

# Kelly felt betrayed by defence ministry

## Widow tells judicial inquiry



Janice Kelly

AFP, London

The widow of British weapons scientist David Kelly testified yesterday that her husband felt "betrayed" when the defence ministry allowed him to be named as the source of a BBC report that Prime Minister Tony Blair's government exaggerated the threat of Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"He said several times over coffee, over lunch, over afternoon tea, that he felt totally let down and betrayed," Janice Kelly told the judicial inquiry into the apparent suicide in July of the former UN arms inspector.

Kelly, 59, was the source of a BBC report in May -- strongly denied by Blair's office -- that the government "sexed up" a September 2002 intelli-

gence dossier on the threat posed by Iraq to bolster the case for war.

Giving evidence via a video link, Mrs Kelly, 58, told judge Lord Brian Hutton that her husband of 36 years was a "workaholic" and dedicated to his job as an expert on weapons of mass destruction, particularly on Iraq.

"I think he would have done the whole job for nothing, had he not had to support a wife and family," she said in a calm and collected voice that betrayed no distress or emotion.

Asked by inquiry senior counsel James Dingemans about Kelly's mood in January and February, as the US-led war on Iraq loomed, Mrs Kelly said he was tired but "upbeat"

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Dhaka City Corporation-made overhead footbridge next to Ramna Park collects water every rainy day from the lack of a proper drainage system. People walk along the bridge's precarious ledge to keep their feet dry.

# No respite from toll-takers yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government initiatives to curb illegal toll collection at bus terminals saw some success only in the capital, but elsewhere it is going on with the same intensity as before.

A number of bus drivers and staff allege that some transport workers and ruling BNP men do still extract tolls from the buses.

Also, the special monitoring committee on curbing toll collection observed that toll collectors are going about their business as usual with help from policemen. However, the committee, formed recently by the government, is yet to make any recommendations to stop the illegal activities.

The government now has decided to set up a welfare fund for

transport workers to discourage them from collecting tolls. The initiative has curbed toll collection at the three big bus terminals of the capital to a great extent, but failed to make any difference at other terminals across the country.

"We used to give the toll collectors Tk 100 to 130 while leaving the terminals. Now we give only Tk 30 in lease toll after the government decision," said Md Awolad Mia, a bus driver at Mohakhali bus terminal.

Md Mintu, a driver of the Dreamland Bus Service on Dhaka-Sherpur route, however, said the government initiative has checked illegal toll collection but has created another problem -- to get the 'serials' for buses at the terminals.

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## Ulan-Dhanmondi power cable restored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power supply to some parts of the city was restored yesterday after Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) managed to repair a ruptured 132KV cable in the Ulan-Dhanmondi underground electric line that had forced a severe loadshedding over the past few weeks.

The successful repair will significantly improve power supply to the affected areas including Dhanmondi, Ramna, Motijheel, Kakrail, Karwan Bazar, Nilkhet and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Desa sources said.

"The repaired line will add 60-megawatt power to the grid," said a Desa official.

Power supply was disrupted after the cable under the Ulan-Dhanmondi sub-station ruptured at

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# Politicisation of civil service reason for corruption

## Top bureaucrats at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted economists and former top bureaucrats at a workshop yesterday identified politicisation of recruitment, promotion and transfer as one of the main impediments to delivery of better service to society.

Any decision based on political considerations frustrates civil servants and forces them into corruption, they said with calls for a clear, transparent promotion policy.

At the workshop, "The role of civil service in improving investment climate," organised by the World Bank and Bangladesh Enterprise

Institute (BEI), former cabinet secretary Mujiburul Huq said the present code of conduct for promotion is outmoded and riddled with loopholes.

"If promotion is given only on the basis of fitness, politics may manipulate the fitness criteria," he said with a suggestion that promotion should be based on seniority plus fitness.

Huq proposed formation of a 'Whitley Council' with experienced and senior citizens to seek remedy if anybody gets sucked into the

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## Criminals' presence in rally

# Khulna city BNP secy may quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The secretary of the Khulna city BNP unit, Nazrul Islam Manju, may quit the party protesting the presence of some criminals in the rally and procession organised by the four-party alliance at Maharaj Square on Friday.

The BNP leaders and activists who took part in the procession apprehend that his decision may split the ruling party's Khulna city chapter.

Manju is expected to send his resignation letter to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia anytime within the next two days if action is not taken against those 'patronising

criminals and blackmailing the party'.

The participation of six listed criminals in Friday's rally and procession has sharpened the BNP's internal rift, sources said.

Manju told The Daily Star that he was against the presence of outlaws and anarchists in politics. City BNP President M Nurul Islam MP supported Manju, but could not say who invited the six to the rally.

The six alleged criminals -- Moin Jamadder, Babu, Ashfaqur Rahman Kakan, Saddam, Farid Molla and Shagor -- were found in the four-party alliance rally and procession on Friday. Mayor Shaikh Tayebur

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# PMO goes online this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will go online as part of efforts to increase transparency and accountability in administration through e-governance, PMO sources said.

A project, Development of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) System for the Prime Minister's Office, is now being implemented to this end.

Under the project, a VSAT (very small aperture terminal) is being installed to connect the PMO with the World Wide Web.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to inaugurate the ICT system this week, the sources added.

When the system is introduced, the premier will have direct access to the 'feedback pages,' where people from all walks of life will be able to put their comments on government activities, an official said.

"This will bring transparency in government activities," he added.

Officials at the PMO will also be able to send and receive e-mails from their domains and there will be a website with people's access to it.

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# Nurjahan Murshid passes away

Nurjahan Murshid, a renowned leader of women renaissance of Bengal and one of the major organisers of the War of Liberation, passed away at 4:00am at her Gulshan residence in the city yesterday. She was 79, says a press release.

Born on May 19, 1924, in Taranagar of Murshidabad district,

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# Ctg Polytech College closed sine die after JCD-BCL clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Polytechnic College was announced closed sine die yesterday following a clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) that left at least 10 students injured.

The college authorities also asked the residential students to vacate the college hostel by last night to avert further deterioration of the situation.

The JCD and the ICS, student wings of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, locked in a clash on distribution of admission forms, sources

said. The clash followed the massing of the activists of the two groups on the campus at around 12:00 noon.

At least eight JCD men and two Shibir activists suffered injuries.

The injured JCD men are Polytechnic unit convenor Md Ismail Hossain (2nd year), Mazharul Islam, Rubel Chowdhury, Nurul Afser and Rigan of the 1st year and Jamal Uddin, Jasim Uddin and Shamim of the 2nd year. The two injured Shibir activists were Siraj Uddin and Shahraj Chowdhury of the 2nd year.

Both the ICS and JCD blamed each other for the clash.

# Cops comb Sundarbans for criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A massive combing operation was launched in the Sundarbans late Sunday night by police forces of four districts of Barisal and Khulna range to nab pirates, dacoits, underground extremists, smugglers and other notorious criminals.

About 400 police personnel equipped with different types of arms and ammunition, speedboats, launches, trawlers and fishing boats are conducting the drive against the criminals, who use the world's largest mangrove forest as their safe haven.

The four districts are Pirojpur and Barguna under Barisal range and Bagerhat and Khulna in Khulna range. The deputy inspector generals of the two ranges are guiding the operation.

Reports received till yesterday

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# CID to take up Joypurhat case

BSS, Joypurhat

Authorities have decided to transfer the case of police arms looting by the members of Jama'atul Mujahidin at Uttar Moheshpur of Khetlal in the district to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) soon.

The decision was taken to trans-

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 02		6-16 pm
Sept 03	5-41 am	

Prayer Timings		
September 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-35	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation