



PHOTO: AFP

Two men with fingers painted in colours of the Syrian flag show the V-sign as they pose in front of a huge image of President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday during a rally by thousands supporters for their leader who is facing unprecedented domestic pressure.

# Syria's President Assad vows to defeat 'plot'

*Pledges no major reform, emergency law to stay*

AFP, Damascus

President Bashar al-Assad yesterday blamed conspirators for unrest sweeping Syria but failed to lift emergency rule or offer other concessions in his first speech since pro-reform protests erupted two weeks ago.

In a highly anticipated address to parliament that lasted almost one hour, Assad warned Syria's "enemies" were targeting its unity.

"We are all for reform. That is the duty of the state. But we are not for strife," Assad said.

"Reform is not a trend," he added. "When the people demand their rights, it is the state's duty to fulfil their demands."

"What we should watch out for is starting reforms under these circumstances right now, this passing wave."

Presidential adviser Buthaina

Shaaban had told AFP on Sunday that Syria had decided to lift emergency rule, which has been in force in the country since 1963, but could not elaborate on the "time frame." Assad is the only one empowered to lift the emergency rule.

Assad, who appeared relaxed and exchanged jokes with parliamentarians, echoed that statement yesterday.

"The measures announced Thursday were not made suddenly," he said. "The emergency law and political parties law have been under study for a year."

"There are more, unannounced reforms ... but giving a timeframe is a logistic matter," Assad added. "When we announce it in such circumstances, it is difficult to meet that deadline."

Assad, who succeeded his father Hafez al-Assad in 2000, has come under unprecedented domestic pressure over

the past two weeks, with protesters defying emergency rule in public protests, emboldened by uprisings in the Arab world.

Assad, who warned Syria was going through a "test of unity," said his country's enemies had taken advantage of the needs of the people to incite strife in Syria, a regional foe of Washington's ally Israel.

"I know that the Syrian people have been awaiting this speech since last week, but I was waiting to get the full picture... to avoid giving an emotional address that would put the people at ease but have no real effect, at a time when our enemies are targeting Syria," said the 45-year-old leader.

"This conspiracy is different in shape and timing from what is going on in the Arab world," he added. "Syria is not isolated from the region... but we are not a copy of other countries."

## Terrorism acquired new dimensions

*Says Indian PM*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said the threat of terrorism has acquired new dimensions as the new generation of terrorists possesses far greater capability to create networks for sharing knowledge, skills and resources.

"Today, the threat of terrorism has acquired new dimensions. Today's terrorism recognises no borders and transcends geographical limits and constraints. The new generation of terrorists possesses far greater capability to create networks for sharing knowledge, skills and resources. They have acquired State-like military capabilities in many of their fighting strategies and tactics", he said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function to mark the raising day of India's elite Special Protection Group (SPG) which was set up to guard the VVIPs after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in October, 1984.

Singh said "the number of important dignitaries at risk from terrorists has also been rising and this is a cause for major concern for governments across the globe. India is no exception, particularly since we have been fighting cross border terrorism for almost three decades".

He asked the SPG personnel to "do more to minimise the levels of inconvenience faced by the ordinary citizens."

## 'Bali blast' suspect captured

BBC ONLINE

One of Indonesia's top terror suspects, wanted in connection with the 2002 Bali bombing, has been captured in Pakistan, reports say.

Umar Patek, a suspected member of the militant group Jemaah Islamiah (JI), was detained earlier this year, local and foreign intelligence sources say.

Jakarta is sending a team of police officers to confirm his identity.

The 2002 attacks on nightclubs in the Indonesian tourist hub left 202 people dead, many of them foreigners.

The US, which lost seven nationals in the attack, was offering a \$1m (£625,000) reward for his arrest.

## China 'to overtake US on science' in two years

AFP, London

China has shot to second place in the number of articles published in international science magazines and in a few years will take the top spot from the United States, according to a new report.

"China has already overtaken the UK as the second leading producer of research publications, but some time before 2020 it is expected to surpass the USA," said the report by the Royal Society in London.

While the top 10 is still dominated by the major Western powers, their share of research papers published is falling, the report said.

And as well as China, Brazil and India are coming up fast.

"The USA leads the world in research, producing 20 percent of the world's authorship of research papers, dominating world university league tables, and investing nearly \$400 billion per year in public and

private research and development," said the report released Monday.

"The UK, Japan, Germany and France each also command strong positions in the global league tables, producing high quality publications and attracting researchers to their world class universities and research institutes," it added.

But while these five countries alone produced 59 percent of all spending on science globally, their dominant position was nevertheless slipping.

China shot up from sixth place in the period 1999-2003 (4.4 percent of the total) to second place behind the United States with 10.2 percent over the years 2004-08, overtaking Japan.

While the United States remained in the top spot, it saw its share shrink from 26.4 percent to 21.2 percent.

Britain remained third with its share at 6.5 percent, down from 7.1 percent.

## UN chief urges end to peace talks deadlock

AFP, Jerusalem

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for intensified efforts to break the impasse in Israel-Palestinian peace talks, saying resolution of the conflict is "long overdue."

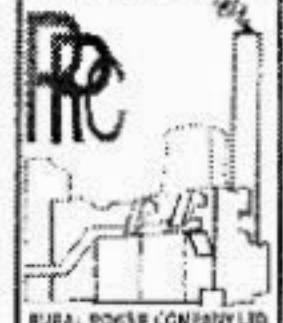
"We must intensify efforts to break the deadlock," he said in an address to Latin American and Caribbean delegates in Uruguay, the text of which was released by the UN spokesman in Jerusalem yesterday.

"The status quo is untenable, particularly at a time when so many throughout the region are pursuing freedom and dignity through non-violence -- a re-awakening also being felt among the Palestinians."

Direct talks resumed at the beginning of September with the aim of securing a peace deal within a year but collapsed just weeks later after the expiry of an Israeli ban on new settlement construction in the occupied West Bank.

President Mahmud Abbas has refused to return to the negotiating table while Israel continues to build on land the Palestinians want for a future state.


Ban said settlement construction was illegal and must stop, and he criticised Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem and the forced transfer of residents there.



### NOTICE AND INVITATION

## RURAL POWER COMPANY LIMITED

[ON BEHALF OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD]



NOTICE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENT FOR SELECTION OF THE PROJECT SPONSOR FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 10-50 (±10%) MW HFO FIRED POWER PROJECTS AT MYMENSINGH, MUNSHIGANJ, MANIKGANJ AND DHAKA ON A BUILD, OWN AND OPERATE (BOO) BASIS.

Ref. No. : RPCL/4.011/2011/ 721 Date: 30.03.2011

Having been authorized by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ("GOB"), the Rural Power Company Ltd. (RPCL) on behalf of Rural Electrification Board (REB) intends to select potential sponsors (the "Project Sponsor") to develop a 10 (±10%) MW HFO fired Power Plant at Mushulli Noyapara, Nandail, Mymensingh and three 50 (±10%) MW HFO Fired Power Plants at Kamlaghat Bazar, Munshiganj, Fordnagar, Singair, Manikganj and Daulatpur, Nababganj, Dhaka (the "Project") on the site those will be owned by REB/PBS. The Project will be implemented on a Build, Own and Operate ("BOO") basis for a period of 15 years.

The Project Sponsor will be selected through a competitive bidding process. RPCL (on behalf of REB) invites Bids (Qualification Statement and Proposal) from local entrepreneurs who are interested to submit Qualification Statement and Proposal (Technical & Commercial, and Tariff) against the Qualification Document and Request for Proposal Document respectively. The selected Project Sponsor will be required to arrange the necessary financing and to execute the key project documents for the Project. **Bidders Qualification Document will be available from March 31, 2011 at the RPCL's website : www.rpcl.org.bd**

The Proposals of those Bidders will be considered for evaluation only who's Qualification Statements demonstrate that they meet the criteria set forth in the Qualification Document. The Qualification Document and Request for Proposal (RFP) Document will be available from RPCL office upon submission of a written application, with payment of a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 50,000 (Fifty thousand) for 10 MW project and Taka 200,000 (two hundred thousand) for 50 MW Power projects. The form of payment for this fee shall be a bank draft/pay order drawn upon a bank in Bangladesh, in favour of Rural Power Company Ltd.

Bidders should submit to RPCL their Qualification Statements and Proposals (Technical & Commercial, and Tariff). The Bidder shall also provide the Bid Security in the form of an irrevocable and unconditional bank guarantee in the format and language as provided in Section-D, Exhibit-I, Attachment I-1 (entitled "Form of Bid Security") of the RFP Document (Volume 1 of 2) payable to RPCL upon presentation to a bank in Bangladesh for a sum of Taka 7 (Seven) million for 10 MW project and Taka 35 (Thirty five) million for each of 50 MW project. The Bid Security will be returned to the Bidders not meeting the criteria as mentioned in the Qualification Document.

The Pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held in RPCL office at 11:00 A.M. Dhaka on April 20, 2011. The deadline for submission of the Proposal is scheduled on May 12, 2011 (the "Bid Date"). Any requests for additional information and/or questions concerning Qualification Document and Request for Proposal Document shall be submitted in the following address in writing not later than 15 Days before the Bid Date.

Completed Qualification Statements and Proposals in one original and two copies (not facsimile or email) along with Bid Security shall be submitted in the following address on or before 12:00 noon (BST) on May 12, 2011:

Company Secretary  
Rural Power Company Limited  
House No. : 19, Road No. : 1B  
Sector No. : 9, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230  
Tel. No.: 880-2-8912274, Fax No.: 880-2-8922526  
Email: rpcedt@dhaka.net

Company Secretary  
Rural Power Company Limited

## Bidder's Enlistment

Grameenphone Limited intends to enlist Bidders to participate in the Bidding for different sale from time to time round the year. Interested parties are invited to apply for enlistment in order to participate in the bidding for the sale of following categories of used items as and where basis:

- Scrap Steel
- Scrap Cables
- IT Equipments & Accessories
- Power & Electrical items
- Air Condition & Accessories
- Scrap Packing materials
- Battery
- Furniture, furniture scrap & Office equipment
- Consumable office items (old news paper & other paper item, toner etc.)
- Used spare parts & other transport items
- Obsolete oil

**Eligibility of Bidder for Enlistment:**

- The interested parties should have up to date valid Trade License, TIN certificate and VAT registration certificate.
- The interested bidders have to buy the application form for each category at an amount of BDT 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) which is nonrefundable.
- The bidders who have Govt. approved Battery recycle plant will be eligible for enlistment under category of Battery.
- The parties who are affiliated under the Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources will be eligible for enlistment under category of obsolete oil or having clearance certificate from the Bureau of Environment for disposal of obsolete oil.
- The enlistment shall remain valid for one year from the date of enlistment.
- The date, time & place to buy application form on April 03, 2011 is between 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm and on April 04, 2011 in between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm (Lunch break 01:00 to 02:00 pm) from Grameenphone Ltd. GPHouse, (Reception area) Bashundhara, Baridhara, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
- The time line and place for submission of application form is by April 07, 2011; 04:00 pm at Dispatch, Grameenphone Ltd. GPHouse, Dispatch (Post Room) Bashundhara, Baridhara, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

The parties shall be selected for enlistment after examination of the required documents/papers and shall be notified via e-mail.

Grameenphone Ltd. reserves the rights to take any decision in relation to this enlistment at any circumstances. Submission of false documents, misleading information and failure to disclose accurate & adequate information including any kind of persuasion shall result in rejection of Bidder's application and cancellation of enlistment. Selecting any applicant for the enlistment as a bidder is the sole discretion of Grameenphone Ltd. and such selection does not guarantee any subsequent award in any bidding. Grameenphone Ltd. does not assure that all the subsequent bidding shall take place in participation of the enlisted bidders only.

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