Kelly 'taken aback' by Gilligan grilling

BBC ONLINE

A friend of Dr David Kelly has told the Hutton inquiry the weapons expert was shocked by the way BBC reporter Andrew Gilligan tried to get information out of him.

Dr Kelly apparently committed suicide after being named as the suspected source for Gilligan's BBC report claiming the government "sexed up" intelligence in the dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Fellow Iraq arms inspector Olivia Bosch, who spoke to Dr Kelly daily during the Iraq war, said he had told her Gilligan had wanted to play a "name game" over who was responsible for transforming last September's dossier.

Bosch also claimed Dr Kelly said his MoD bosses had reprimanded him about the BBC story and he feared his pension and security clearance would be affected.

Another of Dr Kelly's friends, journalist Tom Mangold, told the inquiry the scientist had thought the claim Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes was "risible".

As the first stage of the inquiry came to an end, Lord Hutton said the inquiry was now adjourned for further analysis and to decide which witnesses to recall. It will resume on 15 September.

In a statement, he said nothing should be read into the fact that some witnesses would be recalled.

Earlier, Bosch said Dr Kelly told her the first name suggested by Gilligan in his "name game" was that of Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's director of communications.

Dr Kelly told her that as a civil servant he could not answer that so had given the answer "maybe".

She said of the phone conversation in late May: "He was taken aback by the way Andrew Gilligan tried to elicit information from him."

Ms Bosch said when she heard Gilligan's broadcast, she did not think Dr Kelly could be the source because it sounded like it came from a "whistleblower".

Dr Kelly said his bosses had mentioned a reprimand and hinted his pension and security clearance could be affected or taken away, Bosch said.

She claimed Dr Kelly behaved as if under "a certain kind of pressure", worried about appearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee and angry about an article in the Sunday Times on 13 July, which he said had misrepresented him.

But she never had the indication from Dr Kelly he might want to take his own life.

Neighbour Leigh Potter, a student who works in the pub opposite the Kelly house, gave evidence and said he had "seemed quite normal" one week before his death.

Lord Hutton also heard evidence from Richard Taylor, special adviser to Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon.

Taylor had confirmed the name of Dr Kelly to a journalist from the Financial Times.

He said this was the first time he had ever confirmed the name of a civil servant to journalists.

He told the inquiry the MoD had adopted this policy because if the correct name was offered, "it was not tenable" to say no "because that would be to lie".

Bosch said she had not met Dr Kelly when they were both weapons inspectors, but had spoken frequently by telephone and met at conferences over the past year to discuss Iraq.

She said they agreed the dossier was a "very necessary document because the public and the media and politicians really were not aware of what was going on inside of Iraq".

They thought the dossier would be a "reader friendly" document to inform the public.

Bosch said Dr Kelly's view on the war was that while it was unfortunate, the use of military force seemed to be the only way to disarm Saddam Hussein's regime of weapons of mass destruction as Iraq was not complying with UN obligations.

On Wednesday, a Ministry of Defence intelligence official described concerns among his staff over the 45-minute claim.

Downing Street has repeatedly denied the allegation it had the claim included in the dossier against the wishes of the intelligence community.

PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina addresses the third National Council of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, a forum of physicians, at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) auditorium yesterday.

Germany tempers 'no' on Washington's Iraq resolution

AFP, *Berlin*

One day after rejecting the United States' proposal for a planned UN resolution on Iraq, Germany yesterday tempered its position, calling the draft document a "step in the right direction".

Government spokesman Bela Anda said that Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had stressed the fact that a process "had been set in motion" with the US initiative, but noted that it was an "early draft".

At an informal summit Thursday, Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac rejected Washington's ideas for a new UN resolution on Iraq because they did not go far enough to ensure a rapid transfer of authority to an Iraqi government.

Anda told reporters during a routine news conference that Germany has repeatedly called for a stronger UN role in Iraq and a quick transfer of power to the Iraqis and that Schroeder's comments were consistent with these views.

He also reiterated that Germany still ruled out sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq.

But Anda welcomed remarks by US Secretary of State Colin Powell that Washington would "be more than happy to listen" to suggestions from Berlin and Paris on the resolution.

With US troops under steady attack in Iraq, Washington has proposed that the UN Security Council create a multinational security force to counter the instability, and to legitimize the US-installed Iraqi Governing Council.

The draft US resolution, obtained by AFP, does not explicitly place the US military in charge of the force but puts it "under unified command."

FM: Politicians

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five battalions of troops to strife-torn Liberia next month to work with the peacekeeping mission there.

Morshed said: "We have taken the decision in principle to send the troops to Liberia."

"We had earlier sent 5,000 troops to Sierra Leone with the peacekeeping mission that gave us a tremendous opportunity to build up the country's image," he said, adding Sierra Leone would welcome Bangladeshi businessmen.

Referring to Bangladesh's relations with neighbours, he said Dhaka wanted peaceful co-existence with neighbouring India and Myanmar.

On seaport transit facilities for India, he said India as the closest neighbour would get priority for port transit facilities.

"But capability and ability of Bangladesh are the two most important factors to be considered before going for such a decision," he said.

On Indian river interlinking mega-project involving some common rivers, he said Bangladesh had already lodged protest with India.

"It's not time to raise the issue at global forums as Bangladesh is waiting for a reply from New Delhi," he said.

"We want to defuse border tension and resolve bilateral irritants through dialogue. We want peace not through war but through discussion."

Replying to a question he said Bangladesh would not allow its land for operation by any foreign intelligence agency.

Turning to Myanmar refugees, he said 6,000 of the 23,000 refugees had already returned home and the rest would go soon.

"The government of Myanmar assured us of taking some confidence building measures so that the returnees don't trek to Bangladesh in future," he said.

BSS adds: The minister brushed aside an allegation that the recently signed Dhaka-Washington agreement would go against the interest of Bangladesh and affect its sovereignty.

"There arises no question to annul this pact as it is not unilateral, but a reciprocal one," he said.

Bangladeshi citizens will come under the pact and enjoy equal opportunities like the US citizens, he said.

Morshed said 60 to 65 countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka had earlier signed the same agreement with Washington.

"Bangladesh is ready to reconsider the pact if anyone with substantial documents can prove it harmful for the country," he said, adding that no intellectual in other South Asian countries criticized their government for signing the treaty.

Morshed said Bangladesh was following a balanced foreign policy to cope with globalisation.

Referring to the 'look-east diplomacy' of the present four-party alliance government, he said Bangladesh had undertaken a special initiative to improve its relations with the East Asian countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, South Korea, China and Indonesia through increased trade, business and investment.

WTO deadlock

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countries are increasingly being restricted," Parris told Reuters in the Australian capital, Canberra.

"This is not how rich countries developed, and following this advice will not necessarily maximise a country's long-term growth and development potential."

Parris said his study, released by the international charity on Thursday, showed that a 10 per cent increase in the concentration of exported products was associated with a 5.05 per cent increase in the volatility of trade deficits.

In turn a 10 per cent increase in trade gap volatility could cut gross domestic product growth, per capita, by an average 5.42 per cent.

Parris said trade was essential for developing countries and developed countries had to take seriously the need to provide greater market access for their goods and services.

But he said trade was only one side of the coin and more aid was essential to help poorer countries build the infrastructure and institutions needed to move forward.

"The ideological slogan 'trade not aid' rests on a misleading dichotomy that has more to do with fiscal and political expediency and economic vested interests in OECD countries than sound development policies," he said.

History beckons

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Islam, who went wicketless in the first innings, overcame the frustration of seeing two chances dropped off him and gave the much needed break through when he dismissed opener Salman Butt (37), brilliantly taken at gully by a diving Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza in his second attempt with the total on 45.

After the tea break, it was once again the Monjurul-Mashrafee combination that accounted for the wicket of the other opener Mohammad Hafeez (18) who was also caught at gully.

Mashrafee completed a hattrick of catches when in-form Pakistani Yasir Hameed gloved a Mahmud delivery that lifted from a length. Pakistan were 78 for three.

Three runs later, the Tigers were celebrating again after the dangerous Younis Khan was run out from a direct hit from mid on by Mohammad Ashraful.

Rafique dismissed Farhan Adil with a gem of a delivery that turned and took off before Pakistan had reached hundred.

Captain Latif (5) took 48 minutes and 34 balls to get of the mark. He was however undone by the tireless Mahmud who trapped him plump infront.

While wickets were falling like nine pins around him, Inzamam, the local hero, was standing like a wall. He duly completed his fifty by slashing Rafique for four.

Before bad light stopped play, Rafique was unlucky not to get another wicket as Tiffin gave Saqlain Mushtaq not out when he was hit on the pad off a dead-straight delivery.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud said after the day's play that there was still a lot of hard work to be done.

"We need to get another four wickets. It could have been better if we had scored another 20 to 30 runs. But again I think my team did a tremendous job today."

The usually guarded Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore looked sprightly and said that he was very confident that his boys would get a positive result when the match resumes on Saturday. The whole Bangladesh too is expecting nothing less.

Hasina

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decades-old insurgency.

"But unrest and instability have again gripped the hill districts. Many houses were destroyed in Mahalchhari in arson attacks and many girls raped, creating an alarming situation in the area," she said, adding that several villages in Pabna have also been torched by the ruling alliance activists out of political vengeance.

She further alleged that even physicians have not been spared from their (BNP-Jamaat) "political vendetta" as the government was appointing "less qualified people" to different posts in the health sector instead of giving priority to the meritorious and qualified ones.

"Bangladesh is no longer a self-dependent country as it was during our rule. It has now become a country of horror and kidnap," she said urging the people to prepare to protect the country from the "misrule" of the alliance government.

President of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad Dr AFM Ruhul Huq chaired the inaugural ceremony of the council. Secretary General of the Parishad Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Prof M Moazzem Hossain, Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub and Dr Abu Shafi Ahmed Amin also addressed.

SARS : Researchers

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killing 41 people in Canada.

SARS had never been seen before and it took several months to determine that it was caused by a coronavirus, a member of a family of viruses that causes cold-like symptoms in people and a range of diseases in animals.

But the SARS coronavirus is genetically unique and the search was on to find its source.

Yi Guan and colleagues at the University of Hong Kong tested eight animals taken from a market in Shenzhen. They also tested 95 workers at the market and patients hospitalised for diseases other than SARS.

The lead suspect was a palm civet, a raccoon-like animal valued as a delicacy. They also tested other animals including a raccoon dog and a ferret badger.

In the animals they found antibodies to a coronavirus similar to SARS and the virus itself.

"Since we detected SARS-like coronavirus in several different species of animals from the market, it suggests that markets may be an important source of human SARS," Guan said in an interview conducted by e-mail.

Guan said it is too early to say whether the civet or some other animal was the primary source of the epidemic.

"This paper doesn't prove that the animal host is a palm civet. It says they also could be infected with related virus. They could have gotten it from eating a mouse or something like that," said Holmes, who helped confirm the findings.

Guan's team also found that many of the workers had antibodies to the virus but had never been sick. None of the hospital patients tested for SARS had any evidence of exposure to the virus.

Having antibodies to a virus suggests that a person was exposed but the immune system fought it off.

Holmes said an important question is whether the antibodies were to human SARS or to the slightly different animal virus. "Was it mutated or not mutated?" she asked. "Had it received the mutations that allowed it to transmit to humans or not?"

Writing in the journal Science, Guan and colleagues said they found an important clue. The human version of the coronavirus was missing a genetic sequence -- a long one -- that suggest what changes were needed to make the virus infect humans.

One human patient was infected with an intact virus, but most of the others were missing this sequence, they reported.

Guan said it was not clear what this genetic sequence might do -- whether it affected the ability of the virus to infect, or its virulence.

New cases of SARS have not been reported for several months. But health experts fear it could return in the autumn because other known coronaviruses are seasonal, as are numerous cold viruses and the influenza virus.

Captivity

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on Wednesday night and took him to a hilly area at Punjabi Lane under Khulsi Police Station in the city.

As his abductors were trying to shift him to a different location, Mizan managed to break free and started running with the abductors hot on his trail.

Locals, however, came to his rescue and caught Anowar, one of the abductors and handed him over to police.

As per Anowar's confession, police later arrested another gang member Mizan.

The motive behind the kidnap is unclear, police said. A case was filed with the Doublemooring Police Station.

Last week, a madrassah student named Zaker also managed to escape from his abductors at a hilly place in Raozan Upazila after a week in captivity.

Businessman

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the legs," injured Monir told the newsmen at the DMCH.

Police arrested murder suspects Ashfaqur Rahman Palash and Raju from the area.

Police suspect the murder might be a sequel to some business-related dispute between Wahidul and his killers, who, sources said, are operatives of notorious criminal Subrata Bain.

No case was filed with the Motijheel Police Station till filing of this report at 9pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A group of young Indian Muslims displays a placard protesting the upcoming visit to India by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a gathering of Muslims outside the Minara Mosque in Bombay yesterday.

Sharon's visit to India stirs Muslim fears

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

A visit by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon next week is stirring fears among Indian Muslims that the two countries are forging a new and potentially anti-Islamic alliance.

The Indian military hopes the trip, which begins on Monday and is the first by an Israeli prime minister, will boost defence ties. It has raised expectations of a deal worth more than $1 billion in which India will buy Israeli Phalcon airborne radars.

But Muslim leaders are already expressing misgivings.

Sharon, the guest of the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), will be in India on September 11, a highly symbolic anniversary for both countries which see themselves, alongside the United States, as victims of terrorism.

"It is very unfortunate that the BJP government is joining the US and Israel to create an anti-Islamic climate," said SMN Rahman Barkati, chief cleric at the Tipu Sultan mosque in the eastern city of Kolkata.

Mostly Hindu, but officially secular, India established diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992, while remaining careful to retain its traditional friends in the Arab world.

Under the BJP the relationship has blossomed, driven partly by the Hindu nationalist party's desire to improve ties with Washington and build a common front against Islamic militancy.

India blames its Islamic neighbour, Pakistan, for sponsoring Muslim militant attacks again Indian targets in disputed Kashmir and elsewhere, charges that Islamabad denies.

But analysts caution against oversimplifying the growing ties between the Jewish and Hindu states as part of a "clash of civilisations" with the Islamic world. "There are mixed motives at play here and while the civilisational element is there, it is by no means the only driver," says Varun Sahni, international politics professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Most important for India is to gain access to sophisticated military hardware to strengthen its hand against Pakistan.

The purchase of Phalcons -- similar to the US Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) -- would bring large parts of nuclear-armed Pakistan under Indian surveillance.

India also wants to buy Israeli Arrow anti-ballistic missiles, but this has yet to be cleared by Washington which helped fund their development. The $2.5 billion Arrow is the world's only operational anti-ballistic missile system.

Indian security experts say both India and Israel are also swapping intelligence on curbing Muslim militants. twin car bombings blamed on Muslim radicals.

Opposition parties

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and Ahmedul Kabir-led Gonatantri Party on Thursday to work out some common issues to wage simultaneous movements.

It had also sent a six-point agenda to the AL on August 10, asking it to agree on the issues like reviving the four original state principles, trying war criminals, banning Jamaat politics, waging movement against the US-led war and gas export and protesting divestment of state-owned enterprises and lay-offs.

But the AL did not hold any meeting in its party forum yet over the issues, sources said.

About the gas issue, Menon said the AL's stand on gas export was not solid enough like the leftists'. He referred to Hasina's firm utterance at last week's Paltan rally against any government 'ploy' to export gas and her softened stance on the issue during a meeting with the US ambassador in Dhaka the following day.

About Hasina's call for the alliance, her Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that it was a common feeling of pro-liberation parties that the rise in militant activities and law and order nosedive had pushed people into helplessness.

The AL did not rule out the possibility of any electoral alliance among the AL and other like-minded parties provided it serves greater interests, said Saber.

He, talking about the ideological difference between the AL and the communists, particularly on the US-related issues and revival of socialism as a state principle, said, "Ideologies will not be any major roadblock to political unity as long as we wage issue-based movements."

CPB leader Selim said his party would be continuing dialogues with other political parties as "together we've to stave off aggression of imperialists and fundamentalists".

But Menon said it was too early to comment on the possibility of an electoral alliance with the AL, but remarked, "a lot depends on how we work out common issues in days to come".

"For the time being, what we can do is make a convergence of all our action programmes on specific issues."

"We must go ahead, taking three key areas -- fundamentalism, crime and deterioration of law and order -- as priorities," said Menon.

Rashida dies

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department at the RMCH.

A probe team formed following a complaint by her husband asked the authorities of Nazma Clinic to shift Rashida to the RMCH on August 12. But she was shifted on August 22 in a critical condition.

A senior doctor at the RMCH said Rashida had developed meningitis from infections due to non-sterile environment at the clinic and her central nerves stopped functioning following anaesthesia shocks.

The three-member probe body headed by Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi Dr AK Fazlul Haque found out that no laboratory tests were carried out before the operation and non-specialist doctors applied anaesthesia and operated upon Rashida. And this led the patient to slip into a 'cerebral hypocria'.

The probe body also said the clinic is unregistered and lacks the minimum requirements.

And the clinic authorities used in its signboard the name of a deputy director of the health department.

The deputy director concerned denied any links to the clinic and said the clinic authorities cheated people using his name. "The clinic should be sealed off immediately before it victimises any other patient," he said.

Contacted, the owner of Nazma Clinic, Reaz Uddin, said he used his name and not the deputy director's name in the signboard.

As for his clinic's registration, he asked back how many clinics were there in the city with registration.

Reaz claimed that the clinic authorities bore the cost of Rashida's treatment on humanitarian grounds.

But her husband Mofiz said he had borrowed Tk 25,000 to meet the expenses.

He also said he had taken his wife from the RMCH on the advice of a former chairman of Sonadanga Union Parishad. He and his family members accused the chairman of having underhand deals with the clinic authorities.

The civil surgeon said action against the illegal clinic will be decided at a meeting on September 11.

US civilian

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consistent attacks in the regions, which is populated by Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

US military spokesman Anthony Reinoso said there was one incident in Baquba late Thursday involving a makeshift bomb and an Iraqi who opened fire with an AK47 injuring one US soldier.

He had no information on the report of the dead youth.

Charges pressed

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Meanwhile, leaders of district and city units of the Jubo League held a press conference yesterday, demanding arrest of the killers of Monzurul Imam. They also demanded withdrawal of the 'false' cases against the four, who were not in Khulna on 25 August, they claimed.

Zinjira

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known brands of tar, washing soaps, aluminum products, nuts and bolts are also manufactured here.

However, some unscrupulous people in their bid to make a quick buck are said to be running large-scale rackets producing various spurious commodities and marketing them all over the country. We often read newspaper reports about existence of factories at Zinjira producing adulterated commodities including vegetable ghee, dry-cell batteries, soybean oil and even antibiotics, which find easy market with simple rural people.

Thus, Zinjira is as much a centre for good quality products as it is for spurious and low-quality ones. However, the overall situation there has been undergoing rapid change. The road communication has improved with the opening of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the Buriganga. The internal road network has reportedly also improved with the result that land price have gone up substantially.

With the rapid pace of development, there is a bright prospect of new industries and businesses being established in the area. As the industries here produce more and more good quality goods, the bad image of Zinjira will gradually wear off.

The government may help in the process by paying more attention to the development of genuine industries. At the same time, observers also feel that the authorities concerned should take stern measures against any enterprise found producing spurious and adulterated goods.

3 babies die

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Rupamani, Nirosha, Swapna, Sahedur and Eshrat--became sick after taking the vaccines and are undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Melandah Health Complex sources said the vaccines were made by Serum Institute of India Ltd.

A case was filed with Melandah Police Station.

Health Assistant Motiyar Rahman and Family Welfare Assistant Shefali Begum of the EPI centre reportedly went into hiding after the incident.

Scrap park

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people of Modhupur."

Referring to the Mahalchhari incident, Debashish said the authorities must ensure security of the indigenous people but they failed to do so in Mahalchhari.

Gano Forum leader Pankaj Bharttacharya said indigenous people are repressed not only in the hilly region but also in other areas of the country.

He alleged that in the name of development activities, the indigenous people are being pushed towards extinction.

About the Modhupur project, Pankaj said it is an unproductive one and it should be cancelled because it will not bring any good to the people of the area.

He blamed the authorities for failing to prevent the Mahalchhari incident and demanded punishment of those involved.

Prof. Sadeqa Halim of Dhaka University said it seems eviction of indigenous people has increased after the liberation.

The rally was also addressed by President of the Indigenous People's Forum Sanjib Drong, Senior Vice-president Albert Mankin and Rabindranath Soren.