

# Keep army in barracks

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Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed and Dr Kamal Hossain. Assisting President Yahya Khan at the talks were General Peerzada, Justice Cornelius and Col. Hasan. As Kamal Hossain would later relate the details of the day's talks, incidents involving the Pakistan army and Bengali civilians the previous day, when a truck carrying soldiers came under attack from the Bengalis, as also Bengali resistance to an unloading of ammunition from MV Swat (a point which the White Paper of the junta in August of the year would make) came up for discussion. It was especially General Yahya who brought up the issue. In a rather agitated voice, the President told the Awami League team that though he had arrived in Dhaka to find a way out of the crisis and had asked the army to exercise restraint, he could not tolerate any hindrances to movements by

troops in the province. Bangabandhu's response to Yahya's outburst was loud and emphatic. He told the junta team that when talks between the two sides were going on, the army ought to have stayed in the barracks. Yahya's answer was that even if the soldiers were confined to the barracks, military supplies had to be maintained. Mujib retorted that it was precisely that kind of movement of soldiers which had provoked the ire of the people and had led to incidents of soldiers firing into the crowds and killing civilians. He mentioned the Joydevpur incident of a few days earlier as an instance and noted that in circumstances where citizens were in a state of agitation, it was not desirable for the army to do anything that could be construed as being provocative. He made it clear that if unarmed people were fired

on, a time would come when those very unarmed people would come by weapons to resist the military. General Yahya Khan, as Kamal Hossain would note, appeared to calm down after Mujib's statement and went back to the issue of a negotiated settlement to the crisis. He described himself as a simple man and added that though he was in principle willing to accept Mujib's demands, his constitutional experts had advised him that a withdrawal of martial law before the framing of a constitution would lead to a vacuum. Kamal Hossain's response was swift. He told the President that the question of a constitutional vacuum would not arise if a provisional measure were undertaken for a temporary period. An announcement to this effect could be made by the President. Bangabandhu made the point that if the two sides

were able to reach a deal on the issue, it ought to be for experts to find the ways and means to implement it. It was then agreed that in the evening the President's advisers would meet the Awami League team for more discussions on the subject. President Yahya Khan then made it known that he needed to consult political figures in West Pakistan on the issue, to which Mujib replied that it was purely the President's prerogative as to whom he should talk to. Yahya then proposed that West Pakistani politicians, especially Z.A. Bhutto, be invited to Dhaka. Bangabandhu agreed, but made it a point to let the President know that on his part he would not meet Bhutto in light of the PPP leader's attitude during his visit to Dhaka in January. The President could, of course, speak to the PPP chairman if he so wished.

# Mother shot

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her daughter around 6:00pm. She tussled with them to keep hold of her baby Hridita Mahin Hasan while some pedestrians came forward hearing her (Sajia) cry for help. Sensing danger, the muggers shot at her jaw and fled the scene after snatching a gold bangle from her hand, said the victim while receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Two women rushed her to the hospital, she added. However, the kid was not hurt. Sajia said, she was returning home with her daughter from a hospital at Dhanmondi after meeting a doctor. Father of the kid Nazmul Hasan, former deputy secretary of Dhaka Chamber and Commerce, suspected that the incident was pre-planned and the bike riders came to kidnap his daughter. Dispute with business partners about monetary dealings could lead to the incident, he suspected. Officer-in-Charge of Kolabagan Police Station said no case was filed in this connection.

# Huda in for SC bar polls

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post, but not that of Dhaka district unit president. They also said BNP is desperate to win the SCBA polls, as it aims to start an anti-government movement from the court premises. Formation of a separate panel by the expelled leader and his announcement to contest the election had caused much anxiety among the BNP leadership, they added. "The SCBA plays a vital role in the country's politics and BNP cannot afford losing the polls there because of Huda," said a senior BNP leader. However, Huda said he has already dissolved the forum and started working for the pro-BNP panel. The contest will now take place between the panels of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (BSASP) and pro-BNP Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF), which won the last election. About a month back, Tarique Rahman's loyalists, who are close to the BNP chairperson, lobbied for Huda's return to the party. Tarique, senior vice-

chairman of BNP and son of Khaleda, was requested by some leaders for a rethink of his stance on Huda. He in turn requested his mother to consider the matter in the greater interest of the party, sources close to Tarique, who is now in London, told The Daily Star. Huda was expelled for "breaching party discipline" and "making anti-party comments" to the media. He had slammed the BNP chairperson's counsels by saying that Khaleda was "evicted" from the cantonment house due to her lawyers' mistake and that calling a hartal a few days before Eid-ul-Azha was wrong. Huda blamed the conspiracy of the "Noakhali clique" within BNP for his expulsion. A few months back, he came to limelight by saying Bangabandhu came in his dream. He said he told Khaleda again at last week's meeting that her counsels did a great mistake of not seeking a stay order from the High Court about her "eviction". "I also told her that enforcing a countrywide hartal just two days before Eid-ul-Azha was wrong," he added. He said he can't be

expelled for the comments. "A section of senior leaders in the party instigated Madam to expel me," he told The Daily Star. "They won't be happy with my comeback." At the meeting, the BNP chief also asked Huda to consult her before making any statement to the media about anything sensitive. Huda became the party's standing committee member when Ziaur Rahman formed BNP in 1978. But he was stripped of the post after Khaleda took charge of the party. He was made vice-chairman in March 2010. He was also holding the post of Dhaka unit BNP president. After BNP assumed office in 1991, Huda held the information ministry portfolio but had to step down for supporting the caretaker government system against the party line. In 2004, addressing a rally of Islami Chhatra Shibir, he said Jamaat did not commit any crime demanding territorial integrity of Pakistan in 1971. Joint forces arrested Huda in February 2007 on charges of anti-state activities, sabotage and corruption. He was released after over two years' imprisonment.

# 15 project proposals

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March 16. With the aim to strengthen regional cooperation between the two sides, an agreement on the \$1 billion credit line was signed in Dhaka in presence of Finance Minister AMA Muhith and his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee in August last year. Though 20 projects were taken under the \$1 billion credit line, proposals for five projects have not yet been sent as the related documents are not completed yet, say officials of the Economic Relation Division (ERD). Replying to a query as to why the proposals are being sent to India again after the treaty was signed, ERD Secretary Mosharraf


Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star the practice is followed in case of all bilateral and multilateral agreements. Mosharraf said proposals have to be sent to multilateral agencies at every stage of credit disbursement. The rate of interest for Indian credit is 1.75 percent, Bhuiyan said, adding, Indian EXIM Bank will finance the credit at a very low interest rate. The Indian government will give subsidy on the interest rate. As a result, consent of the Indian government is necessary for inclusion of the project loans in the credit line. Of the 20 projects, 10 aim at procurement of various railway equipment including locomotives, tank wag-

ons, brake vans, passenger carriages and inspection cars at a credit of \$343.43 million. Besides, construction of Khulna-Mongla Port rail line including feasibility study at \$175 million, construction of second Bhairab and second Titas bridges with approach rail line at \$120 million, establishment of inland container river port at Ashuganj at \$31.32 million, and modernisation of BSTI at \$9 million are also included in the projects. Another project is for purchasing dredger and other navigation related instruments at \$102 million. Four out of five other projects whose final proposals have not yet been sent are road construction in Akhaura, Burimari and other

areas. Another project is for procurement of double-decker buses. As per the conditions of the credit line, 85 percent of the equipment or work will be supplied or done by the Indians. In that case, there is a question in the line ministries as to how much viable the work would be if the road construction is done by the Indians. In January last year, Bangladesh and India signed a joint communiqué on strengthening regional cooperation including transit-transshipment. The projects taken under the Indian credit line are aimed at easing communications with infrastructures among Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan.

## Invitation to Bid

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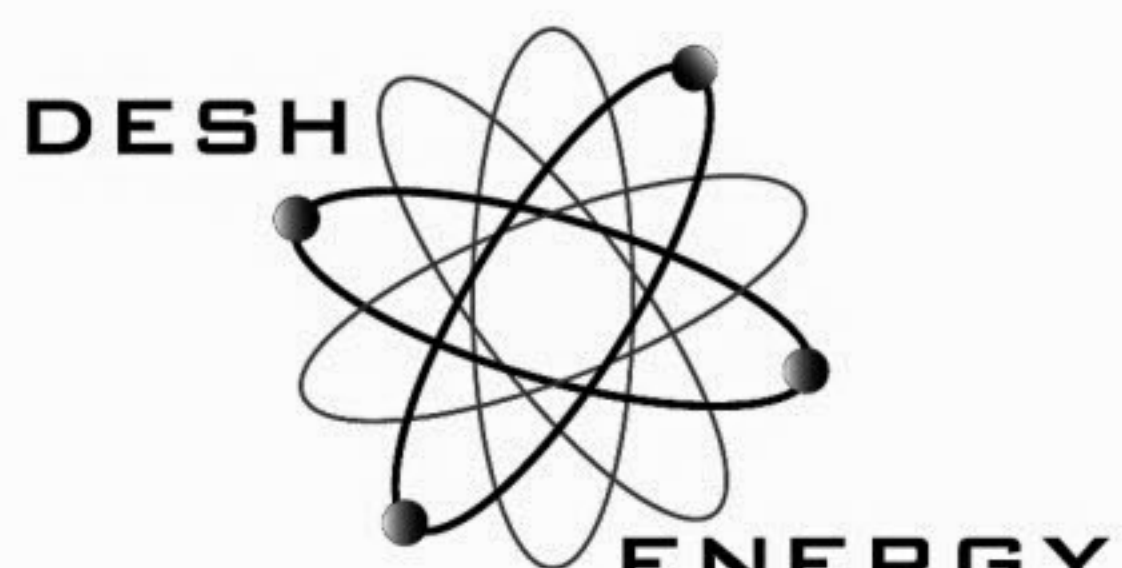


The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed Bid from interested manufacturers, authorized distributors, agents and dealers for the procurement of 75 units of Motorcycles.



The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations and only the successful offeror will be contacted.



All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (ITB) applying to the email address of: [javed.noman@undp.org](mailto:javed.noman@undp.org)




Bid must be submitted before **14.30PM on 07 April 2011** to Procurement Cluster, IDB Bhaban (12<sup>th</sup> Floor), Sher- e-Bangal Nagar, Dhaka-1207.



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