

Bangladesh created for Ayub, Yahya's shortsightedness

State deptt documents say

UNB, Dhaka

The creation of Bangladesh was due to political incompetence and shortsighted policies of military generals Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan, who sent the Pakistan army to put down what they thought was a rebellion against the Pakistani administration, according to US State Department documents.

In the turbulent years preceding the birth of Bangladesh, the situation in Pakistan under Gen Ayub Khan and Gen Yahya Khan, the widespread discontent of the people both in the East and West Pakistan and US concerns to prevent China or Russia getting involved in the Indo-Pakistan conflict have been effectively captured for history in the transcripts just released by the US State Department and carried by an Indian media.

The consulate general in Dacca (Dhaka) in its report on the crisis described how the Pakistani army let loose a reign of terror and indulged in atrocities, targeting Hindus, students and faculty members of the Dhaka University.

In a telegram to the State Department it said: "Here in Dacca we are mute and horrified witnesses to a reign of terror by the Pak military."

According to the transcripts, assistant to former US president

Richard Nixon for national security affairs Henry Kissinger assessed the political tensions in Pakistan that were raising questions about the continued viability of the state and which were compelling the US "to walk a very narrow tightrope".

Kissinger also instructed the departments of state and defence and the CIA to prepare a contingency study examining the options open to the US in the event of a movement toward "secession in East Pakistan."

In one of his dispatches to the United States, Yahya Khan said he did not "intend to preside over the dissolution of Pakistan." This led to him sending the Pak army to quell the movement and that was the beginning of the end of Pak control over the East Pakistan.

Kissinger, who derided India and then prime minister Indira Gandhi in a private 1971 conversation with President Richard Nixon, said he regrets his choice of words, and insisted the comments be viewed in the context of cold war politics, according to an interview with New Delhi Television channel.

He told the private TV channel that Nixon's reference to Gandhi as an "old witch" - a comment revealed earlier this week in transcripts of Oval Office tapes and newly declassified documents - was "Nixon language."

Meanwhile, two of the DU Syndicate members - Prof Sadeka Halim and Dr Rahmat Ullah -- yesterday met the treasurer and expressed concern over the pace of investigation.

Price of kidney beans (barbati) ranged between Tk 10 and Tk 12 last week, but it cost customers Tk 15 for a kg yesterday. The price of tomato increased to Tk 30 a kg yesterday, from Tk 20 a week ago. Price of green papaya rose by Tk 2, while that of a one-kg coriander leaf shot up to Tk 70, from Tk 40 a week back.

Snake-gourd (chichinga), which sold at Tk 10 last week, is now selling at Tk 16, while okra at Tk 18, up from Tk 12 a kg, potato at Tk 9, up from Tk 8 a week back.

Growers cannot plant and harvest vegetables in rain, which also hampers the transportation of perishable items, traders explained.

Besides vegetables, price of onion went up from Tk 12 to 18 and garlic from Tk 55 to 62 (imported) and Tk 40 to 48 (local). Prices of a dozen of eggs increased to Tk 48 yesterday, from a range between Tk 36 and Tk 38 10 days ago.

Khaleda Zia blamed the opposition for creating obstruction to each and every step towards development undertaken by the BNP government. She said if the rule of this government continues, the country will become self-reliant in every aspect.

The PM said the law and order situation of the country has improved and an independent anti-corruption commission has been established as per her election pledges. She said her government is also ensuring the accountability of the administration.

Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Huq and prime minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury also spoke at the meeting presided over by Melando BNP President Mustafizur Rahman Babul.

The Rab arrested Matin from Shahjadpur upazila in Pabna on Friday and was off to Tanore upazila in Rajshahi to seize his arms cache.

Rab sources said they came under fire near Hariandaha bridge and countered the attack. They added that after a skirmish, Matin was found bullet-hhit on the spot. He was pronounced dead at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.

The Rab seized one local revolver and one knife.

JCD man

FROM PAGE 16 including one murder and four attempt to murder offences.

RAJSHAHI

Abdul Matin alias Matin Bangal alias Kosai Matin, an alleged leader of underground Naval movement, was killed in 'crossfire' at Hariandaha in Motihar in the city, according to our staff correspondent from Rajshahi.

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Budget

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"The water level usually stands over 84.16 MSL (Mean Sea Level) during the monsoon. But today (Saturday) it was recorded at 74.25 MSL." Plant Manager Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

"Friday's generation of 60MW is the lowest ever since the plant had gone into operation," he said.

"The plant's contribution to the national grid has been falling since March, as it lacks adequate water reserve in Kaptai Lake," the official added.

DU shut

FROM PAGE 16 pro-BNP Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists for attacking students on the campus on May 28.

Academic activities at the DU were scheduled to resume yesterday after a month-long summer vacation throughout June.

DU authorities had earlier postponed all the examinations scheduled for yesterday and today in the wake of the strike.

The BCL yesterday took out a procession and held a rally on the campus. Speakers at the rally threatened to come out on an indefinite strike if their demands were not met immediately.

BCL President Liaquat Sikder, acting General Secretary Saifuzzaman Shekher, Shariful Kabir Swapani, among others, addressed the rally.

15 AL men sent to jail for 'killing' cop

BDNEWS, Sherpur

Fifteen Awami League (AL) leaders and activists, including the president of Nalitabari upazila unit of the party, were sent to jail yesterday on charge of killing a police constable.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Sherpur, sent the AL men to jail when they surrendered before the court as per an order of the High Court.

Earlier on June 20, they appealed for bail to the High Court. The court granted two weeks' bail and asked them to surrender before the District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Police constable Ashraf Siddiqui was killed in a clash between police and pickets at Nalitabari Bazar during a 36-hour hartal enforced by the Awami League in February. Four other police personnel and 10 AL leaders and activists were injured in the clash.

After investigation into the incident, police pressed charges against 37 leaders and activists of the AL and its front organisations.

Probe body

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It became six-member after three of its members had resigned from terming the probe an 'eyewash'.

The DU treasurer told The Daily Star that they could not make any progress in probing the violence, as most of the members tend to bunk off the probe committee meetings.

Besides, Prof Hasan said, the students and the student leaders do not respond properly to the committee's calls. "For these, I really am not sure when I am going to finish the investigation and submit report to the authorities," he added.

"I know it well that the investigation would not make any difference as the authorities hardly take into account recommendations of the probe committees. Still, we would submit the report, be it late," Prof Hasan said.

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Bangla Bhai

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Sources said local BNP leaders lobbied police for the release of Peter, who is said to be a nephew of Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu.

But the police sent Peter to a court immediately. However, the law enforcers are not going to sue him for attacking them, police sources said.

Peter and his group attacked and injured Shahidul Islam, daily Janakantha correspondent of Bagmara, when he was going to the local press club.

They attacked him for assisting journalists to report on Bangla Bhai men and the activities of Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh.

Tata, govt

FROM PAGE 1

third-round negotiations finalised the agenda and schedule of the complex negotiations to run through July 7.

The government side led by Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan and Tata Group led by Tata Bangladesh Chapter Head Manzer Hussain identified the core issues of the investment during the meeting.

The finance secretary told journalists that the negotiations are going aheadwell.

"Both parties are advancing in a positive mood to make the deal a success," the secretary said after the meeting.

Tata Group will sit in a series of meetings with the power, communications, gas and coal and land sub-committees tomorrow.

The Tata representatives will hold the wrap-up meeting of the negotiations with a secretary-level committee led by the finance secretary on July 7.

The government and the Tata Group on May 9 agreed to kick off formal negotiations on May 25 and wind up by August 31 to clear the way for signing of the investment agreement before November 30.

Tata on April 20 formally submitted a \$2.5 billion investment proposal for setting up a 1000 MW power station, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 420,000 tons and a one million-ton fertiliser unit.

Tk 830 crore

FROM PAGE 1

The health ministry owes Tk 7.73 crore, education ministry Tk 7.25 crore, defence Tk 5.58 crore, communications Tk 5.3 crore, liberation war affairs ministry Tk 5.35 crore.

The unpaid bills of other ministries range from Tk 30 lakh to Tk 2 crore.

Meanwhile, a power ministry source said different government organisations as well as private ones owe a large sum of money as electricity bills to the power ministry and many of them are not paying bills for more than a year.

Consequently, the ministry is unable to pay the bill for gas used for power generation, the source said, adding that despite taking various measures, they have failed to collect the dues.

Industries ministry sources said they have failed to pay the gas bill as they have not received their due allocation from the government.

The ministries are given allocation in the budget as per their requirement, finance ministry sources said, adding that they would ask the ministries concerned to explain the cause of their failure to pay gas bills in time.

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Govt to meet

FROM PAGE 16

Kamal said, "It is more true for what we call 'fast food'."

More than 50 people including Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu reportedly fell sick after having fast food at the annual general meeting of Bangladesh Samabay Bank on June 25.

The bank's Deputy General Manager BK Patwari filed a case on Tuesday with the Paltan Police Station against the food shop, Food Plus, at the Sena Kalyan Bhaban, which had supplied the fast food. The police arrested the manager and two staff of the shop.

A series of investigative reports by The Daily Star also found cases of serious food adulteration and use of chemicals in it, which the experts consider a serious threat to the public health.

Talking to the journalists on the computer network system, Kamal said the network, set up in 92 offices of the ministry including those at the district levels, will have all the information on food procurement, reserve and dispatch, which will ensure the food security system in the country.

"Previously it would take minimum 7-15 days to prepare and send any report on food reservation, average price or dispatch to the policy makers, but now the networking will make the whole process possible in a very short time," he said.

The government will now be able to combat immediately any crisis including food shortage, price hike or natural disaster in any part of the country thanks to the easy access to information through the computer network system, said Abdur Rouf, project director of the Computer Network System.

Analysis of food price of previous years, comparing the present

reserve with those of the previous ones will also help the policy makers formulate new policies in the wake of new crises, he told the journalists explaining the functions of the system.

The project was implemented at a cost of Tk 6.21 crore and ended on June 20 this year. The food ministry is consulting with other ministries to extend the project, Rouf noted.

On the recent price hike of rice despite a bumper boro harvest this year, the food minister said the procurement price fixed at Tk 14.50 this year is an all-time high, which might have contributed to the price hike. The government price for rice procurement last year was Tk 13.25 a kg.

"We also want that the farmers get a reasonable price," the minister said. The price in the rural markets and other divisions, however, is much less than that in Dhaka, he claimed.

The amount of food reserve in the country is now 808,000 metric tons, and the government has already purchased 6 lakh metric tons of the targeted 10 lakh metric tons of rice. The remaining 4 lakh metric tons will be procured with August, the minister said.

He said the conference decided to form a committee of enlightened people to devise the means of reform, which will be submitted at the OIC summit likely to be held in Makkah by the end of this year.

The conference adopted a 15-point Sanad Declaration with a plan to review the progress in the next conference of foreign ministers in Azerbaijan towards fixing the strategy to face the challenges of the new era.

It stressed the need for intensive interaction among the member-states on the tariff and non-tariff issues as adopted in the declaration as well as importance of replicating best practices within the Islamic Ummah.

Moshed said the conference also agreed to augment intra-OIC trade and economic cooperation to narrow the rich-poor gap within the Islamic Ummah.

For developing human resources, Bangladesh requested the conference to expand the education facilities in the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Gazipur with a medical faculty.

The minister had bilateral talks on the sidelines of the conference with the President of Yemen who invited Bangladesh RMG entrepreneurs to invest in the special economic zone of Yemen, taking advantage of the country's location close to African markets.

He also met foreign ministers of Yemen, Iran, Russia, Italy, Thailand, Pakistan, the Philippines and the OIC secretary general.

He said the precaution did not work," he said.

A senior police officer in Mahimudiya, just south of the capital, said police and civilians were among the five dead and 12 wounded when a suicide car bomber crashed into a police checkpoint in the centre of town.

Suicide bombings and car bombs have become the deadliest tactic in violence which has worsened sharply since the elected government took office in April. Police recruits are frequent targets, yet many Iraqi men continue to sign up in the hope of a paying job in a country where work is scarce.

Two police colonels were gunned down in their cars in separate incidents, one in the northern city of Mosul, another in Musayib.

In a Shia Muslim neighbourhood of Baghdad, thousands of men held aloft the green-shrouded coffin of

OIC to focus on bilateral trade

Says Moshed

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders from the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have agreed to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation among the member-states and to develop an Islamic Common Market (ICM).

They discussed the strategy at the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) as part of a policy reform towards mainstreaming the OIC to face any negative impact of globalisation and campaign against the Islamic Ummah.

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