

Two killed at Yemeni teachers' demo

AFP, Sanaa

At least two people were shot dead yesterday when Yemeni troops tried to break up a demonstration by teachers in Taiz, south of the capital Sanaa, officials and a medical source said.

Thousands of teachers were staging a sit-down demonstration outside the regional ministry of education offices in Taiz demanding better pay and the postponement of final school exams, protest organisers said.

"Two injured people died and four others were in serious condition at the intensive care unit," a medical source told AFP.

Minister's

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He was released upon undertakings that he would arrange proper documentation of his bike, said Jahangir Hossain Matobbar, Pabna superintendent of police.

Earlier, Upazila Election Officer Shakhatta Hossain told The Daily Star that Aminul along with his associates stormed his office in the afternoon and threatened him over cancellation of nomination of one Ayub Ali, a member candidate of Jatsakini Union Parishad.

Immediately after his detention around 7:30pm, Bera Police Station Officer-in-charge Jillur Rahman said: "We've arrested him as part of our regular duty ahead of the election [on May 31]."

He then said they did not file any case against Aminul as the election officer did not lodge any written complaint in this regard.

Faridul Islam, the district election officer, said they are investigating the incident.

Limon

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sources, who had been waiting on the spot for the officials since morning," said Limon's mother Henoara Begum.

However, Shawkat told The Daily Star that he spoke to 13 to 15 witnesses at Jomaddar Hatkhola of Chhaturia village.

"I talked to those people, who approached us spontaneously to give deposition. I don't know whether any of them is Limon's family member or not," he said.

"No deadline has been set for submission of probe report. I hope to turn in the report to the ministry by next week after further investigation," the official said.

The home ministry initiated the probe after the High Court in a ruling asked the government to investigate the matter and submit a report.

Limon's mother, who filed a case against six Rab personnel in connection with the incident, said the investigator talked to local drug peddlers Manik Jamaddar, Badsha Akond and Monir Hasan Tuhin, known as Rab sources in the area.

The investigator also recorded statements of local union parishad chairman Siddikur Rahman, Minara Begum, Abul Kalam, Hosne Ara Begum, Masudur Rahman, Rasul and others, who are witnesses in the cases that Rab filed against Limon.

Henoara and locals said the Rab sources gave the investigator a false account of a "gunfight" between Rab and criminals, and told him that Limon had links with notorious criminal Morshed Jamaddar.

When Limon's maternal grandfather Nazim Howlader, who was present there, protested their statements, the sources quickly left the place, they said.

The 16-year-old college student still languishes at the hospital's prison ward, as copies of the bail order are yet to reach Barisal prison.

Md Sagir Mia, senior superintendent at Barisal jail, said if they receive the bail order today, Limon will be released immediately.

A Rab team shot Limon in the left leg while he was on his way to bring back a herd of cattle home at Chhaturia village on March 23. The leg had to be amputated.

Mujaheed 'regrets'

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unapologetic till date for its misdeeds of that time.

Mujaheed in November 2007 claimed that Jamaat never worked against the independence and there is no such thing as war criminals in the country. "In fact, anti-liberation forces never even existed," said the Jamaat leader.

The investigation agency said they would again appeal to the International Crimes Tribunal for permission to quiz Mujaheed as he yesterday avoided several significant queries on his anti-liberation role.

The investigation team got some significant information from him [Mujaheed], said M Sanaul Huq of the five-member team after the interrogation ended at 5:15pm.

Talking to reporters, Huq, however, declined to disclose further information.

Asked whether his reply was satisfactory, Sanaul Huq said, "We accepted some of his replies." But Huq did not elaborate.

Mujaheed's counsel Ahsan Kabir, who was in a room adjacent to the interrogation room, told reporters that his client did not say anything about his involvement with Al-Badr or his role in 1971.

He, however, said the investigation team did not threat or pressurise the Jamaat leader into giving any statement.

Abbottabad house

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decision-making.

"This compound in Abbottabad was an active command and control centre for al-Qaeda's top leader and it's clear [...] that he was not just a strategic thinker for the group," an official who spoke on condition of anonymity told reporters at a Pentagon briefing.

"He was active in operational planning and in driving tactical decisions," the official said.

The material found at the compound - which is reported to include digital, audio and video files, as well as printed material, computer equipment, recording devices and hand-written documents - has been described by officials as "the single largest collection of senior terrorist materials ever".

Personal letters between Bin Laden and others are also said to be among the documents recovered, says BBC.

CIA Director Leon Panetta said in a statement that the material seized "only further confirms how important it was to go after bin Laden".

Alleged 9/11 plotter Ramzi bin al-Shaiba was arrested in Karachi, also in 2002, and the following year the self-confessed mastermind of 9/11, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was held in Rawalpindi, the city headquarters of Pakistan's military.

In 2005, al-Qaeda No 3 Abu Faraj al-Libi was tracked down to the shrine town of Mardan and Mustafa Setmarian Nasar, wanted over the Madrid and London bombings, in the southwestern city of Quetta.

These arrests were made by or in conjunction with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency - unlike the bin Laden killing -- which Pakistan and Washington say was purely a US operation.

US officials say that finding bin Laden in Abbottabad raises serious questions about whether Pakistani intelligence agents helped protect him.

Pakistan denies complicity. Pakistani officials say the perfect cover would have been to melt into one of Pakistan's heaving cities, where millions live on top of each other.

Pakistani military operations, US aerial surveillance and CIA missile attacks in the tribal belt have increasingly made cities such as Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad more attractive places to hide, some experts believe.

US missile attacks doubled last year, with more than 100 drone strikes killing over 670 people in 2010 after CIA director Leon Panetta said the covert programme had severely disrupted al-Qaeda's leadership.

"When you're trying to escape from Afghanistan, the first place you enter is the tribal area," tribal affairs expert Rahimullah Yusufzai told AFP.

"But I think when they found out that those areas are so much under surveillance, it's not easy to stay there for long periods."

"There are security

ISI allowed

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kidnapping or killing Kashmiri people.

Mojaheed said he was in Dhaka during the war time and was also a leader of Islami Chhatro Sangho. But he denied his involvement with auxiliary forces of Pakistani occupation army.

"When we showed books of different Pakistani general where his name is mentioned as Al-Badr leader, he avoided the issue," said another member of the investigation team.

He was also shown newspaper clippings of daily Sangram, mouthpiece of Jamaat, which quoted his speeches identifying him as an Al-Badr leader. He questioned the authenticity of such news and declined to comment on the matter, said the investigation member.

Like Nizami, Mujaheed also said Pakistani occupation army threatened him not to go against them.

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He, however, said the investigation team did not threat or pressurise the Jamaat leader into giving any statement.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police permitted for holding a rally in front of the party office today, he added.

He strongly protested killings of two BNP activists at Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur and held the ruling Awami League men responsible for it.

The BNP leader also alleged that the ruling party supporters are threatening them ahead of the second phase of union parishad elections due from May 31.

BNP's five-day anti-government agitation programme, launched on April 6 demanding solutions to public sufferings, ends today.

Special body

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the House, the speaker will send it to the law ministry, which will place the proposed amendments to the constitution before the cabinet for its approval.

When approved, the law ministry will place in the House a bill containing the proposed amendments. The bill will then be sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry for scrutiny, they added.

"Therefore, the opposition BNP lawmakers and all other MPs will get enough time to discuss the proposed changes to the constitution," said Abdul Matin Khasru, a member of the committee.

The door is still open for opposition leader Khaleda Zia for sending anytime her suggestions to the committee, which will consider those, said Khasru, a former law minister.

The House formed the committee in July last year to review the constitution and come up with proposals for changes to it following cancellation of the fifth amendment by the Supreme Court.

Fruit shop

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obstructed them at the entrance.

The robbers held shop employees at gunpoint and took away money breaking a cash box. They also took away a locker as they could not break it open, police said.

The criminals in their private car then left towards Darussalam Road. Security guards and the staff of the shop chased the criminals for a while but failed to catch them, police told reporters quoting witnesses and employees.

The employees said the robbers were carrying pistols and a shotgun, and wearing a chest belt and a cap like traffic policemen.

Owner of the shop Afroz Uddin filed a robbery case with Shah Ali Police Station accusing five unidentified men.

In the case statement, he mentioned that the robbers took Tk 5,000 from a cash box and a locker containing Tk 2.75 lakh, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"Mostly, you have killed people who are not really your enemies -- low-level, unknown people, faceless people, foot soldiers. I can count on my fingers how many known people have been killed," he said.

"But I think when they

LDCs must come out of poverty

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she said while addressing the Summit of the LDC Group at the Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday afternoon.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, President of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly Joseph Deiss (Switzerland) and Prime Minister of Nepal Jhala Nath Khanal also spoke on the occasion.

Heads of States and Governments of the 48 LDCs attended the summit. Hasina also called on them to "renew, enhance and make available" their full commitments of support timely.

The premier said that by graduating, LDCs would have greater capacity to economically interact, thereby providing added impetus to the developed world in making further progress in their development and living standards.

She said she believed that the Istanbul Summit could create the conditions for transforming the one-sixth of humanity living in LDCs into productive assets and attaining dignified lives.

Hasina urged all to take an oath for creating a strong partnership in promoting human dignity, ensuring good and development-oriented governance, and realising the common vision of a world with equal opportunities for all.

She also mentioned that though the LDCs have made significant progress on MDGs, no comparable progress has been made in enhancing productive capacity and spurring growth keeping pace with developing countries.

"LDCs need to redouble efforts to sustain high levels of growth for long periods to accelerate development. This is possible with enhanced support from our development partners."

She also blamed them for protectionist policies.

Moreover, global warming and climate change, which originated due to the industrialisation in the developed world, have adversely affected the LDCs in Istanbul in the face of new realities such as climate change.

These also include the continuation of debt relief under bilateral and multilateral frameworks for the highly indebted poor countries, and compensating LDCs for prudent management of their debt situations.

There would also be availability of energy, including new and renewable forms, to the LDCs in a manner that is stable, cost effective, diverse, clean and affordable.

The other issues proposed by the PM were an

undertaking of some sort for transfer of appropriate technology at affordable cost to the LDCs, commitment on removal of present impediments to free movement of labour, periodic monitoring of performance on the part of LDCs as well as their development partners to the LDCs.

The adverse effects of climate change are experienced worldwide, and never more so than among the LDCs, she mentioned. "And that is largely because of shortfalls in the commitments of the development partners," Hasina asserted.

"For Bangladesh, climate change is expected to affect the livelihoods of one-fourth of our population, displace over 20 million people, and destroy existing bio-diversity and ecology. Most of the LDCs face similar situation and therefore, must be compensated for climate change-induced ills."

She claimed that assistance to tackle these effects ought to be over and above the ODA provided for in the Brussels Programme of Action.

LDCs must get adaptation support and green technology at affordable prices.

As for the climate migrants, a new legal regime under UNFCCC Protocol ensuring their social, cultural and economic rehabilitation, needs to be in place.

She also presented a host of issues for inclusion in the 'Istanbul Outcome Documents'.

Broadly, these include trade with enhanced and meaningful access to markets of developed countries for LDC products, developed countries honouring their commitments made in Brussels and enhancing their commitments in Istanbul in the face of new realities such as climate change. These also include the continuation of debt relief under bilateral and multilateral frameworks for the highly indebted poor countries, and compensating LDCs for prudent management of their debt situations.

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The official again asked the two members over the phone to resign yesterday. In his reply, Yasin said he would submit his resignation after talking with the finance minister, the source added.

Anisuzzaman joined the SEC on April 15, 2009. Prior to the joining, he served as district judge of Mymensingh.

On May 2, the government appointed Prof Helal Uddin Nizami of accounting and information system department of Chittagong University as a member of the SEC for three years.

After publishing the full report on April 30, Finance Minister AMA Muhiith, Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) A K Khandakar and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, among others, were present.

However, there is no development regarding appointing new chairman.

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