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Dhaka-8 aspirant Hadi shot in broad daylight

Critically wounded, Inqilab Moncho spokesperson receiving treatment at Evercare Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



In a brazen broad-daylight attack, Sharif Osman Hadi, an independent MP aspirant for Dhaka-8 and spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho, was shot in the capital's Paltan area yesterday, leaving him critically injured.

The incident took place on Box Culvert Road, between DR Tower and Baitus Salam Jame Mosque, around 2:30pm, said Hussain Muhammad Farabi, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel Zone).

The attack came just a day after the Election Commission unveiled the schedule for the 13th national election.

Police said Hadi was seen on a rickshaw in Bijoynagar around 2:30pm. CCTV footage shows a motorcycle approaching the rickshaw from behind, pulling up to the right side, before the pillion rider fired at him point-blank.

Both men on the bike wore helmets. The entire attack lasted only seconds before the assailants sped off.

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Sharif Osman Hadi, an independent MP aspirant for Dhaka-8 and spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho, being transferred to the Evercare Hospital last night from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he was initially taken earlier in the day with critical gunshot injuries.

PHOTO: STAR

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Parties outraged, concerned

Those who want to weaken the country's independence, sovereignty, and stability have already begun their conspiracy, as evident from this shooting incident.

BNP acting chairman Sharique Rahman

Any violence arising from political rivalry or differences of opinion is never acceptable. I demand a quick, impartial, and transparent investigation into this incident.

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman

If the government fails to provide security or bring the perpetrators to justice, we will have to take action against it.

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties have condemned the shooting of Sharif Osman Hadi in the capital's Paltan area yesterday.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said those who want to weaken the country's independence, sovereignty, and stability have already begun their conspiracy, as evident from this shooting incident.

"A party, group, or some individuals have openly threatened to obstruct the election. They are working to disrupt peace and stability," he said, virtually addressing a programme from London.

Meanwhile, the BNP, in a statement last night, said: "This attack is part of an evil plan. It is undoubtedly a blueprint to spread criminal activities and disrupt the election environment. There is a planned effort to spread fear and panic in society for personal gain."

The party announced rallies across the country today to protest the shooting of Hadi, an independent MP aspirant for Dhaka-8, and BNP nominee for Chattogram-8, Ershad Ullah.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Jamaat-e-

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Tarique to return home Dec 25

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman is finally returning to Bangladesh on December 25 from the UK after 17 years in exile, putting to rest the speculation about his homecoming.

"I am happy to announce that our party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman will set foot on Dhaka's soil on December 25," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a briefing last night after attending an emergency meeting at the Chairperson's office.

Fakhrul said, "The obstacles that were created in the path to democracy, we believe, will be removed when Tarique Rahman arrives in the country."

According to party sources, Tarique called the emergency meeting, where he informed senior leaders about his return.

"I have decided to return to the country. I will be returning on December 25. You are my colleagues, long-time companions. I thought you should know my decision before it becomes public," Tarique said to the senior leaders virtually.

His decision came a day after the announcement of the election schedule and party insiders said it was made considering his mother's health condition and the current political situation ahead of the polls.

They said Tarique will be given a grand reception at the airport, making his "homecoming a historic and memorable day."

During the 1/11 government, Tarique was arrested on March 7, 2007. He was granted bail on September 3, 2008, and left for London with his family on September 11 for medical treatment.

Tarique has been living in London with his wife, Zubaida Rahman, and daughter, Zaima Rahman. Zubaida arrived in Dhaka on December 5 to look after her mother-in-law's treatment.

Since the mass uprising, there had been widespread speculation about Tarique's imminent return. It grew even louder after he met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in London on June 13 this year.

On October 6, in an interview with BBC Bangla, Tarique was asked when

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EC sets longer prep period for polls

Says extended nomination, scrutiny timeline to smooth process

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The extended gap between the announcement of the national polls schedule and polling day will allow more time to both Election Commission officials and aspiring candidates to prepare for the elections, said EC officials.

Unveiling the schedule for the 13th national election on Thursday, the EC set a 63-day gap between the two dates. This is the longest interval since the February 1991 elections, which had a 74-day gap. In contrast, elections held between February 1996 and January 2024 saw much shorter intervals, ranging from 39 to 59 days, according to EC data.

Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmeh Masud explained that the extended timeline is meant to give candidates more breathing space. The longer gap will make election preparations more organised and less rushed, helping both candidates and officials carry out their responsibilities more smoothly.

"We have increased the period for submitting nominations because, compared to previous elections, candidates now need to submit more documents. We want to ensure they are not under undue pressure and have enough time to prepare," he told the newspaper.

He said many had previously complained about the short time allowed for nomination scrutiny.

The commission has also added extra days to handle appeals against returning officers' decisions.

According to the timeline, nomination papers must be filed



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2 univ students killed as DSCC garbage truck hits motorcycle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two private university students were killed early yesterday when a Dhaka South City Corporation garbage truck collided head-on with their motorcycle in Konapara of the capital's Demra.

Police arrested the driver, identified as Rafik, from the Bandar area of Narayanganj yesterday evening.

The victims were identified as Iram Ridwan, 26, a final year student at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), and Tahsin Topu, 25, a third year honours student at United International University (UIU).

The accident occurred around 4:30am. Sub-Inspector Md Rubel Howlader of Demra Police Station, who rushed to the spot, said the motorcycle was struck head-on by the truck, which was coming from the wrong direction.

Police seized the vehicle, but the driver initially managed to flee the scene. Contacted, Md Murad Hossain, inspector (Investigation) of the station, said the driver was later apprehended around 7:00pm.

Friends of the victims rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where

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The struggle to cope with rising salinity, depleting fresh water, and diminishing livelihoods continues on the frontlines of climate change in the rural south west. This is the last part of the series.

BANGLADESH'S COASTAL BELT

Families pushed into migration, debt traps

59% households in 3 Shyamnagar unions had one migrated for work between 2022 and 2023

86% of them moved to other districts

Sea-level rise may displace 9 lakh people by 2050; 21 lakh by 2100

Over 49 lakh currently internally displaced due to natural disasters

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Khulna, Satkhira

When crab farming started gaining ground in Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila around a decade ago, Matiur Rahman, a farmer in his early 40s, believed his fortunes were about to change.

Like many others in the coastal region, he converted a small portion of his rice field into a crab enclosure. He leased two bighas of land in his village in Burigolani union to expand the new venture, hoping it would offer quick and steady returns.

But outbreaks of aquatic diseases and bitter rivalries among farm owners shattered his hopes.

"Out of the 1,200kg of crab fry I farmed in 2014, I could save only 300kg. The rest died. I became broke," he recalled.

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