

# A disturbing directive

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other people at thana level in their respective districts.

"The vehicles owned by pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat men have to be requisitioned in large numbers on grounds of government needs even if there are no such needs," reads one of the directives, implementation of which began on Friday.

"The police headquarters will evaluate the success of the police superintendents of the districts," warned another directive.

The police superintendents will also have to ensure that no government staff can join the Dhaka rally by taking leave.

Contacted yesterday, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker, however, said he had no idea about any such directives.

"We are supposed to do everything to maintain law and order to ensure public security and safety," he said in reply to a query.

The Daily Star obtained from police sources a copy of the 19 directives given in Bangla. The English version of the directives is given below:

1. Instead of arresting common people en masse, attention should be on "qualitative arrest" even if the number of arrests is less. (The police headquarters will evaluate the success of the police superintendents of different districts).
2. In mufassil districts,

people/leaders-workers have to be detained/stopped at the thanas from where they start for Dhaka.

3. Vehicles have to be searched, fined and detained by checkpoints and mobile courts set up at thanas adjacent to the highways, after consultations with the district magistrates. Vehicles have to be searched to recover drugs, arms and explosives, if there are any. If the assistance of the executive magistrate or BRTA is not available, the police headquarters have to be informed about it.

4. Police vehicles have to be kept at safe distance, so that none can throw bricks/stones at those or damage those. The safety of officers and police personnel on duty has to be ensured. The personnel will wear riot gear while on duty.

5. All kinds of leave of police personnel in districts, barring exceptions, will have to be cancelled till March 12, 2012.

6. Steps have to be taken so that rowdy elements cannot vandalise vehicles, resort to arson or such types of crimes centering on the programmes. Such types of people have to be arrested.

7. Leading people in the slums will have to be influenced through discussion tactically so that slum people cannot go to Dhaka. The matter has to be kept in focus and, if necessary, arrests have to be made.

8. Shafi Huzur of Hathazri is scheduled to speak at a religious mahfil at Konapara Mannan High School ground, Demra, on March 11, 2012. Necessary steps have to be taken so that he does not attend the mahfil. If he cannot be prevented at all, the matter has to be communicated to SB, Dhaka.

9. Plainclothes police personnel have to be deployed at Sundarban Courier, SA Paribahan, etc. It has to be observed what type of parcels arrive through these courier services, whether banners and leaflets come through these or whether anything suspicious is being despatched.

10. Higher government officials will refrain from granting leave to their subordinate officials and employees so that they cannot go to Dhaka taking leave. SPs and DSPs will have to take note of this.

11. The vehicles owned by persons supporting BNP and the Jamaat have to be requisitioned in large numbers (showing grounds of government requirements even if the case is not so) so that those cannot be used for carrying workers and leaders to Dhaka. Such vehicles have to be checked and cases filed, if needed.

12. It has to be ensured that trucks do not carry people to Dhaka. Trucks are for carrying goods, not for carrying people.

13. Dhaka-bound

microbuses have to be checked thoroughly. The passengers have to be checked and interrogated thoroughly.

14. Dhaka-bound trains have to be searched with the help of Railway Police. Suspects have to be arrested.

15. Suspicious institutions and organisations like madrasas, Islamic NGOs, Islamic clinics and messes run by the Shibir have to be searched. If any suspect is found, he has to be arrested on the spot.

16. Organisers from BNP/Jamaat and their associates or front organisations have to be arrested first.

17. Some people may try to worsen law and order by demonstrating reaction or resorting to ransacking in the aftermath of any incident taking place in Dhaka. Pre-emptive measures have to be taken so that such incidents cannot take place. Suspects have to be arrested.

18. Ambulances and fire services have to be kept ready by sending them letters beforehand so that their immediate cooperation is available in case of any emergency.

19. Attention has to be given so that local madrasas, schools and colleges remain open, and teachers and students attend classes. If necessary, it has to be ensured through discussions with the headmasters and principals of these institutions.

# State playing role

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The BNP high-ups have instructed its activists to take a position instantly on the streets and retaliate to stay on, if obstructed by the ruling party men on their way to the rally.

Accusing the government of arresting over 3,000 party activists till yesterday, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the state is playing the role of criminals to foil the rally and the government has enforced a reign of terror in the country.

"The government has launched an undeclared war against the people. It could have disallowed us holding the rally if there were any specific laws against it.... The consequences of obstructing the rally will not be good," he told a press briefing at the party's central office.

He alleged that police have been directed to stop people heading for the meeting from the district and upazila towns. "Restrictions have also

been imposed on the movement of inter-district buses, launches and steamers as well as on issuance of train tickets and booking rooms at city hotels so that the BNP men cannot join the rally," mentioned Fakhrul adding, the administration has cancelled the reservations of buses and launches made by his party men.

"Even police didn't give permission to start the work for putting up a stage and use loudspeakers," he maintained.

The BNP leader further asserted that despite all these obstacles, the rally will be a turning point in the country's politics.

Party insiders said thousands of its supporters have already thronged the city taking different routes.

The BNP has adopted strong security measures taking some "aggressive remarks" of several ruling party leaders into serious consideration.

Party's own security members, volunteers and special teams comprised of 1,300 persons will ensure safety of the supporters and activists of BNP.

Besides, pro-BNP doctors and nurses have formed 36 medical teams to provide medical treatment to the activists, if required.

Enthusiasm among the party men over the rally is also evident. The Nayapaltna area has worn a festive look with illumination of party office buildings and hanging of colourful banners, festoons and portraits of party leaders.

Loudspeakers will be installed from Motijheel to Shahbag and Motijheel to Malibagh level crossing area via Nayapaltna and Shantinagar.

Khaleda's address will be shown on 12 big screens to be installed at different spots. Her speech will also be broadcast live on the website www.bnplive.com.

Contacted, city BNP leader

Abdus Salam said 13 reception centres will be set up at the entrances to the capital to welcome the party activists.

He further noted that they could not start the work for putting up the stage yesterday as police were yet to permit them to do so.

Political tension has grown in the country recently over the grand rally as some leaders of ruling Awami League had warned that the opposition meeting might incite violence to create anarchy in the country.

The leader of the opposition from a Chittagong rally on January 9 had declared "Dhaka Cholo" (Let's march towards Dhaka) programme as part of her party's anti-government movement.

## Facebook

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The man's estranged wife clicked on a link to his new partner's Facebook page to see them with a wedding cake, court documents in Washington state say.

The woman then contacted the man's mother - and later the authorities.

Prison officer Alan L O'Neill has been charged with bigamy and is due to appear in court later this month.

Court documents say that O'Neill - under his previous name of Alan Fulk - married in 2001, moved out in 2009, changed his name and remarried without divorcing.

The first wife noticed O'Neill had a new woman in his life when Facebook recommended her as a "friend".

"Wife number one went to wife number two's page and saw a picture of her and her husband with a wedding cake," Pierce County Prosecutor Mark Lindquist told the Associated Press news agency.

Wife number one then called the defendant's mother.

"An hour later the defendant arrived at (wife number one's) apartment and she asked him several times if they were divorced. The defendant said, 'No, we are still married'," the court records say.

The charges say that neither O'Neill nor his first wife had filed for divorce.

O'Neill allegedly told wife number one not to report his other marriage and that he would fix it, the court documents say. But instead she alerted the authorities.

"Facebook is now a place where people discover things about each other they end up reporting to law enforcement," Lindquist said.

O'Neill faces up to a year in jail if convicted.

# Ways to Dhaka

**FROM PAGE 1**  
political volatility in the next few days and asked them to stay cautious in their movements.

Reports from different districts suggest that the government wants the capital to be cut off from the rest of the country for today and tomorrow.

In Chittagong, Inter District Bus Owners Association yesterday decided not to sell tickets for Dhaka-Chittagong route for the next two days, citing security threats ahead of the BNP rally.

"We have taken the decision out of security concerns," Kafil Uddin Ahmed, general secretary of the association, told The Daily Star last night.

When our correspondent in the port city visited several bus counters last night, advance ticket-seekers were seen returning empty-handed.

Sultan Nuri, an area manager of Green Line Service, told The Daily Star that as per the directives of their owner, they would not issue tickets for the next two days.

On condition of anonymity, a staff member of Hanif Bus Service said that law enforcers and intelligence men visited their counters several times yesterday and directed them not to allow anyone to reserve service for the next two days.

Some luxury bus service companies said they planned to suspend services today and tomorrow to avoid damage to their vehicles.

Our correspondent in Manikganj reported that inter-district bus service between Paturia ferry terminal and Dhaka was suspended from 4:00pm yesterday. This route is key to road communications between the capital and the southwestern districts.

Sources said in many districts, leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League stayed at bus and launch terminals to stop BNP-Jamaat activist boarding vehicles and vessels.

Abul Kalam, president of bus owners' association of Mohakhali terminal, alleged that many owners had withdrawn services to avoid requisitioning by law enforcers.

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation General Secretary Osman Ali said some transport workers were arrested because they had asked why their vehicles were being requisitioned.

Rajshahi district bus owners enforced a strike from this morning to tomorrow evening to "avert damage to the vehicles" during BNP's rally in Dhaka.

They said there would be no buses from Chapainawabganj to Dhaka and Rajshahi to Dhaka.

Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Group at an emergency meeting at their office yesterday afternoon took the decision, said Manjur Rahman, general secretary of the group.

Our correspondent in Munshiganj reports: Bus owners in the district have suspended bus service between Dhaka and Mawa citing fear that their vehicles would be vandalised.

They are, however, continuing local bus services. This

route is also key to road communications between Dhaka and southwestern districts.

"My bus was supposed to leave Mongla for Dhaka at 6:00pm [yesterday evening]. But when I reached the bus counter, they informed me that they have stopped service due to chaos in Dhaka," said Tamanna Khan, a passenger of Sundarbans Paribahan.

Tamanna later managed to get on board a bus heading for Chittagong. The bus was supposed to make a scheduled stop at Jatrabari in the capital.

She said when the bus reached Gopalganj around 8:00 last night some policemen stopped it, checked everybody and directed a young man not to go to Dhaka because he might be arrested.

On suspension of bus services, Abul Bashar, manager (sales and operations) of Sohag Paribahan Pvt Ltd, said, "We have plans to suspend services today. We will make the final decision today [Sunday] after assessing the situation."

The district administration of Chandpur yesterday requisitioned five launches. Only 13 lunches ply between Dhaka and Chandpur regularly and two of them were out of order.

The number of launches in service on other routes was also very low, said launch owners. They claimed that the number of passengers was low due to the spread of panic amongst them.

Acting chairman Badiuzzaman Badal of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers') Association and its Vice-President Shahabuddin Milon did say that fewer launches were in service but declined to say why.

However, there were no disruptions in rail services, the railway authorities claimed.

**MASS ARRESTS**  
Sources said around 20,000 law enforcers, from police and Rapid Action Battalion would be deployed to deal with the opposition's Cholo Cholo Dhaka Cholo programme tomorrow.

Police and Rab personnel arrested 3,616 people across the country between 6:00am Friday and 6:00am yesterday while 2,849 people were arrested in the 24 hours before that, official sources said.

In the last two days, the law enforcers had arrested around 2,600 people above their usual countrywide arrest count.

According to sources, 911 people were arrested by police in Dhaka division between 6:00am Friday and 6:00am yesterday. At least 352 in Rajshahi, 206 in Rangpur, 85 in Chittagong, 370 in Khulna, 126 in Barisal, and 165 in Sylhet divisions were arrested during the same period. Besides, 264 were detained in Dhaka city, 190 in Chittagong city, 38 in Khulna city, 34 in Rajshahi city, 35 in Sylhet city and 10 in Barisal city. At least 61 people were arrested by Rab personnel and one person by railway police.

Police have imposed restrictions on guests in hotels, motels, and messes in the capital. Owners of such businesses have been asked

to collect names, addresses and photos of guests before they are allowed to stay. They have been asked to report to police every evening on new guests.

A large number of hotels and motels in the capital have already shut down to avert police harassment.

Deputy Commissioner (Detective Branch-South) Monirul Islam, also the spokesman for Dhaka Metropolitan Police, claimed that they have sought guests' information to identify security threats. "We've asked the owners of hotels, motels and messes to send updated lists of guests to the DMP every evening," he said.

As per the law, hotel owners are obligated to share guests' information with the DMP. He said they were just enforcing the law.

Replying to a query, Monirul said they had not prevented anyone from boarding a hotel or asked any hotelier to close their business.

However, Shahidul Islam, manager of Hotel Super Star Ltd on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, told The Daily Star that they were not allowing any unknown boarders.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker told The Daily Star that they were supposed to do everything to ensure law and order.

Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam denied any mass arrests and said they have intensified drives to arrest illegal arms holders, gun runners, drugs peddlers, extortionists and other criminals ahead of three "mega events" - the opposition rally, the upcoming ruling Awami League rally and the Asia Cup cricket tournament.

Asia Cup is scheduled to start today, the main opposition BNP's grand rally is tomorrow and the mass rally of 14-party combine led by the Awami League is on March 14.

Police in capital requisitioned over 400 vehicles, which have been kept at Rajarbagh Police Lines playground and different other places.

However, DMP officials claimed that the vehicles have been requisitioned to carry additional forces, which would be deployed during the three mega events, not to take vehicles off the streets so that opposition activists could not join their programme.

Traffic congestion in the capital was rather low yesterday evening but many were seen waiting for buses at bus stops.

Ahead of the two major political events in the capital, the foreign missions in Dhaka asked their diplomats, their families and staff to remain vigilant at all times while travelling and to put their safety on first priority.

The embassies, offices of donor agencies and other offices belonging to foreign countries in their internal communications said the two leading political parties are beginning to step up their efforts to mobilise popular support before the next elections, and to this end, a number of rallies have been arranged over the next few days.

## Voter enrollment

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will hold polls to the split Dhaka City Corporation by May.

The time frame for the first phase is from March 10 to the second week of April, the second phase from May 17 to May 26, the third phase from July 21 to July 31 and the fourth phase from October 4 to October 13.

The first three phases will cover 360 upazilas/thanas--120 upazilas/thanas in each phase--and the fourth phase will cover the remaining 90 upazilas.

## Rehana

**FROM PAGE 20**  
prime minister's official residence Gono Bhaban in the afternoon.

PM Sheikh Hasina, elder sister of Rehana, was present on the occasion.

Finance Minister AMA Muhit, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, Inspector General of Police Hasan Mahmud Khandaker and PM's Special Assistant (Media) Mahbulul Hoque Shakil also attended the programme.

Nitendra Chandra Roy, sub-registrar of Tejgaon circle, oversaw the hand-over.

In July 2001, Rehana as a daughter of father of the nation was given the house built over a one-bigha land on Road 6 for a token price by the then Awami League government.

The BNP-Jamaat coalition government took possession of the house and turned it into a police station in June 2005.

## Man shot

**FROM PAGE 20**  
was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wound in the right leg.

His employer Altaf Ahmed said Alam was waiting on the road in front of his house in the capital around 10:00am when he noticed a youth, aged around 20, was peeing on his boundary wall.

Altaf rebuked the youth and asked him to leave the place immediately. The youth paid no heed and rather locked in an altercation with the driver.

At one stage, the youth left the scene threatening to kill Alam.

About one and a half hours later the youth along with another man appeared on a motorcycle, shot Alam, who was then standing in front of the house gate, and left, Altaf said.

Altaf said as far as he knows neither he nor Alam has enemies who can shoot him. He added Alam joined the driving job nine years ago and lives with his family at Khilgaon.

## Asia Cup

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and has returned to the country after 12 years. Bangladesh were hosts in 1988 and 2000 previously.

Defending champions India and Sri Lanka have also arrived yesterday and it is likely that for the first time in many years, the big guns as well as the Tigers have a lot at stake in this competition.

Though the home side have won only two games ever since their first appearance in 1988, it will be a big deal for Mushfiqur Rahim's men who have had to endure a spate of controversies in the last two weeks. Apart from the skipper's outburst during the Bangladesh Premier League, the major issue has been Tamim Iqbal's forced exclusion by the BCB president Mustafa Kamal that also resulted in the resignation of chief selector Akram Khan. With both uncle and nephew reinstated, the onus is firmly on the Tigers to perform well.

India too will look to brighten their fortunes after a torrid time in Australia while Pakistan will also like to get back in winning ways after suffering ODI series whitewash at the hands of England last month. Sri Lanka made it to the tri-series final in Australia earlier this week but lost out to Australia though they are on the mend after an average 2011.

## Saudi govt

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Contacted, Deputy Commissioner (Detective Branch - South) Md Monirul Islam said they have nothing to say on the progress of the investigation.

A few senior police officials, however, suspected that it was a planned murder and the assailants were very skilled shooters.

Khalaf's body was flown to Saudi Arabia on Thursday night. Many senior Saudi officials including Prince Sultan bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Kabeer, Prince Abdul Aziz received the body at the King Khaled International Airport.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Riyadh Mohamed Shahidul Islam, a brother and the only son of the deceased were also present.

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Al-Busairi and other officials from his mission accompanied the body from Dhaka.

He was buried the following day at a graveyard in Riyadh.

Offering condolences to King Abdullah and to the bereaved family members of the deceased, Ambassador Shahidul said his government has intensified investigation into the murder.

The deceased's brother, Khalid said his brother has achieved martyrdom for the sake of his motherland.

Khalaf had been preparing to leave Dhaka for Jordan within a few weeks. He had phoned Khalid on Monday to inquire about his siblings and only son, 24-year-old Nasser.

"We are a family of nine members and Khalaf was like our father after we lost both of our parents," Khalid added.

He denied his brother had been subjected to any threats or harassment.

# Pacific nation

**FROM PAGE 20**  
group for about \$9.6 million, could be insurance for Kiribati's entire population of 103,000, though he hopes it will never be necessary for everyone to leave.

"We would hope not to put everyone on one piece of land, but if it became absolutely necessary, yes, we could do it," Tong said. "It wouldn't be for me, personally, but would apply more to a younger generation. For them, moving won't be a matter of choice. It's basically going to be a matter of survival."

Kiribati, which straddles the equator near the international date line, has found itself at the leading edge of the debate on climate change because many of its atolls rise just a few feet above sea level.

Tong said some villages have already moved and there have been increasing instances of sea water contaminating the island's underground fresh water, which remains vital for trees and crops. He said changing rainfall, tidal and storm patterns pose at least as much threat as ocean levels, which so far have risen only slightly.

Some scientists have estimated the current level of sea rise in the Pacific at about 2 millimetres (0.1 inches) per year. Many scientists expect that rate to accelerate due to climate change.

Fiji, home to about 8,500 people, is about 1,400 miles south of

Kiribati. But just what people there think about potentially providing a home for thousands of their neighbours remains unclear. Tong said he's awaiting full parliamentary approval for the land purchase, which he expects in April, before discussing the plan formally with Fijian officials.

Sharon Smith-Johns, a spokeswoman for the Fijian government, said several agencies are studying Kiribati's plans and the government will release a formal statement next week.

Kiribati, which was known as the Gilbert Islands when it was a British colony, has been an independent nation since 1979.

Tong has been considering other unusual options to combat climate change, including shoring up some Kiribati islands with sea walls and even building a floating island. He said this week that the latter option would likely prove too expensive, but that he hopes reinforcing some islands will ensure that Kiribati continues to exist in some form even in a worst-case scenario.

"We're trying to secure the future of our people," he said. "The international community needs to be addressing this problem more."

Tong said he hopes that the Fiji land will represent just one of several options for relocating people. He pointed out that the land is three times larger than the atoll of Tarawa, currently home to more than half of Kiribati's population.