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## Raozan gripped by fear amid BNP factional feud

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, ctg

Since August 5 last year, residents of Chattogram's Raozan have been gripped by a sense of constant insecurity, as rival politicians fight for dominance in the absence of effective police action, leaving behind a string of politically motivated killings.

Armed criminals have been moving out in the open freely, often threatening business owners and residents for extortion or just to show off their muscle power. The Daily Star has learnt from locals who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

Recent visits to Raozan's Noapara Bazar and Pahartali Bazar revealed that locals have been petrified into silence. Despite several attempts, no one was willing to speak openly, while traders were unwilling to speak with the media at all.

The correspondent spoke with several traders who said they were threatened over the phone for extortion money during last Ramadan and after Eid-ul-Fitr.

"Although the situation seemed to have improved after Eid-ul-Fitr, we are living in fear following the series of killings. Police know who the killers are, but despite that, there has not been any serious crackdown," a trader from Bharatshwari Plaza in Noapara Bazar told The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity.

**According to Raozan Police Station, there have been 14 murders in the upazila in the past year, with seven of them being politically motivated. Firearms were used in every incident. A total of 39 suspects have been arrested so far, but none of the identified gunmen have been detained.**

Most clashes and murders involve followers of the two rival leaders, who were inactive during the Awami League rule.

The leaders are Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and Golam Akbar Khandakar.

In July, the BNP dissolved its Chattogram north district convening committee and expelled Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury from his post as party vice-chairman following a clash between rival party factions in Raozan. Golam Akbar Khandakar was convener of the committee.

Last month, local businessman Abdul Hakim and Jubo Dal activist Mohammad Alamgir were shot dead. Hakim was a close aide of Giasuddin, while Alamgir belonged to Akbar's faction.

"We suspect that he was murdered for his political affiliation," Alamgir's son Arafat Hossain told The Daily Star.

Hakim's brother Parvez Alam echoed the same. "My brother was very close to Giasuddin Quader. Many leaders did not take this relationship well. This might be one of the reasons behind the murder."

According to Raozan Police Station, 14 murders have taken place in the upazila in the past year, with seven of them being politically motivated. Firearms were used in every incident. A total of 39 suspects have been arrested so far, but none of the identified gunmen have been arrested.

Apart from Alamgir and Hakim, those killed in political violence include BNP activists Komor Uddin, Md Ibrahim, Manik Abdullah, Muhammad Selim, Didarul Alam and businessman Jahangir Alam, who was involved in a local political dispute within the BNP.

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## Tanzania president re-elected in polls marred by violence

REUTERS

Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan was declared yesterday the landslide winner of an election that set off deadly protests across the country this week over the exclusion of her main challengers.

The East African nation's electoral commission said Hassan, who took power in 2021 after the death in office of her predecessor, received more than 31.9 million votes, or 97.66% of the total, handing her a fresh five-year term.

Protests erupted during Wednesday's vote for president and parliament, with some demonstrators tearing down banners of Hassan and setting fire to government buildings and police firing tear gas and gunshots, according to witnesses.

Demonstrators are angry about the electoral commission's exclusion of Hassan's two biggest challengers from the race and what human rights groups have said are widespread arrests and abductions of opponents.

In a speech from the administrative capital Dodoma after being certified as the winner, Hassan said the actions of the protesters were "neither responsible nor patriotic".

"When it comes to the security of Tanzania, there is no debate -- we must use all available security avenues to ensure the country remains safe," she said.

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**MOVING AT SNAIL'S PACE...** This half-kilometre stretch of the six-lane Dhaka-Sylhet highway is almost entirely occupied by illegal street vendors and parking, making it extremely difficult for vehicles to cross this section without getting stuck for hours on end. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon in Bhulta of Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Nat'l unity a must to save the country

**Says Yunus, hails National Consensus Commission for completing its tasks**

UNB, Dhaka

National unity is crucial to defeat fascism and save the country, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus said yesterday.

"We face a great challenge in shaping the future of this country. This challenge cannot be met by a single person, organisation, agency, or government alone. Unity among all political parties and factions is essential, and it must be maintained despite any adversity," he said in a statement last night.

He also thanked the members of the National Consensus Commission for engaging with all active political parties and reaching an agreement to formulate and implement the July National Charter.

Describing the charter as a historic achievement, the chief adviser said, "This document is invaluable for our nation. It will not only guide the upcoming national elections but also serve as a roadmap

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An employee of the Nasser Medical Complex sits on the ground resting after the unloading of body bags containing the 30 corpses of Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel and released as part of the hostage exchange deal. The photo was taken in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on October 31, 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

## Arakan Army threat grows along the border

BGB man hurt in landmine explosion dies

MOKAMMEL SHUVO and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A Border Guard Bangladesh soldier died after being injured in a landmine explosion, allegedly planted by the Arakan Army along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, the latest in a series of incidents that have endangered security personnel and civilians.

Nayek Akhtar Hossain, 35, of BGB 34 Battalion in Cox's Bazar, was on patrol along the Naikongchhari border with Myanmar in Bandarban on October 12. The mine exploded near the zero line, blowing off his right leg.

He was first treated at Ramu Cantonment Hospital and later airlifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka, where he died on Friday.

BGB officials said after Myanmar's junta forces withdrew from the border in December last year and the rebel group, the Arakan Army, reportedly continued laying mines along the border and even within parts of the no-man's land.

Landmine explosions and

gunfights between rival groups in Myanmar along the border surged in recent months. Bangladeshi fishermen from the Bay of Bengal are being abducted, allegedly by members of the Arakan Army, spreading fear among locals.

"Bangladesh should take

indiscriminately along the border to counter Rohingya armed groups, showing no regard for any rules or regulations.

"Bangladesh needs to conduct mine-sweeping operations in border areas to ensure security and protect civilians," said Emdadul.

**Bangladesh should take diplomatic initiatives to address the emerging security threats along the border and prevent any provocative incidents along the border.**

Major (retd) Emdadul Islam



a security expert and former consulate chief in Sittwe, Myanmar

diplomatic initiatives to address the emerging security threats along the border and prevent any provocative incidents along the border.

According to BGB data, at least 65 Bangladeshi have been injured by landmines since fighting broke out between Myanmar's government troops and the Arakan Army early last year.

Two Rohingyas were killed by landmines in 2024, and five others were injured in 2023.

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## 'Poor governance' caused regime falls in SA nations

**Says Ajit Doval**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has said "poor governance" was the driving factor behind the uprisings that led to the fall of governments in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in recent years.

Delivering the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial Lecture on governance to mark India's National Unity Day on Friday, Doval said governance plays a crucial role in nation-building and in ensuring a country's stability and progress.



Citing examples from both history and the present day, he said, "The rise and fall of the great empires, monarchies, oligarchies, aristocracies or democracies is actually a history of their governance."

"In the recent cases of regime change through non-constitutional methods in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and others, these were actually cases of poor governance."

Doval identified authoritarianism, injustice, and discrimination as key causes of state failure.

"Authoritarianism that is oppressive, with discriminatory laws, poor delivery of justice, marginalisation of populations, and human rights violations, contributes to the fall of a nation."

"There is no accountability. People don't know why they are doing what they are doing ... This is how the decay starts."

## 8,850 youths to be trained in martial arts, shooting

**Initiative aims to build morale, expand reserve force, says Asif**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to launch a programme to equip young people with basic combat and protection skills, including martial arts and shooting.

The training, styled "Basic Self-Defence Training for Youths", is scheduled to begin on November 8, with online registration now open.

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain highlighted the initiative in a Facebook post on October 20. He wrote, "A total of 8,850 trainees will initially receive training at seven centres across the country. They will be trained in karate, judo, taekwondo, and firearm shooting."



Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) issued a circular on October 16, announcing the programme, which will be implemented under the youth and sports ministry's supervision as part of efforts to strengthen national defence capabilities.

It said that in the first phase, 8,850 youths -- 8,250 males and 600 females aged 18-35 -- will be trained in martial arts and shooting disciplines at seven BKSP residential training centres across the country.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Col Md Golam Mabud Hasan, director (Training) at BKSP, said the project will run until February 2028, adding that around 8,000 applications have already been submitted.

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