

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 Ta'ez, 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 Ta'ez 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 Matobar, Pabna superintendent of police.

Earlier, Upazila Election Officer Shakhawat 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 Jilur 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 Howladar, 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 Sagor 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.

Mojaheed 'regrets'

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unapologetic till date for its misdeeds of that time.

Mojaheed 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 Mojaheed as he yesterday avoided several significant queries on his anti-liberation role.

The investigation team got some significant information from him [Mojaheed], 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.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayeede yesterday in separate petitions pleaded with the court not to interrogate them in connection with war crimes charges anymore.

Talking to The Daily Star, a member of the investigation agency on condition of anonymity said the Jamaat leader admitted that genocide and other atrocities took place during the Liberation War.

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".

EYE OF THE STORM

The CIA may have focused its war on al-Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal badlands but Osama bin Laden's killing exposes the limits of drone strikes and the need for Islamabad to broaden intelligence in cities. "The tribal belt was in the eye of the storm," said Pakistani analyst Imtiaz Gul, who has written a book about the region. "This was the bulseye."

"I personally never thought he was alive and if he would be recovered it would be from some cave. This has been a master deception that bin Laden created," Gul said. Pakistani security officials say they are investigating whether bin Laden lived in the compound for five years, as his Yemeni wife -- who was shot in the leg during the operation -- has claimed.

The New York Times quoted Pakistani investigators as saying that she also said the family lived for nearly two-and-a-half years in a small village, Chak Shah Mohammad, near the main highway.

That would mean bin Laden left the tribal belt in 2003 and had been living in northern urban regions for more than seven years.

"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

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, Mojaheed also said Pakistani occupation army threatened him not to go against them.

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

Mojaheed'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.

checkpoints over there, strangers are easily identified among the tribes and there are drone attacks and occasional Pakistani military operations, so in a way they are under more surveillance on a day-to-day basis."

Bin Laden was not the only al-Qaeda leader tracked down to Pakistani cities, which unlike the tribal belt, are under direct government control.

In 2002, his close confidant Abu Zubaydah was arrested in Faisalabad, one of Pakistan's most moderate cities, a place known more for its textile industry than its association with global terrorism.

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-Libbi was tracked down to the shrine town of Mardan and Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, wanted over the Madrid and London bombings, in the southwestern city of Quetta.

These arrests were made by or in connection 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.

Tribal expert Yusufzai said the drone campaign was not effective and should be reviewed.

"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.

ISI allowed

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kidnapping or killing Kashmiri people.

More significantly, the targets in Indian according to the militant were chosen by the Pakistani Army.

The revelations are damning in that it further reinforces India's oft-repeated claims that the Pakistani military, especially the ISI, has been actively supporting terror groups in anti-India activities.

The WikiLeaks expose is also significant coming as it does at a time when Pakistan is under intense international scrutiny after US forces tracked down and killed Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, a garrison town just a half-hour drive from the Capital, Islamabad.

BNP's demo

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Party leaders said fresh anti-government programme might be announced from today's rally to be held in front of the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the capital.

BNP's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is conspiring to foil the protest programme.

At a press briefing at party's Naya Paltan office, he said the party sought permission for holding the rally at Paltan Maidan but was not allowed, which proves that the government wants to seize people's right to protest.

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.

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.

The "LDCs meet today still harbouring insecurities" with fragile economies characterised by structural weaknesses, human asset deficits, marginalisation in trade, wealth generation, technology, connectivity and global decision making, and vulnerabilities to external shocks, she mentioned.

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 must 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."

When innocent

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victimise innocent people and why the government tends to defend such rogue cops.

While these queries require in-depth investigations, one view that is broadly shared is the government stands to lose most when innocents suffer at the hands of law enforcers.

Experts say in many cases police set up people to divert the course of investigation and save the real culprits.

Law enforcers mainly target those who are easy to pick and are not on a strong footing in terms of political connections or money. The victims of this kind are usually beset by insecurity and thus more likely to behave in the way the cops want.

If they fail to follow the dictates of law enforcers or higher authorities, they find themselves implicated in many more cases that are false.

Immediately after release from jail in 2005, Partha told this correspondent how police and intelligence officials had tried to lure him into making confessions. They said he would be paid any sums and sent to any country he wanted.

"Otherwise, they threatened, they will bury me alive," Partha said narrating the harrowing experience.

Some analysts say when policemen make mistakes during operations, they get so desperate to cover up those mistakes that they make up stories and stand by those.

Not only that, they fabricate different charges against their victim to show how notorious a criminal he is.

In these cases, the high-ups usually defend their colleagues to save face of the force. And the culprit

The PM said LDCs acknowledge that development is their own responsibility. Although they've done quite well with domestic resource mobilisation, institutional improvements and development planning in the last decade, sufficient productive capacity has not been added, and nor has the expected human resource development taken place.

"And that is largely because of shortfalls in the commitments of the development partners," Hasina asserted.

LDCs continue to suffer from global inequity, falling commodity prices, increasing price of high end manufactures and services, unaffordable energy and technology, poor return of foreign investments, and climate change, she noted.

The PM said that in an ever-increasingly globalised world, mankind's "common goal of world peace, security and progress" is attainable only through global cooperation.

The development partners have a clear responsibility towards the LDCs' development. Much could have been achieved if most of them had kept their commitments made most recently in the Brussels' Programme of Action for LDCs, she argued.

"It is unfortunate that some of the partners have not been able to measure up to our expectations. Some are not forthcoming. They point out their difficulty for additional commitments to the recent global financial meltdown. This meltdown has also affected LDCs' efforts to reduce poverty, enhance economic growth and attain the MDGs," she said.

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 terms of reduction in official development assistance, investment, export earnings, remittances, tourism, and spiralling energy and food prices, she said.

Food security is central to the needs of the LDCs, she said. Food productivity, affordability, and accessibility are of great concern, calling for greater investment in agriculture and facilitation of technology transfer from developed countries to the LDCs.

The adverse effects of climate change are experienced worldwide, and never more so than among the LDCs, she mentioned.

"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. 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 for the realisation of commitments made under the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the crafting of something more than a simple review conference as has been the case in recent years.

Bangladesh Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (Rtd) A K Khandakar and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, among others, were present.

Anisuzzman

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manipulating the share market due to their failure.

The government has yet to take any action against those officials.

After publishing the full report on April 30, Finance Minister AMA Muhith announced that a number of steps would be taken within a couple of days, including appointment of a new chairman.

However, there is no development regarding appointing new chairman. But the Banking Division had been continuously forcing the top SEC members to resign, despite there are no allegations against them in the probe report.

A high official of the Banking Division had asked the two SEC members to submit their resignation letter to the government on May 3, but they did not resign, the SEC source said.

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.

UN leader mourns Bolivia plane crash

AFP, Istanbul

UN chief Ban Ki-moon spoke of his distress yesterday over the death of four anti-drug officials and two Bolivian military pilots in a plane crash in Bolivia.

The secretary general voiced his great sadness on learning of the accident, a spokesman said.

"Their dedication to the fight against narcotic drugs will be a lasting legacy and is an inspiration to us all," said Ban, who is currently in Istanbul ahead of a conference starting Monday.

The four officials worked for the the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), which also expressed its sorrow over the deaths.

Pope's gondola ride kicks up unholy row

AFP, Venice

Pope Benedict XVI was rowed across Venice's spectacular Grand Canal in a luxury gondola on Sunday, with his four "gondoliers" fighting off fierce competition for the honour.

The days leading up to the 84-year-old pope's visit have been fraught ones for the gondolier community, with one rower even invoking a vision of Catholic saint Padre Pio in his bid for a coveted spot on the gondola.

"I've had enough. It's a shame the pope can't row the gondola himself, otherwise I would have given him an oar and he could have gone himself," Aldo Reato, head of the gondoliers, huffed earlier in local daily Il Gazzettino.