack after mugging bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An unidentified man was killed in a mob beating following an attempted mugging in the Station Road area of Tongi, Gazipur, yesterday.

The incident occurred around 12:00pm, said Faridul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tongi East Police Station.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the OC said the victim allegedly attempted to snatched mobile phones from Md Habibur Rahman of Jamalpur Madhyapara, and Moni Akhtar of Jangliya, both residents of Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur.

Screaming for help, Habibur and Moni drew the attention of nearby pedestrians. Locals reportedly chased the suspect and beat him, he added.

During the attack, the man lost consciousness and was subsequently taken to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

Abul Fazal, duty officer at the hospital's emergency department, told The Daily Star that the man was declared dead on arrival.

At least 89 people were killed in mob attacks between January and June this year, including 45 in Dhaka alone, according to rights group Ain o Salish Kendra.

The Daily Star's new initiative

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our exports a lot of protection.

The present day questions are: Are we ready to face the international trading world without the exemptions allowed? Is our economy ready? Is our legal framework modern enough to suit the international standards?

Most importantly, is our private sector ready, which will spearhead our drive forward to compete and succeed?

If not, what do we need to do?

To find answers to those crucial questions, The Daily Star is launching a series of four roundtable discussions, starting today, with leading personalities from the corporate world to chalk out a way forward. The roundtable will be under the following headings:

1. LDC graduation: How to energise the private sector

2. Smart logistics for a competitive private sector

3. Policy and regulatory challenges for the economy

4. Financial sector: How can it help drive the private sector for international competition

Finally, we will hold a review meeting to formulate a "Way Forward" action programme.

All of this must be done before we graduate, meaning within the next 14 months.

Mahfuz Anam
Editor & Publisher

BB readying

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engaged an international consultant to review earlier special audits by local firms and identify gaps against the donor agreed terms of reference.

International audits completed in May revealed significant capital deficits. As of December 2024, five banks - First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and ICB Islamic Bank - had a combined capital shortfall of about Tk 46,000 crore, which has since grown.

The central bank has established a three-tier governance structure -- implementation, project management, and steering committees -- along with special inspection teams to analyse the root causes of asset quality problems. A high-level AQR oversight committee was formed with representatives from the IMF, the World Bank, and ADB as observers.

The reform programme is supported by the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, issued in May, which gives the Bangladesh Bank formal authority to execute corrective actions and apply resolution tools in a structured, rule-based manner. The ordinance allows intervention when a scheduled bank is deemed non-viable.

Its powers include establishing bridge banks, implementing bail-ins, arranging purchase and assumption transactions, imposing temporary public ownership, and transferring assets to asset management companies. A new Banking Sector Crisis Management Council will coordinate crisis responses and maintain financial stability. Banks will be classified by financial health.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the current budget includes allocations for bank restructuring.

According to finance ministry sources, Tk 13,000 crore has already been earmarked for bank restructuring in the current budget. Allocations under the "miscellaneous expenses" category have risen to Tk 17,442 crore this year, a 163 percent increase from last year, primarily for financing banking reforms. Historically, spending in this category ranged between Tk 4,000 crore and Tk 5,000 crore annually.

Under its IMF programme, the government will publish a banking sector stability and sustainability strategy. Agreed between Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry, the plan will set out how to make weak banks healthy again, keep essential banking services running, and keep the cost to taxpayers as low as possible.



Malaysia rolls out the red carpet for Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus upon his arrival for a three-day state visit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

48.5pc yet to decide

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political parties.

The October survey covered 4,158 respondents.

Yesterday, BIGD Fellow of Practice Syeda Selina Aziz presented the latest findings during a joint event organised by BIGD and the citizen reform platform "Voice for Reform" at the National Archives auditorium in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The data paints a picture of an electorate increasingly uncertain as the election draws closer.

According to the results, 14.4 percent of the respondents did not wish to disclose their preferred candidate, while 1.7 percent said they would not vote.

Asked which party they intended to vote for, 12 percent named the BNP, 10.4 percent Jamaat-e-Islami, and 2.8 percent the National Citizen Party (NCP).

Eight months earlier, those figures stood at 16.3 percent for the BNP, 11.3 percent for Jamaat, and two percent for a "new political party formed by students", indicating slight declines for BNP and Jamaat, and a modest rise for the student-led NCP.

Support for the Awami League, now barred from political activities, fell from 8.9 percent in October to 7.3 percent in July, while Jatiya Party's share declined from 0.7 percent to 0.3 percent, and Islamist parties dropped from 2.6 percent to 0.7 percent.

However, when asked which party they believed would win in their constituency, 38 percent predicted a BNP victory, followed by 13 percent for Jamaat, seven percent for the AL and one percent for the NCP.

Asked if Bangladesh is on the right track politically and economically, 42 percent said the country is on the right

path politically, down from 56 percent in October. In contrast, 45 percent believed the country is economically on the right path, up slightly from 43 percent.

On average, respondents rated the interim government's performance at 63 out of 100, compared to 68 in October.

The survey found that 51 percent wanted comprehensive reforms before the election; 17 percent supported holding polls only after urgent reforms; and 14 percent preferred the election without reforms. Thirteen percent had no opinion.

On reform priorities, 30 percent wanted improvements in law and order; 19 percent each called for reducing political unrest and reforming the electoral system; 17 percent urged tackling corruption; 16 percent mentioned judicial reforms and boosting the economy; 13 percent wanted essential commodity prices reduced; 11 percent demanded improved security; and 10 percent sought reduced unemployment.

Meanwhile, 32 percent wanted the election before December this year; 12 percent by February 2026; 11 percent by June 2026; and 25 percent in December 2026 or later.

A notable 70 percent believed the next national election would be free, fair, and impartial, while 15 percent disagreed and 14 percent were unsure.

The data unveiling was followed by a panel discussion with BIGD Senior Research Fellow Mirza M Hassan and Dhaka University Associate Professor Asif Mohammad Shaham, moderated by Voice for Reform co-convenor AKM Fahim Mashroor. The discussants then responded to journalists' questions.

Israel strike kills five

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Qreiqeh, and cameramen Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal and Moamen Aliwa -- were killed when the strike hit a tent set up for journalists outside the main gate of Al-Shifa.

An Israeli military statement accused Sharif of heading a Hamas "terrorist cell" and being "responsible for advancing rocket attacks" against Israelis.

The military released documents alleging to show the date of Sharif's enlistment with Hamas in 2013, an injury report from 2017 and the name of his military unit and rank.

According to local journalists who knew him, Sharif had worked at the start of his career with a Hamas communication office, where his role was to publicise events organised by the group that has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2006.

Sharif was one of Al Jazeera's most recognisable faces working on the ground in Gaza, providing daily reports on the now 22-month-old war.

Media freedom groups have condemned the Israeli strike on journalists, which the UN human rights agency called a "grave breach of international humanitarian law".

A posthumous message, written by Sharif in April in case of his death, was published online saying he had been silenced and urging people "not to forget Gaza".

In July, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called for his protection following online posts by an Israeli military spokesman.

The group had accused Israel of a "pattern" of labelling journalists militants "without providing credible evidence", and said the military had levelled similar accusations against media workers in Gaza including Al Jazeera staff.

"International law is clear that active combatants are the only

justified targets in a war setting," Jodie Ginsberg, CPJ's chief executive, told AFP yesterday.

Unless Israel "can demonstrate that Anas al-Sharif was still an active combatant, then there is no justification for his killing", she said.

Al Jazeera called the attack "a desperate attempt to silence voices exposing the Israeli occupation", as it described Sharif as "one of Gaza's bravest journalists".

The Qatari broadcaster also said the strike followed "repeated incitement" and calls by Israeli officials to target Sharif and his colleagues.

Hadja Lahbib, the European commissioner for equality, preparedness and crisis management, said she was "horrified" to learn of the killing of the Al Jazeera journalists in Gaza, including Anas al Sharif.

"A direct hit on freedom of the press," she wrote in a social media post. "Civilians must be protected, access secured & the press safeguarded. Always."

Reporters Without Borders says nearly 200 journalists have been killed in the war, which was sparked by Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel.

RSF "strongly and angrily condemns the acknowledged murder by the Israeli army" of al Sharif and other journalists in a Sunday strike on their tent in Gaza City, it added.

Israel prevents international reporters from entering Gaza, except on occasional, tightly controlled trips with the military.

The strike on the news team in Gaza City came days after the Israeli security cabinet had approved plans to send troops into the area, a decision met with mounting domestic and international criticism.

Joining others, Australia yesterday said it would join a growing list of Western nations in recognising a Palestinian state.

"International law is clear that active combatants are the only

Armed forces to act as law enforcers

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EC officials said the reintroduction of "no vote" will ensure that no one is elected uncontested. "No vote" option was on the ballot papers in the 2008 polls. Around 3,82,000 people cast "no vote" in that election.

During the one-sided 2014 election, 153 lawmakers out of 300 were elected uncontested, as most of the opposition, including the BNP, boycotted the vote.

Earlier, 49 candidates nominated by the then ruling BNP were elected uncontested in the February 15, 1996 election, boycotted by the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties.

EC Sanaullah said that under the new definition approved by the EC, law enforcement agencies will now include the army, navy, air force, and coast guard. All provisions related to EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) have been abolished, as a prior decision had already been made not to use them.

If members of the armed forces members are defined as law enforcers, the EC will not require any further order to deploy them in election duties. Armed forces members will also get the power to arrest culprits, he added.

The draft proposes the restoration of a provision that allows the EC to postpone elections at any stage after announcing the schedule. If approved, the commission will have the power to suspend or cancel election results in one or multiple polling centres, or all constituencies, depending on the situation.

After an amendment in July 2023, the EC can postpone elections only on the polling day.

A provision has also been added in the RPO to enforce penalties for violations of the electoral code of conduct, ensuring proper implementation of the code.

The commission also proposed a provision that would allow it to withhold a party's registration if there is

a decision to ban that party's activities," said Sanaullah.

Regarding the power to suspend elections and cancel results, Sanaullah said, "If approved, the EC will have the power to suspend or cancel elections in one, several, or all constituencies as needed."

He further mentioned that penalties for negligence by officials involved in election activities have been clearly defined. Investigations now must be completed within three working days, and the findings must be reported to the Commission.

EC PROPOSES

- Abolishing all provisions related EVMs
- Restoring EC's powers to suspend or cancel polls or results
- MPs can lose their seats if they file false affidavits
- All campaign expenditures must be thru banks
- Re-election in case of a tie

On false information in affidavits, Sanaullah said the draft now has a provision for investigation and taking effective action even after taking oath as a member of parliament.

"For example, if someone is elected as an MP for a five-year term and if any false information is found in the affidavit during that time, it will be investigated. If necessary, the candidate's nomination can be cancelled, and even an elected MP could face legal consequences and lose their position if found guilty", he said.

Regarding tied vote, Sanaullah said the previous provision of determining the winner by lottery has been abolished. Now, a re-election will be held in case of a tie between two candidates.

The use of lighting in advertisements and billboards has been restricted to digital billboards only. Decorative lighting remains prohibited.

Additionally, the draft ensures access for accredited observers and journalists to polling centres. Media personnel will be allowed to remain present throughout the vote counting process. However, they will not be allowed to leave midway.

On August 5, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, in a televised address to the nation, said the next general election will be held in February 2026, kickstarting the process of transferring power to an elected government.

Following the orders, ADC Akhtarul instructed police to open fire in Chankharpul on August 5 around 12:32pm. AC Imrul and Inspector Arshad encouraged subordinates, and constables Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul fired Chinese rifles at peaceful protesters, killing six.

Two video clips of the shooting were played in court, watched in pin-drop silence by everyone present, including the accused.

The footage showed Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul firing at protesters heading from Chankharpul toward the Central Shaheed Minar. The policemen were seen kneeling or lying on the ground while aiming at protesters. ADC Akhtarul was visible on site, giving orders to shoot.

FATHER OF SLAIN STUDENT TESTIFIES

At the beginning of the hearing before the three-member tribunal, led by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, Tajul first read out a letter by one of the victims - 17-year-old student Shahar Khan Anas - written to his mother before he was killed in police firing in Chankharpul.

"Ma, if I don't come back alive, don't grieve, be proud," Anas wrote before leaving their Gondaria home in Dhaka on August 5 to join the "March to Dhaka" programme during last year's uprising.

Before he could return, Anas became one of the six victims killed in Chankharpul that day.

His father, Shahriar Khan Palash, recounted the events while giving his testimony before the court yesterday.

The first prosecution witness, the grieving father said a policeman knelt

MOB VIOLENCE IN RANGPUR

4 held as videos of attack go viral ASK condemns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Rupl Robidas and Pradip Chandra Robidas were begging for their lives, shows a video clip circulated in the social media yesterday, days after a mob beat the two to death on suspicion of rickshaw van theft in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila. The duo was surrounded by a mob who were questioning them aggressively.

Pradip was trying to convince the mob that they were innocent and that they were returning home.

But their conversation could not be clearly heard. Within two minutes, the crowd became furious, and the clip ended abruptly.

In another video clip, the