

A study at DU reveals 5 main causes of campus violence

By Mizan Ali

Financial problems of students and cadre-based politics, bottlenecks in the university administration, grouping among teachers, and corrupt practices in the administration are the main causes for campus violence, according to a study conducted at the Dhaka University (DU).

Some identified terrorists affiliated with some political parties, students, teachers and authorities of the University and officials were contacted during the study entitled "Campus Terrorism: Dhaka University", done recently by the International Relations Department of the university.

Four students did the study as part of their academic curricula for Masters Degree. Most of the identified terrorists suggested self-employment opportunities for students to end terrorism on the campus. "Tendency among the general students for doing terrorism will not even develop if residential accommodation can be given to the students right from the time of admission to the university," the study said quoting the "terrorists."

A good number of students, after admission, fall prey to political parties which promise them accommodation and also financial support, thereby turning them into party activists. This breeds terrorism on the campus, the study said.

Flow of arms into the campus has also to be stopped to end terrorism, the study said. Talking to The Daily Star the researchers said during the course of their study, they

AL's comment false: BNP

BNP yesterday dismissed as totally false and motivated Awami League's comment that it (BNP) does not want that foreign observers work during the forthcoming vote, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the party's Kakrai office in the evening, Zahiruddin Khan, chairman of BNP's national election coordinating committee, said the BNP welcomed foreign observers and believed their presence would help create an atmosphere congenial to free and fair election.

He denied outright the allegation by SAMS Kibria, co-chairman of the central election steering committee of the Awami League, that the BNP used abusive language against foreign observers.

To ensure that a secret group is working for them and they are spreading illegitimate money to capture these seats," he alleged while briefing newsmen at Awami Foundation office in the evening.

June 7

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The agitation for the realization of the historic six-point demand under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman culminated in a mass upsurge in 1969 that eventually led to the struggle for independence in 1971.

The Awami League has taken up an elaborate programme to mark the day. The national and party flags will be hoisted at the Bangabandhu Bhawan, the AL central office and at all unit offices.

According to a press release, AL leaders and workers will assemble at Bangabandhu Avenue in the morning and place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 7:30 am.

AL president Sheikh Hasina in a message on the occasion recalled the sacrifices of Monu Mia and other martyrs who fought for the realisation of the cause of historic six-point demand.

Shafie: Party leaders

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spect the results of the polls." The Chairman of the Commonwealth team observed that what impressed him is the goodwill all parties showed towards the caretaker government despite their political differences.

"Nobody knows what happens during polling day and after the polls. That concern and uncertainty is always there like the certain weather condition. Our only concern is that the polls are held freely and fairly," Shafie said.

He, however, expressed the hope that a 'good public order situation' would prevail and people would be able to vote without any fear of intimidation.

"It will not be possible to see if people are intimidated but we will observe the voters queue," he added.

Explaining the role of his team, Dr Shafie said it would take a two-step approach. The first step would revolve round the pre-polling period while the second step would focus on the polling day itself.

Members of our delegation would make enquiries whether all polls-related arrangements have been made properly. These would also mean whether adequate security measures have been taken and polling centres and the ballot booths have been duly set up ensuring secrecy of voting and the like."

The Commonwealth team leader said that based on their previous experiences in 18 previous elections, the monitors would ask random questions to polling officers and voters to find if things were proceeding in order.

He said his team will give an interim report about its observation after the close of polling on June 12. "However, we will prepare a detailed report and hand it over to the Commonwealth Secretary General. The team plans to stay in Bangladesh till June 17."

Dr Shafie mentioned that his delegation would not be using any government facilities and all expenses would be borne by the Commonwealth Secretariat. "We will only have local interpreters."

Asked if he felt that the idea of elections under a caretaker government was something unique and other countries might emulate the Bangladesh example, Dr Shafie said, "I am not so sure. May be for Bangladesh it is necessary."

Economic strength determines US foreign policy towards SA'

By Staff Correspondent

Economic strength plays an important role for determining the United States' foreign policy for the developing countries and South Asia as well, said a visiting professor from a US university yesterday.

"The US also tries to prevent any war between India and Pakistan, the two nuclear powers in the South Asia (SA) region," said Dr. Sumit Ganguly, Professor of Political Science, Hunter College and the Graduate School, City University of New York, while delivering a lecture on 'US Foreign Policy for South Asia' in the city yesterday.

Dr. Ganguly said, the interests of the US foreign policy in this region also included efforts at signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by India and Pakistan, economic liberalisation of the countries belonging to this region and giving support for a democratic society.

Organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and presided over by its Chairman of Board of Governors AKH, the function was attended and addressed among others by British envoy in Dhaka Peter J. Fowler, Foreign Secretary Faruk Sobhan, Brigadier (rtd), Hafiz, Sadek Khan and Anisur Rahman.

Elaborating the history of developments of US foreign policy in this region, Dr. Ganguly said SA is getting much more attention as the region is emerging as an economic power. He said, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were liberalising their economies and were embracing free trade which are good for these countries.

Conduct vote cautiously, CEC asks officials

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday directed the polling officials to conduct vote counting very cautiously in the June 12 polls that signifies a lot, reports UNB.

"Nobody will be spared if found guilty of miscounting," he warned the officials and directed them to discharge poll duties impartially and honestly.

The CEC was addressing the inaugural session of a day-long workshop for polling officials for Dhaka-11 constituency at Residential Model College auditorium in the city yesterday.

The aspiration of the whole nation at this moment is a free, fair and impartial election and polling officials are flag-carriers of the election," he said.

About 900 presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers took part in the workshop which was presided over by Dhaka Divisional Commissioner and Returning Officer for eight city constituencies, Mohammad Nuruzzaman Mia.

ISPR's lessons

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country, including the army. This brings us to a very pertinent question. How much of the army's affairs should be clouded in secrecy and how much should come out into the public domain? We think national security needs must be kept secret? But we want to firmly state that 'security' arguments cannot be used to make everything about the army out reach of the public.

If people are the ultimate masters of all affairs of the country, then the army must also answer to that master. As long as our tax money is used to maintain it, our army must answer to the norms of accountability and transparency that all other public institutions of the country are subject to - with the only exception of security needs. At the moment our armed forces have no public accountability of any form.

What we see here is an attempt to place the army beyond any discussion even when actions of its own members were about to jeopardise our cherished democracy. How is sovereignty or independence jeopardized because some articles are published questioning the wisdom and the legality of what the president did during 18-20 May, and about the rights of interned officers and about when the report of the Court of Enquiry will be published. If some newspapers have written irresponsibly then those newspapers and the particular articles should be mentioned and the record set straight. It is not acceptable that sweeping judgement be made about all newspapers and their writers. This goes against the fundamentals of press freedom and of freedom of information.

ISPR appears to think that once it has 'spoken' every query about that subject must end forthwith. It expressed indignation as to why questions are being raised even after its press release. Fortunately for us, democracy does not function like that, nor does a free press in a democratic system. It is our obligation to ask questions that are in the public mind and to point out anomalies in the positions and postures of institutions, however important. In fact more important the body, more 'severe' should be our questions. If free press is allowed to function properly then rumours and speculation will cease, and public and national interest will be properly served.

Cash award for recovery of illegal arms

Tk 10 lakh disbursed

Star Report

An amount of Taka 10 lakh has so far been disbursed to different 'police zones' for giving cash incentives to voluntary informants of unauthorised arms, according to official sources here.

Taka twenty lakh has been allocated for such cash incentives during the on-going drive for recovery of unauthorised arms, the sources said.

The caretaker government initiated the drive on April 1 to hold a free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere.

Cash incentives, ranging from Tk 300 to Tk 15,000 are given for secret information to police about all unauthorised arms and explosives like home made crude bombs, ammunition, pipe gun and sophisticated foreign-made pistol, SMG, LMG etc.

The Daily Star contacted some police officials in different parts of the country for their comments about the impact of the cash awards on the arms recovery drive.

Urban poverty goes up

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"There are expectedly higher proportion of households among the moderately poor than among the hardcore poor who have expressed improvement in their economic status over time. Understandably, the reverse is the case of the worsening situation status with more in case of the hardcore poor than in the moderately poor," observed the ADB study.

The survey found an average monthly income of urban households at Tk 2,264 and average expenditure of Tk 2,231. Average per capita monthly income was shown at Tk 612 and expenditure Tk 605. On average, number of earning members per household was 1.40.

Some 19 per cent of the households made some kind of savings while about 31 per cent took some loans. Less than one quarter of them took these loans from formal sources including NGOs while the rest depend on informal sources. Twenty per cent took loans from private money lenders, the study said.

Less than 14 per cent of heads of the households surveyed are employed in the formal sector while the rest are employed in the informal sector as lower technical persons, transport workers, un-

skilled manual workers, small traders and hawkers. The heads work long hours, with 73 per cent working for more than 40 hours a week and 16 per cent working for more than 70 hours a week, the survey found.

Run-down shacks and temporary structures constituted nearly 75 per cent of housing of the urban poor. The per square foot rent paid by the poor is normally very high for their very poor quality housing with three to six taka in Dhaka," the study noted.

Although access to drinking water has generally improved in both rural and urban areas in the country, the majority of households still depend on tube-wells, except in Dhaka where 55 per cent use WASA supplied tap water.

Compared to the situation in water, the status of sanitation among the urban poor is bad. Less than half of the urban poor households have access to sanitary toilet in Dhaka, the situation in small cities and towns are even worse, the survey pointed out.

Some 44 per cent of the households surveyed had at least one member of their household fall sick during the month preceding the survey.

No more than seven per cent had received assistance or relief during the last one year. The urban poor have to basically fend for themselves," observed the study.

On being asked of their willingness to pay for access to gas, health facilities, shelter and other services, 60 per cent of the respondents expressed their willingness to pay.

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Hearing of writ against Raushan adjourned

By SC Correspondent

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the candidature of Begum Raushan Ershad has been adjourned for two weeks.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Haq and Justice M A Matin passed the order as the copy of the rule yet to be served upon Begum Ershad.

The court, on June 2, issued rule nisi upon a writ petition of Abu Wahab Akhand, a candidate in the Mymensingh-4 Jatiya Sangsad constituency, calling upon the Election Commission, Begum Ershad and others to show cause as to why the nomination paper of Begum Ershad should not be cancelled.

Hasina

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killed dozens of students, workers, farmers, ansar, police and political activists."

If voted to power again, she said, the BNP would continue killings, plundering of public money and stealing fertilizer and other agricultural inputs."

Referring to poor foreign investment in the country, Hasina blamed the BNP government for scaring away the potential investors.

She also held the BNP responsible for worsening the overall employment situation in the country. Some 5,000 mills and factories were closed down due to BNP's wrong policy and inadequate support, she added.

After an overnight stay at Tungipara, the AL chief started on the campaign trail today by offering Fatema at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Later, she addressed some 40 public meetings and way-side gatherings in Tungipara, Moulavibazar, Fakirhat, Chitalmari, Batlaghata, Dakope, Morelganj and Sarankhola thanas.

The Awami League candidates from the local constituencies - Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Advocate Manjural Islam and Talukder Abdul Khaleque - and other party leaders accompanied Hasina during the tour.

The Midnight File

Gunmen kill 28 Zaireans

KINSHASA, June 6: Unidentified gunmen killed 28 Zaireans and wounded several others in an ambush near the eastern Zaire town of Goma, aid workers said today, reports Reuters.

7,400 policemen to be on polls duty in city

Star Report

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has made all preparations for deployment of its force on the June 12 election day, according to highly placed sources here yesterday.

The sources disclosed that some 7,400 policemen would be deployed in the 907 polling centres in the city.

Besides, police have already been deployed in 50 checkpoints in the city for maintenance of peace prior to the election and on the polls day, said the sources.

Khaleda

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She reiterated her incrimination against the Awami League government which signed with India what she called 25 years 'slavery treaty'. She said the BNP sought to stage a comeback to power to frustrate the conspiracy subordinate national sovereignty to a foreign power.

Begum Zia had words of praise for the brave people of Sirajganj who fought to resist repressions perpetrated on them by different 'Bahinis' formed to let loose a reign of terror on Sirajganj after Liberation.

Referring to her party's programmes to develop North Bengal, the former Prime Minister stated that if re-elected, the BNP would set up industrial belt in Sirajganj and ensure steady supply of electricity to meet the demand of the region.

The party chairman introduced BNP candidate from Sirajganj-2 constituency A K Shamsul Al Amin.

Dhaka-9

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elections, and was defeated by BNP nominee Harun Rashid Molla, this time is a candidate from Dhaka-9 seat. His candidature from this seat has evoked enthusiasm among many, some voters said.

Salman F Rahman, a business leader, who started taking active interest in politics recently, floated a party styled 'Samridha Bangladesh Andolon' headed by him. He is an Andolon candidate from this seat.

In the 1991 elections, AL president member Sajeda Chowdhury lost to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia with a big margin of votes in Dhaka-9.

Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar later replaced his party chief Begum Zia in the by-polls.

জাকের পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান মোস্তফা আমীর ফয়সলের আহবান



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