

BANGLADESH DOCUMENTS 1971-PART - III

**A PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE TAPE RECORDING OF SOME
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SOME OF THE PAKISTANI ARMY
UNITS OPERATING IN DACCA ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 25, 1971**

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Time of recording : From about 01-30 hours to 09-00 hours

To March 26, 1971, with gaps

That is with them and getting good result; it will take time because of the nature of the area, Over.

77, how do you hear me? Over

Readable. Have you anything for me? Over. Correction. 77, wait karen , unko, .. who Khod call Kareng.

- Control** : 77, wait, Out to you, hallo 99, suggest you keep tuned in because otherwise 26 and others will have to give situation twice. Just stay tuned in, there is nothing fresh yet; reserve Line secured and University area still fighting going on. Out.
- : Wait for Imam
- : For 77, Imam idhar aye hue hain, aur unke sath who jo mera Imam hain who busy hain, is liye abhi main kuch nehin bata sakta hun. Over.
- : Control information mang rehen hain keh keya progress hain, aap patah karke khodhi pass kar den. Over.
- : Wait. Out to you, hallo, 77, Kmam listening, send your message. Over.
- : 77, latest from 88 that he is making progress but there are so many building that he has to reduce each one in firing against him. He is using every thing that he has got. Over.
- : Tell him that his Big Brothers will also be coming shortly. I hope, So these can be utilised for knocking down the buildings. Now, on the other side I think Liaquat and Iqbal is now quite, am I correct? Over.
- : 77, have not heard the completion report but they were much happy about those two. Over.
- Control** : That is jolly good. Now let the boys keep on announcing in the streets about the curfew, that is number one. Number two, they will keep on saying that all Bangladesh flags will be brought down, and any house which has the Bangladesh flag, the owner will be responsible for the consequences. There will be no black flag, and there will be no Bangladesh flag visible anywhere in the city. And if they are not pulled down then the consequences will be really, really severe. This must be made clear to everyone. Roger. Over.
- : 77, Roger. Over.
- : 77, Secondly it must be announced also about the road blocks. Any person

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- seen putting up road blocks will be shot on the spot, number one; number two, road blocks put up in any locality, people from that locality will be prosecuted and will houses left and right, left and right of that block will be demolished. This must be made clear to all and to the people themselves, and this must be announced on the speakers throughout the night till the morning, and also tomorrow morning the whole day. Over.
- : 77, Wilco. Out to you, hallo 41, did you receive from Imam? Over.
- : 41, is Imam listening? Over.
- : 41, from Imam. Number one, all black flags... these flags must be brought down by the owners of various buildings; anyone seen flying these flags will be prosecuted. This should be persecuted (sic) and their building demolished. This should be announced on your public address system. Roger so far. Over.
- : 41, similarly all roadblocks created anywhere will be a criminal offence. Anybody found doing so will be shot on sight. Owners of buildings on either side of a road block will be persecuted (sic) and their building demolished. This should be announced by your roving patrols. Over.
- : 41, out to you, hallo 88, Progress. Over.
- : 88, Imam on set, Send your message. Over.
- : 88, from Imam regarding all Bangladesh flags of black flags, owners of buildings flying these must be warned to remove them at once; otherwise they will be persecuted, correction, prosecuted. Roger so far. Over.
- : 88, Wilco. Anything else? Over.
- : 88, Did your Imam say that you will require approximately three to four hours to complete the task? Over.
- : 88, Yes, approximately three to four hours to thoroughly complete the task. Over.
- Control : 88, Imam is now with Imam 26. If you need further assistance in any manner, you can let him know. Regarding the Bather elements they have started from their safe positions and will be able to help you immediately after first light to help demolish all obstacles in front of you. Over.
- : 88, Thank you so much. Nothing more from my side. Everything is going fine. Over.
- Control : 41, regarding the escape routes west of the railway line, escape routes west of the railway line that is in your area. hope that necessary blocks have come into position so that elements that are facing 26 and 88 in the campus do not pull out westwards. Over.
- : 41, we are very extensively patrolling the area. Every minute we are passing through and we are on the watch. Over.
- Control : 41, Roger. I was certain that you would be in full command. The elements of 26 have also sorted out our friends of the daily people. That should please you. Out.
- Control : Hallo, 99 for 88. Highest Control wants to know as to what type of fire came from the other side. Over.
- : 88 for 99, wait. I call to my Imam and then you will talk to him.

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- : 88 for 99. My Imam listening. Send your message. Over.
- : 99 for 88. Highest Control wants to know as to what type of opposition has been faced in areas Jagannath, Iqbal, and Liaquat. Over.
- : 88 for 99. Initially lot of fire was received from Jagannath and Iqbal Halls. Roger so far. Over.
- : Roger. Over.
- : 88, once we opened with Romeo Romeo; after that we ever heard any fire, but we have disposed off a few. Roger so far. Over.
- : 99 for 88. Roger. Over.
- : 88 for 99. Now I am going to Liaquat Because their set is out of order. I do not know their progress. After checking up that then I will let you know. Over.
- : 99 for 88. Please let us know as to whether there was any automatic fire from other side and was there any grenade etc. thrown. Over.
- : 88 for 99. Lot of 303 fire. We have not heard automatic nor we have heard any grenade. Over.
- : 88. Roger. Out.
- : 26 for 99. Markhor on set, Send your message. Over.
- : 99 for 26. Please let us know as to what all objectives have been captured by now. Over.
- : 99 for 26. Two Thousand captured, then Ramna PS captured, Kamlapur PS captured. TV, Radio under control. Exchange captured. All first phase ya Ali? Over.
- : From our position in Commissioner's office we could see a lot of fire in area Purana Paltan. Is it the Head Office, or some other place? Over.
- : 26 for 99. The area 2000 is on fire. I say again, area 2000 is on fire. Over.
- : 99 for 88. What about people's Daily? Over.
- : 26 for 99. Blasted, I say again, blasted. Our two men seriously wounded are being evacuated to CMH, and two minor injuries. Over.
- : 99 for 26, any approximation of the other side's casualties? Over.
- : 26, no. It's difficult to judge at the moment. Please are at fire or had been completely destroyed. It's not possible at the moment to say anything. Over.
- : 99 for 26. Have you done away with Police Lines also? Over.
- : 26 for 99. Yes I say. Two Thousand. Police Lines on fire. Over.
- : 99 for 26. Good show. Out.
- : 55 Loud and clear. Over.
- : 55 Markhor listening. Send. Over.
- : 55 Send your message. Over.
- : 55 Aapne call kiya tha. Message send karen, Markhor listen kar raha hain. 55 send your message. Over.
- : 55

- : 55. Say again. Over
- : 55.....
- : 26 for 88. Send progress. Over.
- : 55. Roger. Where exactly have these been contacted? Over.
- : 26 for 88. Aapki awaz phat rahi hain aur Jaganath ke bare me progress batayenge Jagannath ke bare me. Over.
- : To report to you.
- : 26 for 88. Roger. Out.
- : 55. I say again. on ourfront there was a road block and we are removing it. and other elements. Over.
- : 55. Jolly good show. Your elements are expected at 26. They will be particularly helpful to 88 who is having some difficulty. Keep coming . Out.
- : 55. Re-net. Yeh aapni netting check karen set ki. Samajh nehi ati aap keya kah rahe. 55. 55, 55, 55. Netting call. Net now. Netting calls ends.
- : 55, 55. How do you hear me? Over.
- : 55, 56..... Over.
- : 55, abhi tak whistle a rahhi hain. Transmitter to do-barah net karo. 55, 55, 55, 55. Here netting call. Net now. Netting ends.
- : 55, How do you hear me? Over.
- : 55.....
- : Roger. Mike ko thora dur rakh kar bola karen. 55, nothing more. Out.
- : Message. Over.
- : 26 for 88, 26 for 88, message. Over.
- : 88 for 26. We are moving....
- : 26 for 88. Report progress of Jagannath, I say again, Jagannath. Over.
- : 88 for 26 My Imam is moving
- : 26 for 88 Roger out.
- : Markhor to Markhor. Over.
- : 16 Wait. Out.
- : What was the casualty suffered by the other side? Over.
- : 16..... four killed.
- : Roger. Have the wounded been given necessary medical aid?
- : EPR hospital. Over.
- : 16. Very good. Out to you, hallo 26, hallo 26, hallo 26, message. Over.
- : 55, Location. Over.
- : 55. Location. Over.
- : 55. I am short of Farm Gate and we are now removing the road blocks with explosion and other materials. We are still at the same place. Over.
- : 55. Roger. Hope nobody has dared to come out against you. Over.

Control :

- : 55. We deployed Cheetah all around. Negative so far. Over.
- : 55. Roger. The dozer and recovery elements with you? over.
- : 55. Yes. The dozer is now moving forward non to the spot to remove..... in strength. and they are also helping us. Over.
- : 55. That's excellent. Keep coming. We are at this original building area. You may try and avoid any unnecessary damage to the roads that can be saved. Out.
- : Over.
- : for 77, 16 for 77. Message. Over.
- : 16, fetch Markhor. Over.
- : 16, fetch Markhor. Over.
- : 16
- : 16, as discussed earlier, the Imam of your original force will carry out the necessary drill and sort out the various categories according to which they will reorganise. Suggest until first light or until the Imam of your host appears you stay put. Over.
- : 16. Wilco. Out.
- : for Imam. Over.
- : Wait. Out.
- : Imam listening. Send your message. Over.
- : 41, Position regarding the Physical Training Institute and the Police stations of your area. Over.
- : 41. Physical Training Institute not thoroughly searched, but we have armed troops posted. There is no Police Station in the area. Over.
- : 41. Thank you. Out.
- : 41. We have a large number of people who have laid a number of road blocks, collected and being used for clearing. Will they be required back to you, or can they be disposed off? Over.
- : 41. That is good use of labour. Suggest you use them for the present and retain them until we get it cleared from Imam. Then accordingly you can either let them off or we will take them away. Over.
- : 41. Roger. Out.
- : 88. Message. Over.
- : 88. Send your message. Over.
- : 88 Jo aapka ek element Romeo Sierra Uniform ke saath hain uske through puchiye keh aya Romeo Sierra Uniform dariya main patrolling kar raha Hain ya nehi. Over.
- : 88. Roger. Over.
- : 88. Out.
- : Just wanted to remind you that your element with Romeo Sierra Uniform should ask them to carry out patrolling in the river boats. Patrol

- the river as discussed by Imam. Over.
- : 88. We have already started that, I say again. we have already started that. Over.
- : 88.... I will extend to him all.....
- : 88. Very good. Keep it up out.
- : Hallo 26. Over.
- : 26. Send. Over.
- : 26. Did you manage to pick up anybody important from the *Daily People*? Over.
- : 26. No. negative. But our troops have gone for some other important persons and we are waiting for their progress. Over.
- Control : 26 Roger. Has the office of Alpha Lima been occupied so far? Over.
- : 26. No. Target has been left for the early morning. Over.
- : 26. Roger. Except that any records and papers might already be burnt or destroyed by the occupants. However, do as you are planning, and you are making excellent progress. Let us know every little thing that happens. Out.
- : Hallo 99, 99. Markhor, Fetch Chota. Over.
- : 99. Wait. Out.
- : Send your message. Over.
- : Out to you, hallo 26, 26, message from 77, Markhor ko inform kare keh Imam ne kaha hai, first light se pahle pahle jetne yeh dead bodies hai who clear ho jani chahye; aur sab concenting ko batah de. Over.
- : 26. Roger. Aap apne Imam ko aur Markhor ko yeh khabar de deh. Out to you, hallo 41, hallo correction, hallo 16, hallo 41, hallo 88, did you receive? Over.
- : 16, Wilco. Out.
- : Out to you, hallo 88, did you receive this message which 41, just now read back? Over.
- : 88, disposed off. Over.
- : 88. Yes, arrange to dispose them, you can use local labour and dispose them off away from the public places. Over.
- : 88. When you can give us an estimate of casualties suffered by other side? Nothing more. Out.
- Control : Out.necessary detachments for the results of these are awaited Suggest you can draft your sit. Rep. On the lines of what has occurred since about 01-00 hours this morning. Over.
- : 99, hallo 99, since 01-00 hours for about half an hour we were not in contact with you, and after that we had to shuttle in between telephone and this place which is quite some distance. So we missed most of the transmission. Over.
- Control : 99, subsequently these were reported to you starting from the from Belal's boys when they "caged the main bird" and subsequently the two telephone

exchanges, the Police station at Ramna, People's Daily, the Reserve lines, then the action that is still continuing in area of university, plus the houses in Gulshan, correction, houses in Dhanmondi, the occupants of which had, were not traceable. Over.

- : About the last transmission, which are the occupants who were not traceable from Dhanmandi?
- : 99, Regarding Tajuddin and Bhuiyan, they were not found at their places, similarly this place the Physical Training Institute which was supposed to have arms has not so far revealed any. Over.
- : Is it the same Physical Institute in Mohammedpur area? Over.
- : 99, yes, So there is nothing at that end yet. We will also take care of the Malkhana and the Lalbagh Fort. But that will follow. So you have most of the gist. Over.
- : 99, we have heard everything from call signs 26 and 88, but what about the other call signs? Over.

Control : 99, 16 had very little resistance in which they killed four and wounded about ten, after that they were in full control of the position (Peelkhana of the East Pakistan Rifles, now Bangladesh Rifles) within about half-an-hour of H- hour. As regards 41, their operation to Tajuddin and Bhuiyan and the Training Institute, they captured some other people, but the main targets had packed up and left much earlier. Apparently they have all panicked and started leaving the city from some time yesterday. So they have blocked all the roads and secured the Second Capital Exchange, and have also set up blocks for and people trying to escape from the campus towards the west across the railway lines Over.

: 99. Roger, Over.

Control : 99. Hope you are comfortable with your hostages. Over.

: 99. I am thinking as to how to feed them now. Over.

Control : 99. It will do them no harm if they don't see food for a while. So they can adopt the same policy that you have been doing for the last so many weeks. Out.

(He is referring here to the policy of non-cooperation followed by Bengalis towards the west Pakistani soldiers during the first three weeks of March. 1971 when food etc. for them had to be air-lifted from West Pakistan, or taken by force locally).

: Wait kare, oh aadmibolane kiliye gaya hai. Wait. Out.

: Markhor dur hainm who nehi a sakte, aap message bata de, hum pass kar denge. Over.

: Message. Over.

: 99. Send. Over.

: 99. Romeo India Alpha Zulu, usko wapis kis location par bhejna hain, Jo bhi vehicle available hain abhi jane wali, us se usko wapis bhejna hain. Over.

: 99. Kownsi set ko wapis bhejnahain? Over.

- : 99. I say again, Lima November Kilo. Romeo India Alpha Zulu, is ko jobhi kowi vehicle aap ki location se wapis ja rahi hain to use udhar bhej de. Over.
- : 99. Ehan se to koyi vehicle janewali nehi hain, bahar haal main confirm karta hun. Agar koyi ho to use bhej denge. Over.
- : 99. Nothing more. Out.
- : koyi nehi aya. Admi bheija hai, unko bolane kiliye. Jab bhi mil jata hai, bola lete hai. Over.
- : 41. Main Imam bol raha hun. Unhe yeh bole keh jo..... kiya jaye. Over.
- : 41. Roger. Over.
- : 41. Roger. Out.
- : 88. Message. Over.
- : 88. Is Imam listening? Over.
- : 88. 41 as you know is in position on the west of the Campus area. If you need any support from him you can mutually coordinate because he feels he can come in from behind onto any resistance still there. Of course, you will have to coordinate your fires. Over.
- : 88. Roger. How far have you got? How much more to go? Over.
- : 88. Quite appreciate your difficulties. How far are you from the railway lines? Can you give me some landmark now that day light is approaching? Over.
- Control : 88. That is most encouraging. Your Markhor can give us any further progress as it happens. Thank you for now. Out to you, hallo 41, did you receive?
- : Wait. Out
- : Hallo 26. Is Markhor listening? Over.
- : Hallo 26, 26, 26 Markhor for Markhor. Over.
- : 26, 26, 26, 26. Over.
- : 77. Can you receive 26? Over.
- : Hallo 99. Fetch Chota on set. Over.
- : 41.....
- : 99. Wait. Out.
- : Imam listening Send your message. Over.
- : 99. Wait. Out.
- : 41. Regarding your last transmission about assisting 88 from the west. I have discussed it with him and he feels that he has more or less finished the job and therefore anyone coming in from the west might complicate matters regarding fire control and so on within own troops. So he suggests that for the present you don't come in Over.
- : 41. Roger. Over.
- : 41. Out to you, hallo, 99, 99. Fetch Chota, Over.

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- : 99. Wait. Wait. Out.
- : Hallo 26, 26, 26, Hallo 26. Over.
- : 26, 26, 26, 26 Hallo 26 Over.
- : 26. Send. Over
- : 26 Markhor to Markhor. Is your Imam's location at the House? At the Papa House? Over.
- : 26. Yes. Over.
- : 26. The Bakhtar element should have got to you by now. There has been a mix-up in that you have got a call sign 16's Cheetah with you and your Cheetah is here with us. I am sending your Cheetah in the same transport to come to us at our location here. Is that understood? Over.
- : 26. Message not understood. Say again. Over.
- : 26. Has the Bakhtar element with the Cheetah escort joined you? Over.
- : Yes. Bakhtar Has joined us. Over.
- : 26. The Cheetah element with this Bakhtar is not your. Your Cheetah element has by mistake come to us here at our present location I am sending them in a transport to join you and you can return the Cheetah element of 16 with.....
- : 26. Wilco. Over.
- : 26. What is the progress regarding the personalities? Over
- : Working in this net please don't disturb others. Out.
- : 99. Send. Over.
- : 99. May I know with whom formation call sign 44 is working? Send it in serial number.
- : Seref call sign 41 hai. 44 koi call sign hamara nehi hai. Over.
- : 99. Just before Markhor has passed this message to contact with other wire. by other wire call sign 41, 26 and 44..... Over.
- : 99. Only 26, 41 and 88. That message was only for 26, 41 and 88. Over.
- : 99. Roger. Out
- : all stations Alpha Kilo, as suggested earlier, please insist that all black flags and all Bangladesh flags are removed immediately. if not already done so. Otherwise give a good dose to those who are still flying them. Out.
- : I say again. as already discussed, ensure that no building fly black or Bangladesh flags.
- : don't allow anybody to fly any flag Bangladesh and black type. That was only. Out.
- : and is this, did you take this? Over.
- : that must be done. Otherwise, you know, it's likely to lead to a lot of complications and implications. Besides. I want specially Dhanmondi to be searched from house to house. You can take your time, you may select if.

Control
(Tikka
Khan)