



'Hadi killed out of political vengeance'

17 charged; cops say Jubo League leader Bappi mastermind; Inqilab Moncho rejects charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police yesterday submitted a charge sheet against 17 people, including prime accused Faisal Karim Masud (currently absconding), in the murder of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

The charge sheet, filed with the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, says that the killing was masterminded by Tajjul Islam Chowdhury Bappi, 43, a former councillor of Ward-6 under Dhaka North City Corporation and organising secretary of the Jubo League's Dhaka (north) city unit.

The murder of Hadi, an MP aspirant from a Dhaka constituency, sparked widespread protests and political outrage. A frontliner of the July uprising, the 32-year-old was shot on December 12, just a day after the election schedule was announced. On December 18, he died in a Singapore hospital, where he was receiving advanced treatment. The killing raised serious concerns about the safety of candidates and the electoral environment.

Charges have been brought under Sections 120B, 302, 201, 109, and 34 of the Penal Code, carrying punishments ranging from the death penalty and life imprisonment to lesser jail terms and fines.

Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and DB chief Md Shafiqul Islam confirmed the submission of the charge sheet at a press conference at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

Shafiqul said Hadi had launched a non-traditional political platform and delivered fierce speeches criticising the Awami League and its student wing, which angered leaders and activists of the now banned Chhatra League.

The murder, according to him, was carried out as political retaliation.

He claimed Bappi instructed Faisal, allegedly linked to Chhatra League politics, to execute the murder and arranged his escape.

"Based on the victim's political statements and the political identities of the accused, the investigation clearly

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Prime suspect Faisal, his aide Alamgir absconding

DB chief says Faisal is hiding in India

11 accused in custody, including Faisal's parents, wife, brother-in-law, and friend



With winter well underway, farmers of Kaliganj village in Rajshahi's Tanor upazila brave the biting cold to tend to their potato fields, as the season is ideal for tuber cultivation. Rajshahi yesterday recorded the lowest temperature in the country so far this winter at 7 degrees Celsius.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

'Homes for slum dwellers, safety for all'

BNP plans its messaging for Dhaka-17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is likely to focus on messages that ensure homes for slum dwellers and security for all in Dhaka-17, from which party acting chairman Tarique Rahman is running.

It aims to secure a large margin of victory, as Tarique, 60, takes part in the polls for the first time in his political career.

The party has identified two segments of voters in Dhaka-17: slum dwellers and the more affluent populations of Gulshan, Banani, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Legal loopholes allow defaulters to stay in race

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The Election Commission has scrapped the nominations of 82 parliamentary election aspirants for loan default, while 31 others will remain in the race after securing court stay orders on their default status.

Under the Representation of the People Order (RPO), a loan defaulter is not eligible to contest in the election. But a stay order from the top court enables a defaulter to enjoy the same opportunities as any other citizen until the appeal is disposed of.

One such beneficiary is an aspirant from a Narayanganj constituency.

Although he is a loan defaulter, his nomination was declared valid after the High Court, following a writ petition, issued a stay order on the Credit Information Bureau listing him as a defaulter. The order will remain effective until the appeal is disposed of.

In the same vein, another loan defaulter was able to pass his nomination from a Moulvibazar constituency.

If loan defaulters continue to receive such advantages in all areas, it will have negative consequences, especially in a national election, said experts and analysts.

"Defaulters continue to move around with extra benefits, and it is we who have enabled this. This is an ominous signal for the country."

Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director at the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development

"This is a great misfortune," said Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director at the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development.

In this country, loan defaulters enjoy more privileges, while good borrowers suffer.

"Defaulters continue to move around with extra benefits, and it is we who have

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

NCP struggles to steady ship ahead of polls

Resignations, inactivity key reasons

SHAMIMA RITA and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The National Citizen Party is entering its first national election amid organisational turmoil, after a wave of resignations triggered by its decision to join the Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance left key structures weakened and leadership gaps exposed.

Formed in the wake of the student-led mass uprising and presenting itself as a new political force, the NCP now faces fragmented preparations for the February 12 polls.

Looking ahead, the party now focuses on making optimal use of the remaining time, accelerating campaign preparations, filling leadership gaps pragmatically, and contesting the election with whatever organisational strength remains.

Despite submitting nomination papers, the party remains short of election-ready structures, with crucial tasks, such as strategy-setting and manifesto drafting, either stalled or unfinished.

Over the past two weeks, at least 15 senior leaders have stepped down, including members of the election steering committee, manifesto committee, and policy and research wing.

Several others have grown inactive, further eroding the party's organisational capacity.

Grassroots leaders described the timing of the departures as a severe setback as heads and core members of multiple cells for office, media relations, publicity and ICT are inactive or no longer with the party.

They said routine party operations have become difficult, with remaining activities continuing only on a limited scale.

A senior NCP leader, speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, admitted the party was not fully prepared for the polls.

With fewer than 40 days left, he said, the focus had shifted from comprehensive planning to short-term tactical execution.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez is sworn in as interim president by National Assembly head Jorge Rodríguez in Caracas on Monday. Venezuelan lawmaker Nicolás Maduro Guerra, son of President Nicolás Maduro, assisted in the oath-taking ceremony.

PHOTO: AFP

Europe backs Greenland in face of US threat

Leaders affirm the island's autonomy; Venezuela situation remains tense

AGENCIES

Leaders from major European powers rallied behind Greenland yesterday, saying the Arctic island belongs to its people, following a renewed threat by US President Donald Trump to take over the Danish territory.

Trump has in recent days repeated that he wants to gain control of Greenland, an idea first voiced in 2019 during his first presidency, arguing it is vital for the US military, and that Denmark has

not done enough to protect it.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller on Monday dismissed concerns about Danish sovereignty.

"You can talk all you want about international niceties and everything else," Miller told CNN. "But we live in a world, in the real world, that is governed by strength, that is governed by power."

A US military operation over the weekend that seized the leader of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Machado offers to share her Nobel Peace Prize with Trump

US action in Venezuela makes world less safe: UN

Armed police deployed on Caracas streets

BEST SALT BRAND FOR THE 14TH TIME!

ACI PURE SALT NO. 1 SALT BRAND 2025

ACI PURE SALT

BEST BRAND AWARDS 2025

Bangladesh BRAND FORUM

nSearch

ACI Pure Salt is once again recognized as the best salt brand. We extend our sincere gratitude to our consumers for their enduring trust and loyalty.