

## US role in 1971

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Bangladesh after the end of the war. I think you all will recall that we were one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh," he told reporters after the meeting.

"Ambassadors never say that their country makes a mistake, they just imply it," he went on to say.

"We want to look at each country individually. We don't look at you as a former part of Pakistan or Bangladesh and Pakistan as former parts of India," he added.

Recalling Kennedy's visit to refugee camps in West Bengal Moriarty said Kennedy drew the attention of the world to the humanitarian disaster for the first time.

"Senator Kennedy's visit and continued support for Bangladesh's independence has a great impact on public opinion. I have no doubt that his efforts led to the early recognition of Bangladesh by the US," Moriarty added.

He said Ted Kennedy's visit to Dhaka in February 1972 was one of the first visits to an independent Bangladesh by an international leader.

"The events, as we have seen this week, bonded Ted Kennedy with the people of this country in a deep way and Senator Kennedy will live on in the hearts of the people of Bangladesh," Moriarty added.

Attending the programme the power and energy adviser to the prime minister, Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said, "I got a unique privilege to escort Ted Kennedy during his visit to refugee camps in India in August 1971 and his greatness, farsightedness and his vision of the world impressed me very much."

Recalling the contributions of Ted during the country's

## Medicine

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health adviser to the prime minister. "Many companies are still trying to produce these drugs and sell those in open market, but the government sticks to its decision of not allowing it," he said when contacted yesterday.

Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque said if panicked people start taking anti-viral drug in case of fever or cough only, it might not be good for them since it will harm the body's resistance to diseases. "So, we strongly suggest taking the drug from those public and private hospitals where the government gives it free of cost," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The anti-viral drug is also available in some private hospitals which are supposed to provide swine flu treatment, said Dr M Mushtaq Husain, senior scientific officer of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research. The government has a stock of 29 lakh doses of Oseltamivir both capsule and syrup, he mentioned.

The government expects that the present stock can meet the requirement till November, and has already asked drug manufacturers to produce another one crore doses of Oseltamivir, he said.

The drug would be supplied to Dhaka University medical centre today, Mushtaq said.

Meanwhile, despite government claim that the drug is not available in open market, some people bought it from different drug stores in the capital at a price of Tk 1,800 per strip/file (10 piece).

## Protesters clash

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procession of over 500 leaders and activists of the committee at Bijoy Nagar at around 12:00 noon from marching towards Karwan Bazar.

The committee on Saturday announced the programme protesting what it said was the lease of three offshore gas fields to foreign companies.

The government has barred Ireland-based company Tullow Bangladesh shallow water block SS-08-05 and US oil company Conoco Phillips South Asia New Ventures Ltd deep sea blocks DS-08-10 and 11 in the Bay of Bengal for oil and gas exploration.

The committee held a rally at Muktangan around 11:30am and brought out a procession from there to lay siege to Petrobangla office.

Justice Golam Rabbani, columnist Abul Maksud, Prof MMAKash, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahid Islam Selim, Gono Front leader Tipu Biswas, CPB leader Ruhin Hosain Prince and Prof Mezbah Karim led the procession.

Witnesses said police tried to stop them twice -- near Muktangan and Paltan intersection -- but the protesters defied the barricades.

The law enforcers then intercepted the procession near

## Dhaka canal

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after its meeting in Jatiya Sangsabha.

"The encroachers are also trying to confuse the department in its work of identifying the illegal structures," Mozammel, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, told The Daily Star.

The committee asked the land ministry to provide all kinds of assistance including arranging modern equipment for the department within the next seven days, so they may carry out the aerial survey for identifying the illegal structures and their owners," he said.

"We also asked the department to identify the extent of the encroachment in each case," said the committee chief.

He said it is not being possible for the land ministry alone to demolish the illegal structures as 'several other issues are related to that', adding, "Structures like schools, mosques, markets, even Dhaka City Corporation markets, and some government offices are also sitting on those canals."

"We therefore want to identify the canals, and the persons and organisations who encroached upon those, and then we will submit the list to the prime minister, seeking her cooperation for remedying the situation," he told the reporters.

The land record department informed the standing committee about different obstacles they are facing in identifying the illegal structures," he added.

The committee suggested that the government amends the existing Vested Property Act, keeping the option of settling relevant legal disputes within six months of the passage of a relevant new bill in the parliament.

It also asked the land ministry to submit a detailed working paper on the process of digital land mapping, and on installing a computerised land management system through which any individual will be able to get information on lands on a website.

## Local mobile

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TSS, situated at Gazipur, Dhaka, is currently incurring loss while CSS in Khulna is making a marginal profit.

"CSS in its new plant will manufacture fibre-optic cables instead of copper cables," Inu said, adding that the CSS will be able to meet the country's 75 percent fibre-optic cable demand.

The fibre optic cable manufacturing project is worth Tk 10 crore and evaluation of a tender in this regard is now going on, he added.

Inu said fibre-optic cables have been installed in an unplanned way across the country and the parliamentary watchdog asked authorities concerned to take appropriate measures so that the cables are installed in a planned manner from now on.

Inu also said CSS will go for manufacturing household electrical accessories and telephone accessories, which would save foreign exchange. TSS in Gazipur will manufacture the digital telephone sets, said the committee chief.

Even poor people will be able to afford these telephone sets as their prices would be between Tk 500 and Tk 600, Inu said.

TSS will also manufacture the cellphones in cooperation with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

"People will also be able to purchase these cellphones as prices will be between Tk 1,500 and Tk 10,000," Inu added.

Replies to a question, the committee chief said network expansion of Teletalk will start very soon. "Teletalk will become the number one mobile operator in the country," he said.

Later, the protesters regrouped and staged demonstrations on the Dhaka University campus. The activists of Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and left-leaning student bodies joined them.

They vandalised two vehicles at TSC intersection on the campus.

Injured Saiful Haque, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party, said: "We were heading to Petrobangla office at Karwan Bazar from Muktangan. Police personnel suddenly swooped on us leaving our leaders and activists injured."

Saiful, receiving treatment at the DMCH, said five policemen beat him.

Rustam, who also died in the incident, had long been involved in illegal trading of liquor and hashish (cannabis) in the area ignoring the law enforcers, locals said.

He said they would file a case in this connection.

The injured policemen were taken to Rajbari Bagh Police Lines Hospital.

## Primary education

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Nurul Islam Nahid said the government would start implementation of the new national education policy from December.

Seven education commissions and committees have been formed since independence but not a single recommendation of them has been implemented because of lack of political will.

The Awami League-led alliance government formed a 16-member committee on April 6 to review the report of Shamsul Haque Education Committee of 1997 to formulate a modern national education policy in line with the report of Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission of 1974.

The committee submitted the policy within four months from its first meeting.

The policy recommends introducing one-year pre-primary education for over five-year-old children.

It also recommends arrangement for textbooks and teachers for indigenous children so that they can learn in their own language.

Primary education (up to Class VIII) will be made free, universal and compulsory. Students of all mediums in primary level will have to study several compulsory subjects, the committee suggests.

The compulsory subjects are Bangla, English, Mathematics, Bengali Studies, Paribesh Parichiti (social environment and climatic change), Information Technology and Science. Besides, all students must study their own religions and receive moral education.

Pre-vocational education will be made mandatory for all students from class VI to class VIII. The policy recommends, adding that scholarships would be given from class V to VIII on the basis of final examination results.

The new policy also recommends that secondary education level would be from class IX to XII. Uniform curriculum and syllabus in several subjects will be followed in all mediums including madrasa.

It says an examination will be held at the end of class X at upazila or pourashava or thana level on similar question papers and scholarship will be given on the basis of results.

About higher education, the committee advised the government to turn all three-year degree courses into four-year honours courses in phases.

Four-year honours courses will be considered as a terminal degree and a student having the course can be entitled to all professions except for teaching.

It recommended formation of a Non-government Teacher Commission for the non-government educational institutions for teachers training and selection.

The committee proposed decentralisation of the National University with centres in all divisions. The centres will later

turn into affiliating universities for the respective areas in phases.

It stresses vocational and technical education and recommended establishing a technical institution in every upazila and increasing the number of polytechnic, textile and leather institutes to expand technical education.

According to the new education scheme madrasa education will be modernised by including information technology and science.

"We would review the policy in the ministry and then send it to the prime minister. After that it would be placed in the cabinet," the education minister said.

He hoped they would implement the policy within four months from its first meeting.

The committee Chairman Kabir Chowdhury said they had formulated the policy after taking opinions from all sections of people.

Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed said, "We have been able to reach a consensus because of our identical attitudes and objectives. We will put forward our proposals if any quarter proposes amendments to it."

While talking to The Daily Star he said, "We want to ensure education for all and even we would like to bring disadvantaged sections of people under the scheme of education."

The committee members were present yesterday during the submission of the report.

## Azad

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maps of Rajuk.

**ADDITIONAL CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE** Ehsanul Haque passed the order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors after defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking Azad's bail and made submissions on it.

He was earlier granted bail in the first case filed against him for assaulting a CID official at his Paltan office on August 27.

Azad, also the owner of the Grand Azad Hotel located at Purana Paltan, was arrested at around 11:30pm on August 27 after CID Inspector Golam Sarwar filed a case accusing Azad of attempting on his life.

Later he was taken on a one-day remand for interrogation after being produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

After completion of his remand, he was produced before the court and the court granted him bail in the case. But he was shown arrested in the cheating case filed by police on August 30.

Meantime, the government on Tuesday formed a two-member probe committee to investigate the incident that led to the arrest of Azad from his hotel.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in the violence.

While talking to The Daily Star, DG Belayet Hossain said, "It was a mistake to commit special trains. It is not possible to operate special trains except during Eid."

Other decisions the meeting made include initiatives to make better use of slow lanes of

Illegal plantation  
3 Destiny men arrested in Bandarban

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban**

Police arrested three staff of Destiny Group from Alkadam on Tuesday for illegal tree plantation violating the recent government order asking the company to stop tree plantation in the hill district.

Hedayetullah, 35, Mohammed Faisal, 30, and Jams Tripura, 24, were nabbed following a case filed by Alkadam Upazila Parishad staff Tapan Kumar Das.

Meanwhile, Jalanto Moni Karbari and Robidoy Tanchangya of Alkadam upazila submitted a letter on behalf of the local people to the Bandarban Hill District Council chairman alleging Destiny was engaged in plantation through grabbing the lands of indigenous people.

Mujibur Rahman, a local official of Destiny Group, however, termed such arrests a conspiracy by the administration.

The August 20 meeting asked the DMP, BRTA, DCC and Rajuk to go tough on vehicles that remain parked for unlimited period of time narrowing down streets. They were asked to even tow those vehicles. The prime minister also directed the same Monday.

None of the agencies are implementing this decision but they are collecting fines for violations of traffic rules. The BRTA, DMP and Dhaka District Administration authorities have been operating some mobile courts in this regard.

Even though the DMP earlier seized around 2,600 vehicles that are old and unfit to ply to the city streets, it is not interested to go against illegally-parked vehicles.

"If they cannot park on the streets, where would they go?" said the DMP commissioner, adding, "We, however, do not allow such parking during peak hours."

"We do not have space to keep seized vehicles either," he said.

The BRTA and Dhaka District Administration authorities have been conducting drives to curb traffic jams with 15 mobile courts but they could not seize any vehicles, as they do not have towtrucks.

Executive Magistrate SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star, "We have been collecting fines from vehicles for violating traffic rules and causing traffic jams."

The DCC was asked to free the streets and pavements of illegal occupiers, remove ill-placed skips and repair traffic signals. DCC Superintendent Engineer Sebagh Ullah after the August 20 meeting had pledged strongest effort to implement the decisions.

Two weeks afterwards, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star, "I am not aware of any such decisions and none talked to me in this regard. Until or unless I am informed of any government decision formally I cannot take any initiatives."

Bangladesh Railway director general promised to arrange special trains on Gazipur-Dhaka-Narayanganj route to help the government deal with congestion.

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## Toil in tailbacks

**FROM PAGE 16**

the assurance that we will help them in this regard. But they have not contacted us yet," the DMP commissioner said, adding, "It is not in our jurisdiction but we can assist Rajuk in actions."

Seeking anonymity, a Rajuk official said they are yet to take any initiative in this regard.

The Daily Star's repeated attempts to reach Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda for his comment were fruitless.

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Several streets surrounding the entrance to the cemetery in Glendale will be closed in an effort to keep fans at bay, police said.

Jackson is to be interred at a 7:00 pm (0200 GMT Friday) ceremony inside the cemetery's massive Great Mausoleum, an elaborate neo-classical building inspired by Genoa's famous Campo Santo.

Jackson's gold-plated casket is to be placed in a private section of the mausoleum that is also home to the final resting places of famous names from Hollywood's golden age such as Clark Gable, Jean Harlow and Carole Lombard.

Forest Lawn, which opened in 1906, is also home to exact replicas of some of Michelangelo's greatest works, including "David," "La Pieta" and "Moses."

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