



Brazen killings stoke fear ahead of polls

Over 10 people murdered every day on average during the last 15 months

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A spate of killings, especially some targeted ones involving the use of firearms at crowded places in broad daylight, has stirred fresh concerns about the state of law and order as the country prepares for the national election.

Although Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury insists there is "no risk" of deterioration before the February polls, crime analysts believe the election itself is one of the factors behind the disturbing trend.

Illegal firearms, weak policing, and reactivation of top criminals released after last year's political changeover are mainly driving the killings, the analysts said.

A CGS analysis shows a 30 percent rise in firearms-related offences, with over 150 incidents reported every month on an average until June. Compounding the crisis, more than 1,300 firearms looted from police stations during the July uprising remain missing.

They added that political rivalries, factional feuds, turf wars, and the use of gangs to assert influence ahead of the election are further fuelling targeted attacks and armed violence nationwide.

With the election schedule expected next week, candidates of major political parties have already begun campaigning informally. Violent protests and clashes over the parties' choices have also been reported. Confrontations between activists of rival parties have occurred at some places.

Against this backdrop, a series of shocking attacks and killings in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and elsewhere, has raised questions about public safety.

In one of these incidents, the assailants even shot and injured a rickshaw-puller for refusing to speed up as the attackers were fleeing after gunning down local Jubo Dal leader Golam Kibria in the capital's Pallabi area on November 17. A CCTV footage of the attackers firing at

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BNP Standing Committee member and Khaleda Zia's personal physician AZM Zahid Hossain briefing Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, seated directly opposite him, on the health status of the BNP chairperson at Evercare Hospital in the capital last evening.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

Yunus visits Khaleda at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus yesterday visited Evercare Hospital to enquire about the health of BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

He was received by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Khaleda's personal physician and BNP Standing Committee Member AZM Zahid Hossain,

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Khaleda's condition unchanged

UK specialist starts work, Chinese team reaches Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health condition remains unchanged, and a specialist from the United Kingdom is assisting in her treatment.

Doctor Richard Beale, who landed yesterday, reviewed her latest medical reports, consulted with the medical board formed for her treatment and made recommendations on the next course of action.



Around 9:00pm yesterday, a specialist medical team from China also arrived in Dhaka.

The four-member team includes senior specialists -- Cai Jianfang, Yuan Xin, Zhang Yuhui, and Meng Hong -- according to party sources.

The team has been brought in to assist in the treatment of Khaleda.

Medical board sources said the foreign experts would determine whether she is fit to fly.

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PRIMARY SCHOOLS Exams disrupted as teachers declare full shutdown

Govt warns of legal action

STAR REPORT

The ongoing strike by assistant teachers in government primary schools has severely disrupted annual exams across the country, leaving thousands of students uncertain about their academic future.

While some schools managed to hold exams with support from headteachers, office staff, and guardians, many others were forced to suspend them.

The strike, which began on Monday as a work stoppage, escalated into a full shutdown yesterday, as teachers pushed for better pay and promotions.

Amid the disruptions, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued a press release warning that teachers who continue to obstruct the exam process will face legal action under government service laws, conduct regulations, and criminal law.

The impact of the strike has been particularly severe in Noakhali and Lakshmipur, where 1,985 primary schools have been affected. Only a few schools have managed to conduct exams, relying on headteachers and guardians.

During a visit to Noakhali Police Lines Government Primary School, our district correspondent found students playing outside as teachers joined the strike.

Senior Assistant Teacher Mallika Begum said that while some exams were conducted with help from the night guard, tests for classes three, four, and five had to be postponed.

At Lakshminarayanpur Model Government Primary School, fifth-grader Jannatul Ferdous said, "I came to school prepared for the exam, but I found out the teachers wouldn't be conducting it. So, I'm going to go home."

A guardian named Laxmi Nari, 30, said, "I have invested the whole year

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সিমেন্ট



লোহার শক্তি



আকিজ সিমেন্ট তৈরিতে ব্যবহৃত হয় জায়েরন স্মাগ। এতে রয়েছে পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণ ক্যালসিয়াম ও সিলিকা, যা উৎকৃষ্ট ক্রিংকারের সমন্বয়ে গঠন করে অধিক ট্রাই ও ডাই ক্যালসিয়াম সিলিকেট, আর কংক্রিটকে দেয় লোহার শক্তি।

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