

Addressing system loss in power sector



A front page article on this very important subject was published in a local English daily on 1st November. It highlighted the ministry's problem for real evaluation and effective solutions of our systems loss problems. This is an important task that needs to be undertaken by professionals in a proper and independent manner. In my view, forming a 'Task Force' locally, may not be the ideal way to go about it objectively. Further, the evaluation will take time and skilled resources, working totally independently and without any subjectivity. Therefore, for carrying out this fairly complex study, I believe that outside professionals may be a better solution.

In USA, most power companies go to EPRI (Electrical Power Research Institute); a US based professional body that is involved in the study and solution of real life problems faced by power generation, transmission and distribution companies. They also work in other countries globally. We may approach them, and find out how they can help us in the matter, as consultants and advisers for finding the problems and recommending and implementing the necessary solutions to come out of this vital issue!

An added advantage is they have many technical experts with them, who are from this sub-continent. This will help in effective interaction with our technical personnel concerned at all levels and much more. Further, payments to them will have to be in US dollars, as they are based in USA.

In this connection, it may be quite possible to line up suitable US aid, loan or grant for such a project. EPRI can be contacted through their website (www.epri.com); and it may be worthwhile to approach them.

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

A ridiculous decision

It has been now over 2 months since the BTRC, at the behest of a government directive, clamped down on the YouTube site, affecting the services of Google in general. In the wake of the violence in Africa spurred by the controversial movie clip, the Bangladesh government understandably adopted a safety-first and politically correct approach.

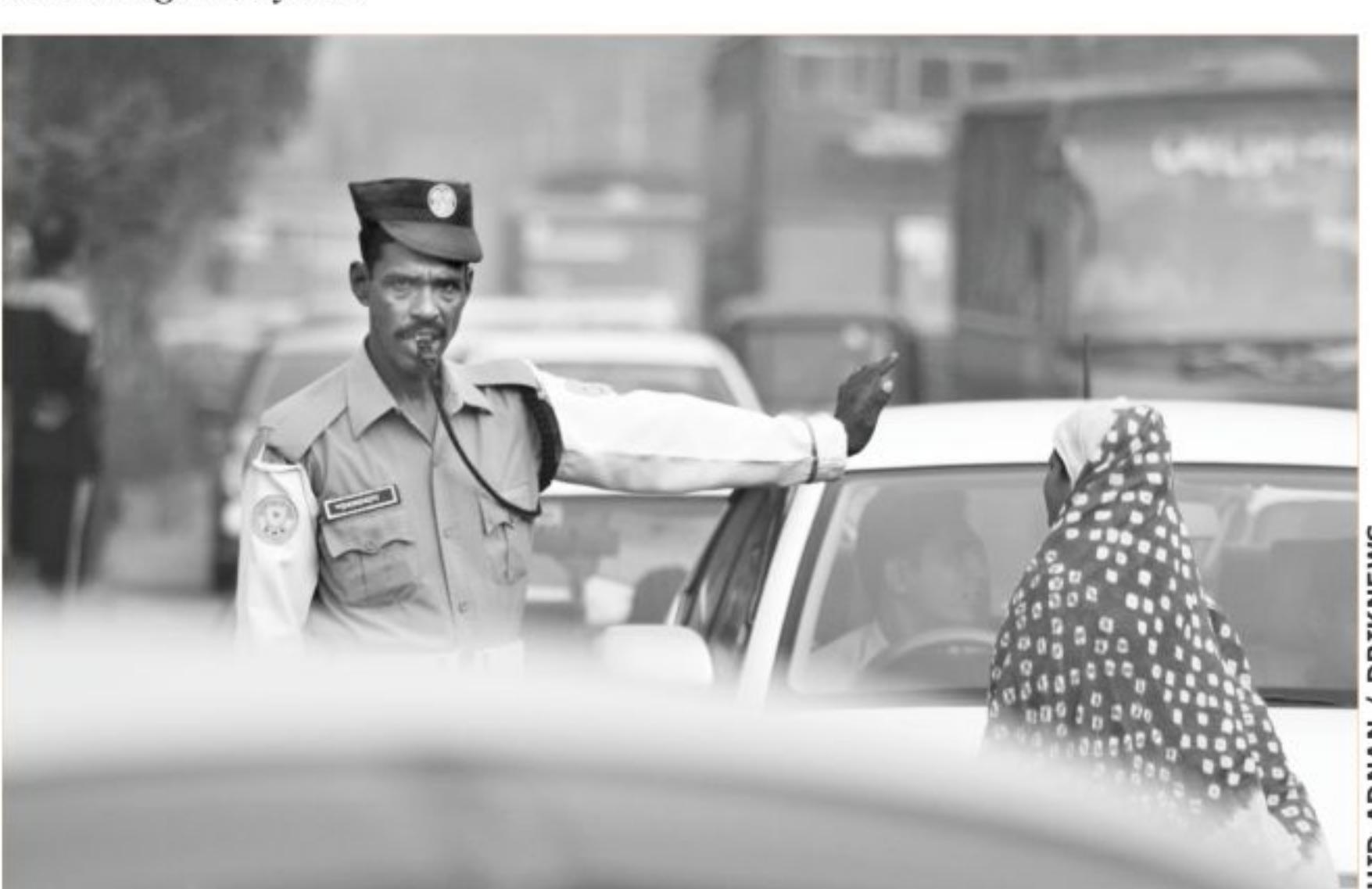
One, however, is bemused at the laid-back attitude of the BTRC in finding an alternative for stakeholders who are critically dependent on the global services of Google. For the BTRC to say that it is merely following government order is not only laughable but an indictment on our telecommunication sector. Despite having an overwhelmingly Muslim majority, countries like Egypt, UAE have not banned YouTube. Surely they have had the same outrage at the movie clip but instead of banning the access, they have worked out ways around it without causing any disruption to services that are globally required. One such way is to localize YouTube for the host country, which allows the host country's regulator to control the contents. Sadly, it is quite apparent that the BTRC is unaware of such arrangements and here we are expecting them to build a Digital Bangladesh!

Reaz Shaheed
DOHS

Exemplary act of a traffic officer

Recently, while returning from school, a traffic officer stopped all cars on both sides of the road. I wondered why he was doing so. He then got four ambulances with emergency cases through to the hospital. I was fascinated, since I never expected the traffic officer to do such a great job. Then I realized that Bangladeshis can be good if they want to. We have heard many cases of honesty from other countries. It's about time we heard such things in our own country. If we fight corruption, work with all our might towards a common goal, only then can we form a beautiful Bangladesh, which the leaders and soldiers who fought for our independence aspired to making.

Ahmed As Sami
Anandani School
Subhanighat, Sylhet



Congratulations, Prof. Yunus!

I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to Nobel laureate Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus on his taking charge as the Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University (CGU), Scotland. This appointment of Prof. Yunus is not only a recognition of Bangladeshi talents but it has also brought great honour for Bangladesh. The CGU also deserves appreciation for installing the right person at the right place.

I sincerely wish Prof. Yunus golden success and good health.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

What have we achieved after independence?

At the time of independence, Bangladesh had a population of 7.5 million which now stands at around 160 million, which suggests that about 100 million people were born after the emergence of Bangladesh. This larger section of the population has acquired knowledge about the pre-independence period through hearing and history recorded by different individuals.

Bangladesh achieved independence with the sacrifice of 3 million lives. Now more than 40 years into independence, has Bangladesh been able to establish itself as an exploitation free society? On the contrary, the level of exploitation and deprivation has increased by leaps and bounds.

Bangladesh has rather emerged as a nation that can be termed as a nation of schemes and scams. The recent bank scandal and involvement of politicians in unfair activities, as reported in different print and electronic media speaks volumes for that. The cause for which 3 million people sacrificed their lives is yet to be achieved. Phantoms of the West Pakistani rulers are still haunting the people in different forms.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas, USA

Security of Megh a big concern

It is shocking that all the electronic and print media in the country are widely showing the face of Megh, the only son of the late journalist couple Sagor-Runi. He is unquestionably the most important witness in the case and it is also obvious that he is now a target of the criminal gang who killed his parents. With this letter in your daily I am requesting the media not to show the child's face anymore for security reason and the law enforcement agencies should provide security to him until the murderers and their whole network are caught and punished. Thankfully he is still a child and his facial features will change with his age.

Mufassil Islam
Human Rights Advocate

Suffering of Eid holidaymakers

Journey during Eid festival has become another name of public sufferings. Though there is no accurate statistics but it is estimated that about 50 lakh people move out of the capital during Eid. So it is impossible to make the journey of this huge population smooth without proper plans.

After facing a chaotic condition during one Eid, we expect that the government will plan for improving the situation and we would travel comfortably in the next Eid. But the reality is quite to the contrary.

We have been observing that the government speaks a lot but actually does nothing in this regard. The country's transport service has grown mostly in the private sector. Unfortunately, public sector transport service has been held a hostage in the hands of some bad regulators, operators and law enforcers.

According to an article published in this daily recently, around 1.5 lakh people travel to the southern districts every day from Sadarghat river port during the week prior to the Eid day. So, nearly 200 registered launches have to carry passengers with an increased number of trips during this time. The railway carries three lakh passengers



from the capital to different destinations during three days ahead of the Eid day. But an unspecified number of aspiring passengers do not get the rail service.

So it is clear that there are still ample avenues to increase capacities of water transports and railways and even public sector transport services. We firmly hope that the government will be sincere on this issue and plan on the basis of accurate statistics for easing public sufferings during this time.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Let's love our language and culture

There are a number of cable TV channels in a small country like ours. We sit before the TV set hoping to see our own culture flourish. But if the opposite happens, it hurts us.

Recently, a new satellite Bangla channel started its test transmission. It now telecasts its inaugural ceremony round the clock where we see many celebrities of the big screen as well as TV stars of our country are performing. What is unfortunate is that they are doing it in ecstasy with the background music of a Bollywood movie! My question to them is, couldn't they find any song in our own language that would be graceful to perform with? Surely there are many beautiful songs in Bangla to make a choice from.

I noticed during Eid shopping that there were loudspeakers blaring during the entire day with Indian and Pakistani songs, but nobody seemed to care!

The women of the country have long been criticised for welcoming alien culture at our home watching daily soap operas. But aren't we all responsible? On our national days, it seems that our love for the country, culture and language flows in every vein of our body. But after that we all get back on the same alien ship! Let's love our own language and culture, not just on 21st February but always.

Md. Ahsanul Kabir Palash
Department of Marketing

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "BNP's India politics at a crossroads"

Deep Purple Blue

BNP will lose much of its popularity if it renounces its anti-India policy.

Ali

We must not forget that India so far has not ratified and honoured any of the treaties or promises with Bangladesh. So when they suddenly give us a special treatment, we have to understand the motive behind it.

Mizan

I think neither anti-India nor pro-India policy is favourable to our national interest. So, any party, regardless of its own interest, should behave with India in a way so that our national interest can be secured.

Shah Deeldar

It is up to BNP... how they want to play the game. Hardliners have very little choices. Go forward with the prudent neighbourly policies or be prepared to be treated as pariah with very little communication and trade.

Farid Hossain

We should have our independent foreign policy towards India as well as all other countries on the basis of mutual interest.

Sharier Rahman

BNP's friendly approach towards India is commendable. India has directly or indirectly been trying to control our life since independence and it continued killing our innocent poor people on borders. Their unfriendly attitude towards us should stop.

Niloufar Sarker

Our experience with India is that they sheltered millions of our refugees during our War of Independence. They allowed our freedom fighters to operate from their soil and fought against Pakistan alongside our people to liberate us. India was our friend in need.

Sengupta, Canada

BNP's hardliners must admit that their politics is not for confrontation and BNP must work out a plan to improve its relation with India.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

In present geo-political circumstances, anti-India politics would not prove conducive for BNP to ascend to power. At last they realised.

Dr. Iftikhar-ul-Awwal

Khaleda Zia's recent visit to India drew a lot of attention and controversy in the print and electronic media, both in India and Bangladesh. This was because BNP always considered India a threat to Bangladesh's economic and political well-being and its sovereignty.

This perception about India has not changed because of its antagonistic attitude towards Bangladesh's major problem areas such as land boundaries, border killings, sharing waters of common rivers, issues of trade and investment, etc. India is also trying to build dams which would adversely affect our physical environment and soil. Most of these problems could be settled but we are being duped by India over the years.

By keeping the irritants alive, India perhaps wanted to have transit from Bangladesh, use our ports, etc. Even the AL government failed to get for Bangladesh any substantial deal like that of Teesta or a confirmation of a no-fire-zone in the border belts. A democratic party like BNP has to take a practical approach to