

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

Secret group working for BNP: AL

Awami League yesterday complained of a BNP plot to bag 170 seats of parliament in the next election by squandering money and urged the caretaker authority for action, reports UNB.

Quoting a newspaper report, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's political adviser SAMS Kibria alleged that the BNP had taken tactics of capturing 170 seats in the next election anyhow.

"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 realization 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 poll-related arrangements have been made properly. These would also mean whe-

ther 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 Bangladeshi example, Dr Shafie said, "I am not so sure. May be for Bangladesh it is necessary."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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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 Morshed, 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.

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