

Bhutto's telegram

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their regular activities but non-cooperation would be extended for mobilisation of forces or for materials which might be utilised for repression of the people.

The execution of flood control, town protection and water development works were permitted to carry on. It was also directed that interest-free loans be distributed in cyclone-affected areas.

US DIPLOMATIC CABLE

In accordance with Bangabandhu's request for a political solution, the American consul general in Dhaka sent the following assessment to the US Embassy in Pakistan and the State Department on March 11, 1971: "In our view the political crisis has moved well beyond the LFO and National Assembly discussion of a Six Point Constitution. The election result itself doomed this possibility by, first of all, affording the Awami League the unexpected majority by which to ram through a constitution of its making and, secondly, by cutting Bhutto out of any role greater than Chief Minister of Punjab or leader of the opposition in the National Assembly. What is needed now is a solution which will give something to Bhutto, something to Mujib, something to Yahya and the Army, still preserve at least a vestige of the unity of Pakistan, and hopefully buy time for a cooling of passion."

The EXDIS telegram by Blood suggested "Confederation" as a possible arrangement under which Bhutto could become prime minister of West Pakistan, Bangabandhu the prime minister of Bangladesh (Blood wrote that East Pakistan had become a term for geographers) and Yahya the president of the Confederation of Pakistan. He further suggested that

the Pakistan armed forces could, as before, draw sustenance from both wings and be stationed in both wings.

The state department replied that the endorsement of a political solution could readily be construed by Yahya as support for East Pakistan's separation. They further commented that Yahya's visit to Dhaka provided the best opportunity to salvage the union of the two wings of Pakistan. The state department chose to maintain its posture of non-involvement. [Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, UPL, 2006, pp. 186-87]

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT CONTINUES

The non-cooperation movement was gaining momentum day by day. East Pakistan was literally run under the direct orders of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan said in a press conference today that during his weeklong stay in East Pakistan he did not see the Pakistani flag anywhere except the martial law office in Kurmitola.

On the premises of Bindubashini High School in Tangail, National Awami Party leader Maulana Bhashani at a mass rally said Bangabandhu is the leader of seven crore people and asked the people to follow his instructions.

Swadhin Bangladesh Kendrio Chattro Sangram Parishad, led by Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, Abdul Quddus Makhani, ASM Abdur Rab and Shahjahan Siraj, urged people to renounce all titles and medal awarded by the Pakistani government. They also called upon people not to provide any support in the movement of military convoys across the country.

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India keen on cross-border

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Shringla, a former Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, said he it conventional sources, hydropower, solar, wind or even petroleum products, India was taking the lead to promote a regional approach to its energy needs.

"Being the largest producer and consumer of energy in the region, it is natural for us to be the epicentre for any energy initiative in the region. We have to make energy affordable, accessible and clean," he remarked.

Shringla said energy connectivity is one of the most dynamic sectors of cooperation in Indian's relationship with Bangladesh. "Our cooperation in hydrocarbons' sector is diversifying into the entire value chain of oil and gas sector."

The bilateral hydrocarbon trade stood at \$337.3 million in 2019-20, he said.

He mentioned that India is constructing the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Siliguri of West Bengal to Parbatipur in Bangladesh for supply of high speed diesel and that Indian energy majors ONGC Videsh Ltd and Oil India Ltd have invested nearly \$24.26 million in two shallow water blocks in Bangladesh.

The prime ministers of India and Bangladesh jointly inaugurated the project to import bulk LPG from Bangladesh in October 2019 in a move that increases bilateral trade and ensures sustained and affordable supply of LPG to the northeastern region of India, which is supplied from Chattogram by Bangladeshi trucks to Tripura, Shringla said.

He said Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is currently undertaking a number of activities in Bangladesh in coordination with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

and Petrobangla, and a joint venture was formed between IOCL and Beximco in June last year to further expand its downstream business in Bangladesh and other countries.

"A proposal for supplying R-LNG through cross-border pipeline and establishment of an LNG terminal are also being explored," the Indian foreign secretary said.

He said South Asian regional cooperation in energy sector can attract higher investments and usher in complementary infrastructure creation for transmission and transit, avoidance of duplication of generation and distribution infrastructure.

The top Indian diplomat said the primary focus of South Asian regional energy cooperation is on electricity. India is currently supplying 1160 MW of power to Bangladesh through two existing interconnections and the two countries are in discussion regarding the construction of a 765kV power interconnection through Katihar in India via Parbatipur of Bangladesh to Bornagar in India. Once constructed, it will reinforce interconnection of grids in the region.

India is assisting Bangladesh through concessional credit in construction of transmission lines as well as power evacuation facilities from the upcoming Rooppur Nuclear Plant, Shringla said.

"To translate our vision of enhanced energy cooperation in the region, the most optimal solution is an integrated regional grid," he added.

The diplomat said there were challenges like inadequate transmission infrastructure, unnecessary duplication, lack of guarantee of power availability and offtake, insufficient coordination among national authorities and technical differences.

One in three women

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showing the impact of the pandemic.

But the health crisis has clearly had a negative impact, she said.

"We know that the situation for many women may have gotten worse," she told AFP, pointing in particular to the some 641 million women and girls over 15 who have faced violence from an intimate partner.

"Women who were already in an abusive situation were trapped in those situations," she said. "All of a sudden they were more isolated and in constant touch with an abusive partner."

At the same time, the added financial pressures and stress of having children at home, among other challenges, risked sparking fresh abuse.

"We know that some of the factors that contribute to exacerbating domestic violence in particular are there," Garcia-Moreno said.

'UNACCEPTABLY HIGH'
Tuesday's report is based on global data from 2000 to 2018.

It follows a first report on the subject in 2013, but Garcia-Moreno said comparisons were complicated due to a shift in methodology and access to far more data for the second report.

What is clear, she said, is that "the rates are unacceptably high and need urgent action".

Abuse by an intimate partner is by far the most common form of violence against women globally, the report said, impacting a full 26 percent of all women and girls over 15.

Six percent of women have meanwhile been sexually assaulted by someone other than their husband or partner, the report found.

Significant stigma around this issue meant the true figure was likely much higher, it said.

One alarming finding was that partner violence often begins very early in life, with almost a quarter of all adolescent 15-19-year-old girls who had been in a relationship subjected to physical or sexual violence by their partner.

"This is a concern, because clearly adolescence and early adulthood are important moments for both health and development and also for the foundations of healthy relationships," Garcia-Moreno said.

While levels of violence against women are "unacceptably high everywhere," there are clear regional differences, she said.

Poorer countries generally have higher levels than wealthier nations, and the region of Oceania counted the highest rates, with up to 51 percent of women aged 15-49 having experienced partner violence in their lifetimes, the report showed.

Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa also saw particularly high levels of such violence, while southern Europe had the lowest rates, at 16 percent.

"This is probably a reflection in some part of women's ability to leave abusive relationships, more access to services, more legal protections," Garcia-Moreno said.

Govt, CNNIC

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bespoke solutions with access to global audiences across TV, digital and social platforms for brands and publishers seeking to grow their business.

It is responsible for the business operations of properties of popular TV channel CNN outside the US. All commercial activities for brands such as CNN International, CNN en Español and CNN Arabic are aligned within the division, according to its LinkedIn account.

Four days after receiving the CNNIC proposal, the commerce ministry wrote to the Prime Minister, seeking approval for signing the deal.

The letter reads that 2021 is an important year for Bangladesh as it is going to celebrate "Mujib Borsho", the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the golden jubilee of the country's independence, this year.

Keeping this in mind, the CNNIC made the proposal to the government for branding Bangladesh, saying it wants to project the country's achievements in business and commerce before the global audience, it mentioned.

Bangladesh is moving forward to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030, and become a higher-middle income country by 2031 and high income country by 2041, it said.

Referring to experts' opinions, the letter, however, pointed out that Bangladesh may lose \$7 billion in export earning a year after it officially graduates to a developing country from a least developed one in 2026 due to withdrawal of duty and quota-free market access to the developed countries.

Besides, the agriculture sector could face challenges due to climate change.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh's capacity and efficiency in commerce and business, and the quality of product and services should be projected before the global community, it pointed out.

The potentials of the country's rapidly growing commerce and industry should be showcased globally through broadcast of promo audio-visuals on CNN this month.

This will help expand businesses on the international market, increase investments, and achieve long-term visions of the country.

Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute under the commerce ministry will coordinate the initiative and financing for it will be arranged from the private sector.

UNSC fails

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of anti-junta protesters at two places in Yangon yesterday, witnesses said, prompting the US Embassy to call for their withdrawal.

More than 100 people were arrested at the two sites.

Police stormed a compound in Yangon housing railway staff and surrounded hundreds of protesters in North Okkalapa district, in another part of the city.

Many of the railway staff are part of a civil disobedience movement that has crippled government business and included strikes at banks, factories and shops since the army ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on February 1.

"We are seeing reports of innocent students and civilians surrounded by security forces in North Okkalapa, as well as arrests," the US Embassy said in a statement.

"We call on those security forces to withdraw from the area, release those detained, and allow people to depart safely."

China, Russia

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States, which have both clocked major wins in space exploration and research in recent years.

The Russian space agency Roscosmos said in a statement that it had signed an agreement with China's National Space Administration (CNSA) to develop a "complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon".

The CNSA, for its part, said that the project was "open to all interested countries and international partners" in what experts said would be China's biggest international space cooperation project to date.

Moscow is seeking to re-take the lead in the space race.

This year, it celebrates the 60th anniversary of Russia's first-ever manned space flight -- it sent Yuri Gagarin into space in April 1961, followed by the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, two years later.

The United States Nasa space agency launched its first manned space flight a month after Russia, in May 1961, sending Alan Shepard up aboard Mercury-Redstone 3.

Why no special

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trains, he added.

Secretaries to the ministries of railways and home affairs, and the director general, manager, and inspector of the railway department were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench asked them to show cause in four weeks.

Mamtaz submitted the petition as public interest litigation on January 13 to the HC seeking its directive on the government to arrange a special compartment for female passengers in every train for ensuring their security and privacy.

Ron Sikder's bail extended until April 11

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The two brothers fled to Bangkok on an air ambulance that left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with government permission to avoid arrest. So, his bail should be cancelled, the prosecution added.

The court rejected the prosecution's plea.

The defence yesterday said that their client was sick and a law-biding man. Ron is a renowned businessman and will never misuse the privilege of bail, the defence said in their petition.

Their client was falsely implicated in the case, the defence also claimed. Their client should be exempted from personal appearance before the court as he is now sick, it added.

After hearing both the sides, the magistrate extended Ron's bail until April 11 and fixed the same date for further hearing on the petition for exempting Ron from personal appearance.

A team of Detective Branch of police arrested Ron soon after he landed at the

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 10:00am on February 12.

Ron returned to Dhaka from Dubai due to the death of his father.

Later in the day, DB Sub-inspector Md Ripon Uddin, also the investigation officer of the case, produced Ron before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ashek Imam.

After a hearing, the magistrate granted Ron ad-interim bail on the grounds that his father died recently and his namaj-e-janaza would be held the next day.

The magistrate also said his bail would remain valid until yesterday.

On May 19 last year, Exim Bank Director Lt Col (ret'd) Serajul Islam filed the case accusing Ron and his brother Dipu of torturing and trying to kill bank's Managing Director Mohammed Haider Ali Miah and Additional Managing Director Mohammad Feroz Hossain.

The two top officials were attacked after they refused to falsely inflate

the value of Sikder brothers' property that would be mortgaged for a loan of Tk 500 crore, according to the case statement.

The brothers also tortured them after confining them to a house in Banani and forced them to sign on a blank piece of paper at gunpoint, reads the case statement.

On May 25 last year, six days after the case was recorded, the two brothers fled to Bangkok on an air ambulance.

The High Court on July 20 that year fined Ron and his brother for seeking anticipatory bail from abroad in the case.

Rejecting their bail petition, an HC virtual bench ordered the siblings to give 5,000 personal protective equipment each as fine to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund in two weeks.

Ron and Dipu were also asked to file a report with the Supreme Court registrar general's office after giving the PPE to the fund.

Minister now questions

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The minister said this after a probe committee found that Hyundai supplied the locomotives with the TA-09 alternators breaching contract. The probe body recommended punitive action against the company.

THE PROBLEM
A BR commissioning committee last year said the technical specifications of four key components – engines, alternators, compressors, and traction motors – of the locomotives did not match the specifications mentioned in the agreement.

The project authorities halted payment for the locomotives and the railways minister in October ordered the probe.

The locomotives have been sitting in a workshop since then.

The probe committee, led by Farukuzzaman, additional secretary (law and land) of the ministry, submitted its report on February 25.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report.

The committee also recommended punitive actions against CCIC Singapore Pte Ltd, which the BR employed for pre-shipment inspection, for failing to carry out its duties.

RAILWAYS MINISTER'S SAY
Citing the probe report, a reporter yesterday asked the railways minister whether they were going to take action against Hyundai.

He said all locomotives in BR's fleet use the TA-09 alternators and the same alternator was going to be used in the

20 locomotives the BR was going to buy soon.

The people involved in the bidding process of the 10 locomotives under discussion selected TA-12 alternators, he said. But the TA-12s are used in broad-gauge locomotives.

However, a project official told The Daily Star that the BR on October 10, 2018, signed another contract with Hyundai Rotem for buying 70 metre-gauge locomotives for Tk 1,986.53 crore. The alternator mentioned in the contract was TA-12.

The minister said there were talks about BR collecting metre-gauge locomotives that could be used on broad-gauge lines later by changing their undercarriages.

"But we did not find any such decision ... If there is any such decision then why would we go for a contract for buying 20 locomotives with [TA-09] alternators," he said.

However, the project director had told the probe committee that as per the railway's masterplan, and an instruction from the prime minister, they were supposed to convert the main lines to dual-gauge lines within four-five years so that more passengers and goods could be carried at higher speeds and safety be improved by operating broad-gauge trains.

"The main purpose of the procurement was to buy metre-gauge locomotives with relatively high-powered capital components, like engines, alternators traction motors, compressors, turbochargers so that metre-gauge trains could be operated

now and later broad-gauge trains could be operated with the same locomotives by just changing the bogies," the probe report said citing the PD.

Despite this, the minister said, "We have formed another technical committee to find out why [TA-] 12 alternators were used [mentioned in the contract], even though [TA-0] 9 alternator is used everywhere. Why [TA-] 12 alternators came up in the contract? [TA-] 12 alternator was not supposed to be in the contract. [TA-0] 9 alternator is supposed to be there."

"So, we are looking into the matter ... The technical committee would see whether the people involved in the preparation of the bid documents had made any mistakes. Where was the fault?"

Citing the probe report, a reporter asked why the BR authorities refused when Hyundai wanted to change the TA-12 alternators with TA-09s even after the signing of the contract, the minister said a project director deals the project on behalf of BR.

The PD was supposed to take advice from his higher authorities and if the PD was at fault, action would be taken as per the committee report, he said.

Contacted, PD Nur Ahmed Hossain said he informed his higher authorities time-to-time about each and every development.

He said the contract and the ADB's guideline mentions what should be done if the contractor violates the contract but a "quarter" was trying to use the "sub-standard" locomotives.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Dhaka Export Processing Zone
Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349.
www.bepza.gov.bd

Ref. No. 03.06.2672.333.18.077.20-3931

Auction Notice

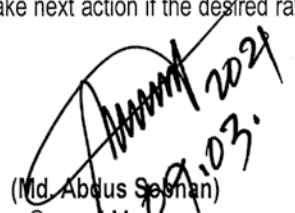
Date: 09-03-2021

Sealed tenders (3RD Time) are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/Companies in order to sell inventoried & Valuated Structure, Machineries & other Materials of a terminated Satellite/Wireless Communication Infrastructure-Data Communication Service provider industry named **M/s. DNS Satcomm Ltd., Plot # 278, Dhaka EPZ (Extension Zone)** "as and where basis" and also to operate the factory as per the terms & conditions stated below:

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Organizations/Persons/Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/ Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to operate the enterprise in Dhaka EPZ by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard.
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty-free imported materials of the industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
- Auction documents attached with a pay order/bank draft from any schedule bank of an amount of 10% as earnest money (refundable) of the total quoted price must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected.
- Structure, Machineries & other Materials under the inventory list may be seen on 24/03/2021 & 25/03/2021 from 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM. Information regarding the visit and the list of materials may be collected by contacting with the General Manger, Dhaka EPZ directly.
- Successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 90% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA if the tender is accepted. Accordingly, the delivery of Structure, Machineries & other Materials will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules.
- Auction Schedule of the company shall be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) within 30/03/2021 during office hours from the Accounts Department of Dhaka-EPZ, Chattogram-EPZ, Adamjee-EPZ & Accounts Department, BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka.
- Auction schedule shall be dropped on 01/04/2021 on or before 12.00 noon into the auction boxes kept at the office of GM (IP), BEPZA, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 6, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka and General Manager, Dhaka-EPZ.
- Submitted Auction/Tender documents will be opened on 01/04/2021 at 3.00 PM at the office of General Manager, Dhaka-EPZ in presence of the bidders (if any).
- Successful bidder will be allowed to operate the industrial unit in the EPZ subject to fulfillment of the project sanctioning procedure of BEPZA.
- Persons/Organizations/Investors who are interested to operate this industry will get priority in auction.

The Authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all of the submitted tenders without showing any reason. The Authority also preserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.


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