

Evidence of genocide

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various heinous measures during a meeting with the member of Central Peace committee in the town.

The investigators, however, refrained from disclosing the names of the witnesses. They said before going to Rajshahi from Kushtia, they took a copy of Jamaat mouthpiece of the Dainik Sangram of July 19, 1971 from Bangla Academy Library in Dhaka.

The issue has a report on Ghulam Azam's Peace Committee meeting at the municipal hall in Rajshahi on July 8 with the committee's Rajshahi chairman Ayeen Uddin in the chair, which the witnesses also confirmed.

"There is nothing to prove that the Hindus are friends of the Muslims. They have always been holding the Muslims as rivals and killing Muslims has been a daily incident in India even after the separation," Dainik Sangram quoted Azam as saying.

The report also quoted him as saying, "The Hindus created divisions among the Muslims raising the question of Bangalee and non-Bangalee. Foundation of a nation with Hindus and Muslims is not possible unless the Muslims are separated over the language issue."

Investigators Rahman and Chowdhury came to Rajshahi Friday afternoon

and separately talked with researchers, historians, freedom fighters, journalists and relatives of martyrs.

On Saturday, they visited nine spots of genocides, mass grave and Pakistani torture camps in Rajshahi city, Mugroil and Sakoa in Mohonpur, and Thanapara and Sardah Police Academy in Charghat upazila.

The team took photographs and footages of people identifying the mass graves and torture camps.

In the morning, the team went to Mugroil, around 25km from Rajshahi city, where there is a shaheed minar (monument commemorating martyrs) with names of only 15 martyrs inscribed on it.

The probe team talked to Basir Ali Sheikh and Hashim Uddin who lost their family members when the Pakistani occupation army captured 15 villagers on November 30, 1971 and shot them dead for helping freedom fighters.

The army ravaged the village and torched every house, they said, adding that razakars (Pakistani collaborators) Daud Hossain, Nur-e-Anwar, Motiur, Wahed and some others, who led the Pakistani army to the village, are still living freely in the village.

From Mugroil the probe team visited a torture camp at Sakoa Madrasa where a number of freedom fighters and commoners were killed

and tortured.

In Rajshahi, the investigators visited Babla Bon mass grave and torture camp near T Groyen of the Padma River.

The Pakistani army with the help of their local collaborators picked up 17 people, including intellectuals and politicians, from their houses on the night of November 25, 1971, told freedom fighter Shahjahan Ali Borjahan in presence of journalists.

The locals believe all the martyrs were buried alive as their bodies bore no bullet wounds, he added.

At Moslem Ali's house near Boalia Police Station, Moslem's son Salauddin Raju told reporters that after they had gone into hiding the occupation army took over their house to run a torture camp there.

The investigators also visited Rajshahi University mass grave, Martyrs' Memorial Archive and Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall where countless men, women and children suffered the atrocities of Pakistani army and their collaborators since April 1971.

"Rajshahi apparently had been a bit different from other parts of the country, as the Pakistani collaborators here were so dominating that they opened torture camps at many places," said SP Matiuur Rahman.

Battle rages

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to assess as the struggle for control over Libya continues.

In Tripoli, there is an air of growing confidence among regime loyalists as their control appears to be consolidated in Tripoli and other central areas.

GADDAFI TROOPS 'FLEE'
Reports from Zawia said the town had come under attack from both east and west from well-armed government forces.

Zawia resident and rebel supporter Mohammed told the BBC that pro-Gaddafi troops "came from east and west and they took up positions in high-rise buildings... and started shooting".

"Some tanks went to the square and were captured and burnt. There were some casualties among Gaddafi's troops and our troops - but Zawia was never captured by Gaddafi's troops.

"I am outside the square, Gaddafi's troops are nowhere to be seen, they have all fled," he told the BBC, to the sounds of rebels singing celebratory songs in the background.

Another Zawia resident, Hussein, said that government forces had indeed been driven back in four hours of fighting.

But he said many civilians had been killed, including women and children - as up to 40 cars filled with soldiers attacked backed up by tanks and anti-aircraft guns.

"There are people dying everywhere. It is a disaster what is happening in Zawia. We really need some help," Hussein told the BBC.

A doctor in the city quoted by AFP news agency said he knew of seven dead, while other residents estimated that at least 30 people had died.

But both Mohammed and Hussein said they feared another government assault as pro-Gaddafi forces regrouped just outside the city centre, circling it in preparation for a fresh attack later on Saturday.

In Ras Lanuf, an oil port east of Sirte - a key Gaddafi stronghold and his hometown - fierce fighting was also reported, with the sound of multiple explosions and heavy artillery.

But a BBC correspondent who reached the town yesterday morning said rebels had now taken control of the town.

Pro-Gaddafi forces who had been in the town were believed to have moved about 40km to the west.

They had withdrawn to Ras Lanuf two days ago after a battle a little further east in Brega.

BENGHAZI BLASTS
The death toll from explosions at an arms dump in Benghazi is between 32 and 34, a doctor said yesterday.

"We're having problems at arriving at an exact number of dead as several bodies were torn apart by the explosions," Hussein al-Mejri, a doctor at Benghazi's Al-Jala Hospital, told the BBC.

Bay the global

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dolphins in the inland rivers are under quite a lot of stress

the ones inhabiting the estuaries of Sundarbans were comparatively safer.

"Bangladesh should feel proud for harbouring such a huge number of endangered cetaceans," said Dr Anisuzzaman in a statement sent to The Daily Star yesterday terming the Bay of Bengal as a global hotspot for the endangered aquatic mammals.

Man stabbed

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the evening.

A group of five snatchers stopped their vehicle near the market when they were returning to Shahid Faruque Sarani of Jatrabari with the collected money at about 6:00pm.

The muggers at gunpoint asked Amirul to give the money. They stabbed Amirul in his waist and back on his refusal and snatched Tk 5 lakh, Amirul Islam said.

His colleagues rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shyampur Police said they heard about the incident and a team was sent to the spot.

Hospital, told AFP.

The twin blasts occurred at the Rajma military base on the outskirts of Benghazi on Friday.

NATIONAL COUNCIL
The Libyan opposition fighting to overthrow Gaddafi announced its first formal meet yesterday.

In Libya's second city Benghazi, headquarters of the rebel forces which control virtually the whole of the east, a spokesman for their self-declared national council said it was poised to hold its first session -- in secret for fear of assassination.

"The national council's first formal meeting is starting this morning," Mustafa Gheriani told AFP, but did not disclose a time or place.

Former justice minister Mustafa Abdel Jalil, one of the first high-profile Libyans to defect from Gaddafi's four-decade regime, has been appointed chairman of the 30-member body.

"The council declares it is the sole representative all over Libya," said Abdel Jalil.

Rebels say they have set up local councils in cities they hold across the east and intend their transitional government to lead the country into an election, although Gaddafi is still firmly in control of the capital.

Rebels want the council, and not the Gaddafi regime, recognised as the legitimate government of Libya and for all Libyan foreign missions in the world to be recognised as the representatives of their "revolution".

PM opens

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workers and the proposal placed by Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique at a meeting on February 25 was approved by the prime minister.

Established on 72 acres in 1952, the mill was nationalised on independence of the country. Supervised by Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) the mill had suffered heavy loss due to mismanagement and corruption, finally leading to its closure on July 31, 2007 rendering more than 3,300 workers jobless.

The caretaker government leased out the mill to Messers Kazi Firms, which after suffering a loss of Tk 18 crore returned to BJMC in July 2009. The government formed a 25-member committee to carry out a feasibility study before taking the mill back.

Finding a buoyant market for jute and jute goods, BJMC restarted the mill with test production in November last.

DNA test

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While not all polyps in the bowel become cancerous it is thought almost all bowel cancers develop from polyps.

The Cambridge study, in the BMJ journal Gut, analysed 261 samples from patients with benign polyps or bowel cancer.

In particular it looked at what are called DNA methylation patterns -- a key process in cell development.

The researchers at Cancer UK's Cambridge Research Institute at Cambridge University say that DNA methylation is essential for life.

In healthy cells a compound called a methyl group is tagged to DNA where it acts as a "red light", preventing certain genes from producing proteins.

But this process can go wrong in cancer cells and DNA methylation can also contribute to the cause and development of cancer by blocking important "protective genes".

Dr Ashraf Ibrahim, the lead author of the study, says studying molecular changes could make diagnosing bowel cancer much simpler in the future.

"The majority of bowel cancers develop from benign polyps that turn cancerous -- and this crucial research deepens our understanding of the molecular changes behind this development."

"This first step in detecting molecular 'flags' for bowel cancer, could, one day, lead to a simple test to search DNA for the early signs of the disease."

Dr Lesley Walker, Cancer Research UK's director of cancer information, says the research opens up the possibility of much earlier diagnosis of bowel cancer, when it is easier to treat.

QUICK RENTAL POWER PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT		
Total target generation 1490 MW from 18 deals; Present power generation 4000 MW; Projected power demand in March-April 6000 MW		
Project name	Expected date of launching	Status
Aggreko Khulna 55 MW	18 Aug, 2010	Achieved
Aggreko Ghorashal 145 MW	18 Aug, 2010	Achieved
Desh 100 MW Siddhirganj	30 Oct, 2010	Launched Feb 2011
DPA 50 mw Pagla	12 Nov, 2010	Achieved
Max Power 78.5 MW Ghorashal	23 Dec, 2011	Uncertain
Hyperion 100 MW Meghnaghat	26 Dec, 2010	Uncertain
Aggreko BBaria 70 MW	6 Feb, 2011	Test run from 21/2
Summit 102 MW Madanganj	20 Mar, 2011	Expected early Apr
KPCL 115 MW Khulna	20 Mar, 2011	Expected late Mar
IEL 100 MW Meghnaghat	27 Mar, 2011	Expected early Apr
Powerpac 100 MW Keraniganj	31 Mar, 2011	Expected early Apr
Sinha 50 MW Amanura	1 Apr, 2011	Expected late Apr
Acorn 100 MW Julda	2 Apr, 2011	Expected late Apr
Dutch Bangla 100 MW Siddhirganj	7 Apr, 2011	Expected mid Apr
Aggreko 80 MW Ashuganj	7 Apr, 2011	Expected late May
United 53 MW Ghorashal	-March	Expected Apr
Khanjahan 40MW Noapara	21 Apr, 2011	Expected late Apr
Northern Power 50 MW Katakhal	23 Apr, 2011	Expected early May

Quick power bid clicks

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them would miss their original deadlines. Some deadlines will be missed due to contractors' inefficiency, while some will be missed because of PDB's delay in handover of land or necessary infrastructure to the contractors.

The sources add if the government could award all of these unsolicited contracts to genuine entrepreneurs, the nation could have expected an early relief from load-shedding. Earlier in November, the cabinet purchase committee approved five other power contracts totalling another 487 MW capacity. But none of these unknown local contractors later appeared to sign the contracts.

These defaulting companies are GGWaver (200 MW), Cambridge (90 MW), APR Energy (50 MW), EQ Capital (48 MW) and Wintara (99 MW).

Industry insiders say all of these five deals were pushed by some ruling party parliamentarians. Soon after the purchase committee approved their contracts, these companies went to various business groups to sell out their projects and make easy money, they add.

These flops aside, PDB has been positive about some contractors which have been trying hard to live up to their promises. British company Aggreko, which is the only real "rental" power

company among all involved in the business in the country, has so far closely lived up to its promises. It has, however, fallen behind schedule with two gas-based projects in Brahmanbaria and Ashuganj mainly because PDB had some difficulties in handing over land to the company in time.

Summit and its sister concern KPCL have also made significant progress with their projects in Madanganj and Khulna but would still fall behind the schedule by two to five weeks.

The IEL Consortium Associates that is setting up a plant in Meghnaghat and also helping Dutch Bangla Power to build another one in Siddhirganj is also expected to launch their plants close to its deadlines.

The IEL made expected progress in its Meghnaghat project. But PDB, which was supposed to avail the power evacuation system for this project on February 20, could not do so till now. The PDB expects to avail this system in mid-March. This delay would affect the IEL launching schedule.

Powerpac Mutiara, Acorn Infrastructure, Northern Power Solution, Sinha Power have made good progress with their projects in Keraniganj, Julda, Katakhal and Amanura, but all of them have fallen two to four weeks behind the schedule.

Two power companies Hyperion and Max Power have not made distinctive progress and it is likely that these companies might end up paying huge penalties to PDB. All the contracts outline a penalty clause under which the defaulter company would pay PDB \$500 per megawatt per day for failure to launch on time.

The majority of these power projects will run on furnace oil and some on diesel as the country is facing serious gas supply crisis. Gas-fired power costs half of that produced by furnace oil-fired power. Furnace oil-based power generation is environmentally hazardous, but it costs half of that produced by diesel.

Four of them will operate on natural gas which is now available with PDB as some large power plants have gone under long-term repair work.

"We are now working on the oil supply system to ensure uninterrupted oil supply and storage," said PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir. He added even if some power contractors fail, the quick rental power schemes would bring a major relief to the country by June this year.

Later this year, some public sector peaking power projects would commence operation. By the end of this year, PDB expects to put almost an end to the long-standing regime of load-shedding.

Miseries mount

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returnee workers.

Ferdous Alam of Gaibandha said he used to work for a Korean company. On February 27, he along with some others was sent to the Tunisian border on a truck.

"There is only sand and nothing to eat or drink. Only those who have some money saved can cross the border. Saving a dinar is tough as Libyans search and loot whatever valuables they find," added Ferdous.

"We could return home as our company helped us. I am not sure about the fate of thousands of others whose employers are taking no responsibility for them."

Some of the expatriates managed to fly back home on their own.

Lal Mia, a worker of Hyundai Amco Company in Benghazi, said he neither got any support from the company nor the Bangladesh embassy. On February 16, some Libyans forced him out of their camp.

"My brother-in-law and I rented a car for a trip to the Egyptian border and crossed it, where the Egyptian police arrested us," he said.

One of the cops helped him to get an air ticket to Dubai. He reached Dubai on March 1 and bought a plane ticket to Dhaka with support from his cousin there.

After three days stay at Dubai airport, Lal Mia returned home.

Likewise, six members of Mirza Shaili Parveen's family attempted to come back home from Tripoli.

"We had the money to plan the return trip. However, those who have no money are in grave trouble as there is no help from the embassy," noted Parveen.

Her brother Mirza Muniruzzaman, an engineer of the Korean company Hanil Engineering Construction, said they managed to reach Dubai by giving some money to a Libyan. From there they took a Bangladesh Biman flight to Dhaka.

Benin postpones presidential vote to March 13

AFP, Cotonou

Benin's government on Friday postponed this week-end's presidential elections to March 13 after claims that a million people were left off the voter roll and with preparations far from complete.

The decision to postpone Sunday's (today) vote a second time was taken during a cabinet meeting late Friday, the foreign minister said, and followed a ruling by the constitutional court earlier in the evening authorising it.

Unlike the Bangladesh embassy, the missions of India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and the Philippines helped their nationals in Libya, he told The Daily Star.

According to IOM National Programme Officer Asif Munier, only basic needs could be provided to the stranded Bangladeshis on the Tunisian and Egyptian borders.

The IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have sought more logistical support from different countries, he said adding, an exodus of expatriates could be conducted once the logistics are available.

2 succumb

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Medical College Hospital on Friday.

Both of them were passengers of the train which rammed a timber-laden truck at 9:40am on the day and killing three passengers of the train while they were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and injuring 75.

The train was heading for the capital from Narayanganj while the truck for Faridpur from Chittagong.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports, the four-member enquiry committee formed to probe the accident submitted its report on Thursday to the manager of Dhaka Divisional Railway.

In the report, the probe committee blamed executive engineer of Narayanganj LGED for building illegal rail crossing and constructing the adjacent road without barrier, said a member of the committee.

Ministry

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Officer Shahedur Rahman.

It also said the finance minister did not want to discuss many personal issues here in public. However, it added, the Grameen Bank letter should have been published in full (The Daily Star printed translated text of the letter in its entirety).

The comments by the minister were grounded in facts, and he made no false assertion, the ministry claimed.

Many of the claims by Grameen Bank lack substance and are baseless, it continued.

On Saturday, several newspapers including The Daily Star published reports based on the Grameen Bank rejoinder that contested the finance minister's comments on Dr Muhammad Yunus.

Earlier on Wednesday, the central bank issued a letter ordering removal of Yunus as managing director of Grameen Bank. It said the microlender did not take its prior permission for the appointment.

CJ not happy

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observed.

He was speaking as chief guest at a meeting hosted to accord reception to Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, recently appointed first woman judge of the Appellate Division.

Bangladesh Women Judges' Association organised the event at the Judicial Administration Training Institute in the capital.

Appreciating the judgements of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, the chief justice said she has come this far by her own quality and competence.

Voicing disappointment over suicide incidents of girls and women in rural areas, Justice Khairul said the judges, particularly women judges, have to take this matter seriously to prevent such occurrences.

Justice Nazmun Ara said she has been discharging her duties remaining above any fear, emotion and sentiment to establish justice in the society. She urged all her colleagues to follow the same.

A number of judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions were present on the occasion.

Cup sees

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to be a terrific game. Sangakkara was controlling the match for them," said Australia skipper Ricky Ponting.

"It would have been a tough wicket to bat on second. With their spinners it would have been a tough run chase."

Sri Lanka, playing with three spinners in Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis and Rangana Herath, lost opens Tilkakarath Dilshan (four) and Upul Tharanga (six) by the seventh over.

Dilshan, who hit pacesman Shaun Tait for a boundary off the first ball he faced, was out later in the same over, edging to slip where Cameron White held a simple catch.

Tait's fellow new-ball bowler Brett Lee made it 31-2 when he had Tharanga caught stunningly off a searing drive in the covers by Steve Smith.

Mahela Jayawardene (23) helped Sangakkara add 44 for the third wicket, before he was run out, beaten by a sharp Smith throw from the covers at the non-striker's end, trying to take a sharp single.

Sri Lanka next meet Zimbabwe atallekele on March 10, while Australia return to India where they play Kenya three days later.