

The military-industrial complex Eisenhower warned about

Did it try to take down the US president?



ERESH OMAR JAMAL

WHILE most of the western mainstream media was shocked by Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 US Presidential Elections, the same can't be said about all media outlets or pundits. Although, to be fair, it was a difficult

call because of the reluctance of Americans to admit to pollsters that they would vote for Trump, given the media's demonisation of Trump.

One reason for Trump's victory was, many Americans who would have voted for Bernie Sanders eventually voted for Trump, having seen leaked documents and e-mails published by WikiLeaks which showed that the Democratic nomination was taken away from Sanders. Later, the former Interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee



PHOTO: JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

US President Donald Trump (Centre), Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan (Right) and Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt (Left) attend a Cabinet meeting during the partial US government shutdown at the White House in Washington on January 2, 2019.

This, however, was one of the very few times that the mainstream media admitted or reported on this. Neither did it report on how Sanders was attacked from within his own party, with Clinton's campaign chair John Podesta saying, "stick the knife in[to Sanders]", and one Democratic PR strategist replying, "Bernie needs to be ground to a pulp... Crush him as hard as you can." But, then again, reporting on it would have been an embarrassment for the media.

This is an old tactic often used by western intelligence agencies that merged with—and had, in fact, taken over—the military-industrial complex President Eisenhower warned about, as evidenced by the now-exposed CIA's Operation Mockingbird programme and others, and by Dr Udo Ulfkotte, former assistant editor for German daily newspaper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, among other top western journalists. What these and the recent "Integrity Initiative leaks"—alleging that British intelligence used the British media to create damaging narratives against Russia—by the global hacktivist group Anonymous shows, according to legendary journalist and

filmmaker John Pilger, is that the media, "never more so than now", is "an appendage of [the] established power" that is the military-industrial-intelligence complex—often referred to as the "Deep State".

Like WikiLeaks was proven correct about Sanders being taken down by this Deep State—or permanent state, comprising of members from influential segments of society who always stay in power—it seems that Trump too is now being proven right about its attempt to depose him. In an article for the late great Robert Parry's (best known for breaking the CIA's involvement in the Contra cocaine trafficking scandal in the 1980s) Consortium News on February 16, John Kiriakou, who blew the whistle on the CIA's infamous torture programme, wrote: "I was a member of that 'Deep State' throughout my 15 years at the CIA. I can tell you from first-hand experience that the CIA doesn't care who the president is. Neither does the FBI."

Kiriakou, who is not a fan of Trump nor his CIA Director Gina Haspel (also known as "Bloody Gina" for her role in the torture programme that Kiriakou

exposed)—highlighting an interview of former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe with CBS's 60 Minutes, where he had admitted that he and other FBI officials had discussed the possibility of recruiting a cabinet secretary to help push the president out of office using the 25th Amendment of the Constitution—had this to say: "McCabe's almost offhanded comments on '60 Minutes,' that the FBI actively considered deposing a sitting president, should be cause for alarm. Set partisan politics aside for a moment. We're talking about *deposing a sitting president*. We're talking about *wearing a wire* to catch a sitting president saying something because you're angry that he fired your boss. Even the idea of it is unprecedented in American history."

As shocking a revelation as this may be, for those paying attention, this is not the first evidence of attack on Trump by the Deep State that has come out. If we rewind back to how the Mueller investigation began, one may recall that it was started using the false "Steel Dossier" produced by a former British intelligence agent, and paid for by the DNC

and the Clinton campaign, in breach of US law. Moreover, at the centre of recommending the appointment of a Special Prosecutor (Robert Mueller) was (now fired) FBI Agent Peter Strzok, who had previously promised his fellow FBI Agent Lisa Page through text messages that they would "stop" Trump from winning the White House, among other things.

But why would the Deep State go after Trump? Well, one reason is Trump's foreign policy of wanting to withdraw troops from Syria, Afghanistan, etc., and of making peace with North Korea—all extremely damaging for the war profiteers that are also a part of the Deep State. And why is it that the media has joined the Deep State in its attacks? The media is mostly there to push their own ideology (both Left and Right) onto the masses; which is why, they have almost never covered the different evidence (that have not once been credibly refuted, despite being publicly available) that I've mentioned so far.

To put it all into perspective using the words of Julian Assange: "Hillary Clinton unified the establishments... Trump is the anti-establishment candidate. Despite himself being from the wealthy New York real estate establishment, he was not connected in a serious way to the Washington DC political intelligence or diplomatic establishment. So the media were part of that and... acted, in a disgraceful way by constantly making editorial endorsements to their candidate [Clinton]... they were forced to make editorial endorsements for Clinton... otherwise they couldn't publish anything."

What is most interesting about this ongoing battle happening underneath the surface is the massive exodus of personnel from within all the three letter US intelligence agencies (now standing at record numbers), which could imply that Trump is actually winning, at least to some extent for now, against the Deep State. But, as the Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer reminded everyone on MSNBC: "You take on the intelligence community—and they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you." What has become obvious from Trump's presidency is that not everything is as it seems when it comes to matters concerning the Deep State.

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(DNC), Donna Brazile, had to admit in her book, *Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House*, that WikiLeaks was right, and recalled in detail how the Democratic primary was rigged against Sanders—something that Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren also said on CNN on November 2, 2017.

Flirting with disaster



SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

A major portion of my childhood was spent in Farmgate—my paternal grandmother's place. It was a residential area wedged into the corner of a labyrinth breathing with multi-storey buildings, shops, parlours, salons, warehouses, other settlements, and tall electric transformers. If a car were to ply through the narrow streets, a noisy business would ensue. The vendors would have to find space off the road and the pedestrians would stick their backs to the walls to give way to the car. And if another car were to ply through the opposite direction face-to-face, all hell would break loose.

On bright days, the sentinel concrete buildings looming over the locality wouldn't allow much sunlight to settle on the area. And on gloomy days, the area would remain more gunmetal than others.

As for silence, there was none. It was always either the street hawkers shouting or the mechanical hum of the construction tools.

It was as though not only the land, but also the sky and the silence were getting occupied.

However, the residential area where we lived had a small playground to unwind in. Every afternoon, the kids of the area would



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Blooming buildings upon buildings in crammed neighbourhoods will mean nothing in the long run if all are meant to be charred one day.

gather there and play tag, hide-and-seek, and even cricket. I remember how it had been, looking out the window, the patch of land just being there, undisturbed. Since our room faced the patch of empty land, with no building to block the sky, the sunlight would permeate inside with its full glory. Every time before slowly diving into an afternoon nap, I would stare at the pigeons circling about the sky in a rhythmic pattern. Through the window, even the glassy walls of Bashundhara City would be visible.

Now, 10 years later, the area is no more like that. It is now crammed with buildings, a claustrophobic area. Several buildings, eight-storey each, have bloomed where the playground had been. They had to be bloomed. You know, to do justice to the ancestral lands that had been given to the building raisers.

When the construction work was at its rudimentary stage, I was taken by disbelief. How could they, in such a small area, raise these buildings? The children living there now have

no space to play. Those new buildings are so close, one could literally reach the adjacent building by just one little (very little) jump from the respective rooftop railings.

It's as if even the walls have ears now. If a household disharmony takes a distasteful form, the tenants living in the adjacent building will be alarmed without much effort.

Now whenever I visit my grandmother's place, I see those buildings looming large. While staying there, I remain very careful

about the curtains while changing my clothes as even a little opening could expose one to the adjacent windows and eyes. As for the window view from our room, a tall building standing close greets us.

Even on bright days, the landscape remains gunmetal. No sunlight passes through the window anymore. No Bashundhara City is visible, no sky and pigeons too.

In this scenario, the only thought that often pervades my mind is if the place is ready to tackle the consequences should a disaster occur. Could the place prevent any accidents? Could it keep its residents safe? Could it not let a fire spread out in case there was to be a fire incident?

On the 21st of February, the Chawkbazar fire incident brought with it (70 or more) charred bodies, properties and many tales of tragedy. A man died with his son in his arms and wife by his side. They were on their way to a party, on a rickshaw. Two brothers never returned after heading out to buy medicines for their parent(s). One man didn't leave his wife and unborn baby when everything around him was burning and crumbling down. A brother died on the eve of his sister's wedding.

Whatever may be the cause of the fire, it quickly spread out to the adjacent settlements, leaving very little scope for many to escape, thanks to the existence of chemical and perfume warehouses.

Nine years back, a similar incident had happened in Purna Dhaka—the same district. After the incident,

safety issues had been raised, orders had been imposed, only to reincarnate the deadly tragedy. The authorities in charge hadn't paid attention to the probe committee's words. Had they done so, perhaps we wouldn't have to mark February 21 as yet another tragic day.

In the backdrop of the tragedy, all I can think of is a morbid thought: What if, in the future, fire breaks out in localities similar to the one in Farmgate, where my childhood was spent? Would all the dwellers get to evacuate? Or would the fire spread so quickly that some would keep burning while some would keep dying slowly in a stampede?

Op-eds on this topic will come and go. They will make us feel enraged about the system. But we don't need "only" the anger.

We also need proper engineering and stricter laws to ensure safety. We need space instead of claustrophobic neighbourhoods. We need actions instead of press briefings. We need implementation instead of mere implication.

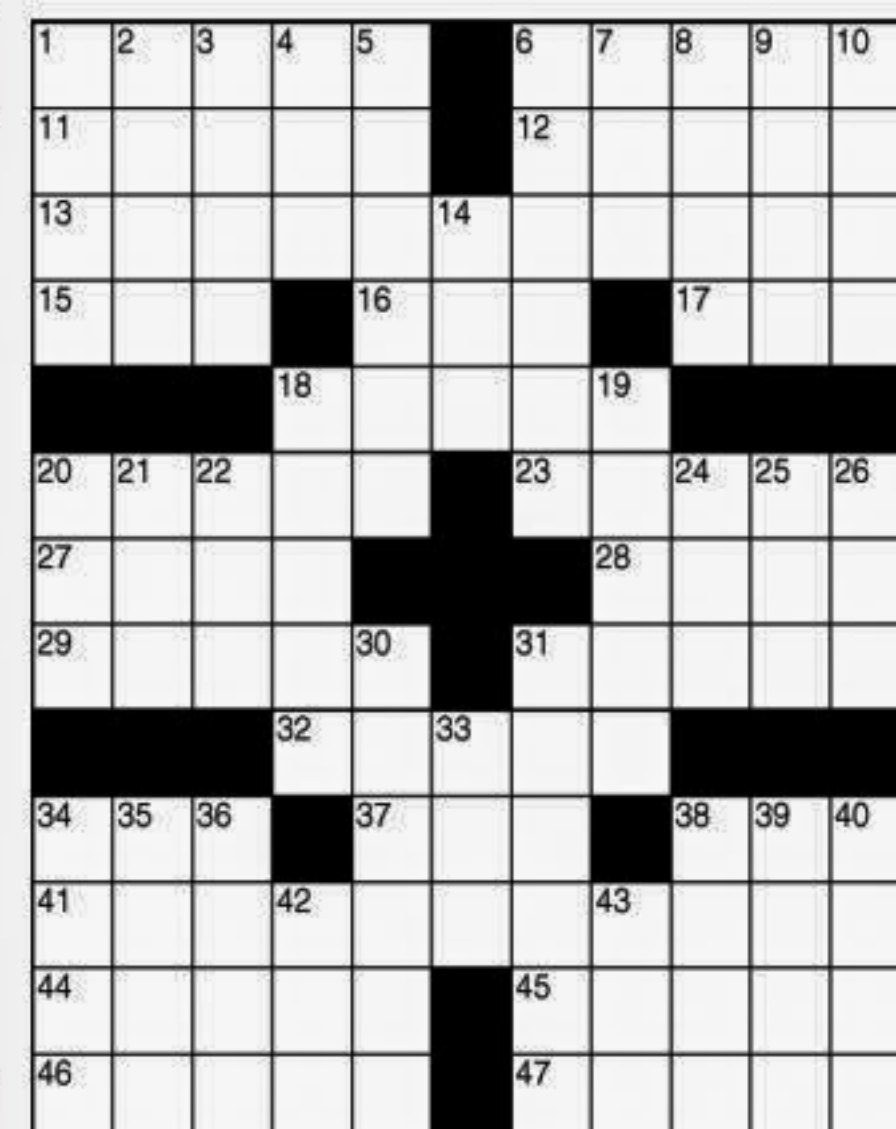
Blooming buildings upon buildings in crammed neighbourhoods and renting them to tenants will mean nothing in the long run if all are meant to be charred one day, 10 years later or 20.

Dear authorities, let's not flirt with disaster anymore. The city is already thick with red flags. Look around, uproot them.

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CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 31 Penalized | 3 Tarragon or thyme | 24 Dapper fellow |
| 1 Grill waste | 32 Bona fide | 4 Corn spike | 25 Firefighting tool |
| 6 Game piece | 34 "Modern Family" network | 5 Record needle | 26 Pot cover |
| 11 Traction aid | | 6 Petty | 30 Little devils |
| 12 Renounce | | 7 Cereal bit | 31 Some exams |
| 13 Hogwarts student | | 8 Flying toy | 33 Ring feature |
| 15 Flow out | | 9 Divisible by two | 34 Says further |
| 16 High tennis hit | | 10 Bully's target | 35 Rotten kid |
| 17 Finish | | 14 Cork sound | 36 Arrived |
| 18 Eye opening | | 18 Screen dot | 38 Miles off |
| 20 Eiffel Tower setting | | 19 Put a cap on | 39 Place to put in |
| 23 Kind of wave or basin | | 20 Skillet | 40 Peepers |
| 27 TV's Trebek | DOWN | 1 Dull pain | 42 Force member |
| 28 Long skirt | 1 Dull pain | 2 Thick cut | 22 King, in Latin |
| 29 Vetted | | | |



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER



CELEBRATION OF AIT DAY

Asian Institute of Technology-Bangladesh Chapter
(AITAA-B) has taken initiative to celebrate AIT DAY during 10-11 March, 2019. President of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand Dr. Eden Y Woon, deans of three schools and other dignitaries will be present on the occasion. All Bangladeshi Alumni of Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand are cordially invited to participate in this momentous event. Registration to be done on or before 03/03/2019 contacting any one of the following addresses.

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