



Red ant motherchod meet starfish nation



...for here there be unfinished business

Everyone simply “knows” that other countries had a hand in the 1975 military coup that assassinated Bangladesh’s independence leader Sheikh Mujib. The absence of this would be news. It’s what they do

Last time there was a democratic change of government in 2001, the new Foreign Minister was asked if they would push for new trials for the 1975 assassinations. Get to the bottom of it once and for all, find out which external (always unnamed) country’s intelligence agency had a hand in the coup. “We’re a successive government, but not a revolutionary government. This question has to be addressed to the nation.”

One morning I sat at the mass graves for Mujib’s family, killed in the same lightning raid. Ants crawled on stone, dried husks turned into soldiers and an orange peel refused to cooperate. I sat there and made a list of all the phrases I had highlighted in Lawrence Lifschultz’s research on 1975:

- No comment
- Embassy spokesperson
- Station chief
- deep throat
- two Congressional Committees
- illegal covert actions
- Agency
- so-called
- diplomatic and intelligence bureaucracies
- illegal clandestine action
- tip of the iceberg
- South Asian monsoon
- aborted

the man who would be King
came to an understanding
stay out of it and disengage
I can’t say whether there was any approach
no Embassy personnel were to have further contact
end run
Let me answer this question theoretically
There have been lapses
referred to himself in the third person
separate channels
extraordinary mixture of allegations and innuendos
question the motives of your informants
coups take place because of the people themselves

After the 75 coup, things went bad very quickly and junior army officers who led the coup were bundled off to Libya, Bangkok and elsewhere. An unnerving coincidence that the plotters all arrived in Tripoli as exiles a year after my father had moved us there for a hospital job. Almost as if we had known the bad times were coming.