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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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PET BOTTLES

A local firm is making plastic bottles recycling the used ones

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WAR ON ISIS

UK House votes on Syria air strikes after Cameron's plea

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Govt using Facebook

Social media 'blocked' for two weeks but many govt depts, AL leaders found active

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

The government appears to be defying its own ban on Facebook.

As the ban on Facebook in Bangladesh steps into the third week, a number of ministers, lawmakers, ruling party leaders, high officials, and wings of different ministries have been using the most popular social media platform almost regularly.

Over the last two weeks, they posted photos, shared links, and updated their statuses in their official and personal Facebook accounts.

They were doing this even though the government had warned people about bypassing the ban and had said workarounds was a violation of the law.

For example, State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak has updated and shared a few posts in his verified Facebook account after November 18, when the government blocked Facebook, WhatsApp and Viber.

Palak's division is under the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, which blocked the services as a means to contain subversive militant activities and political violence centring the execution of two top war criminals.

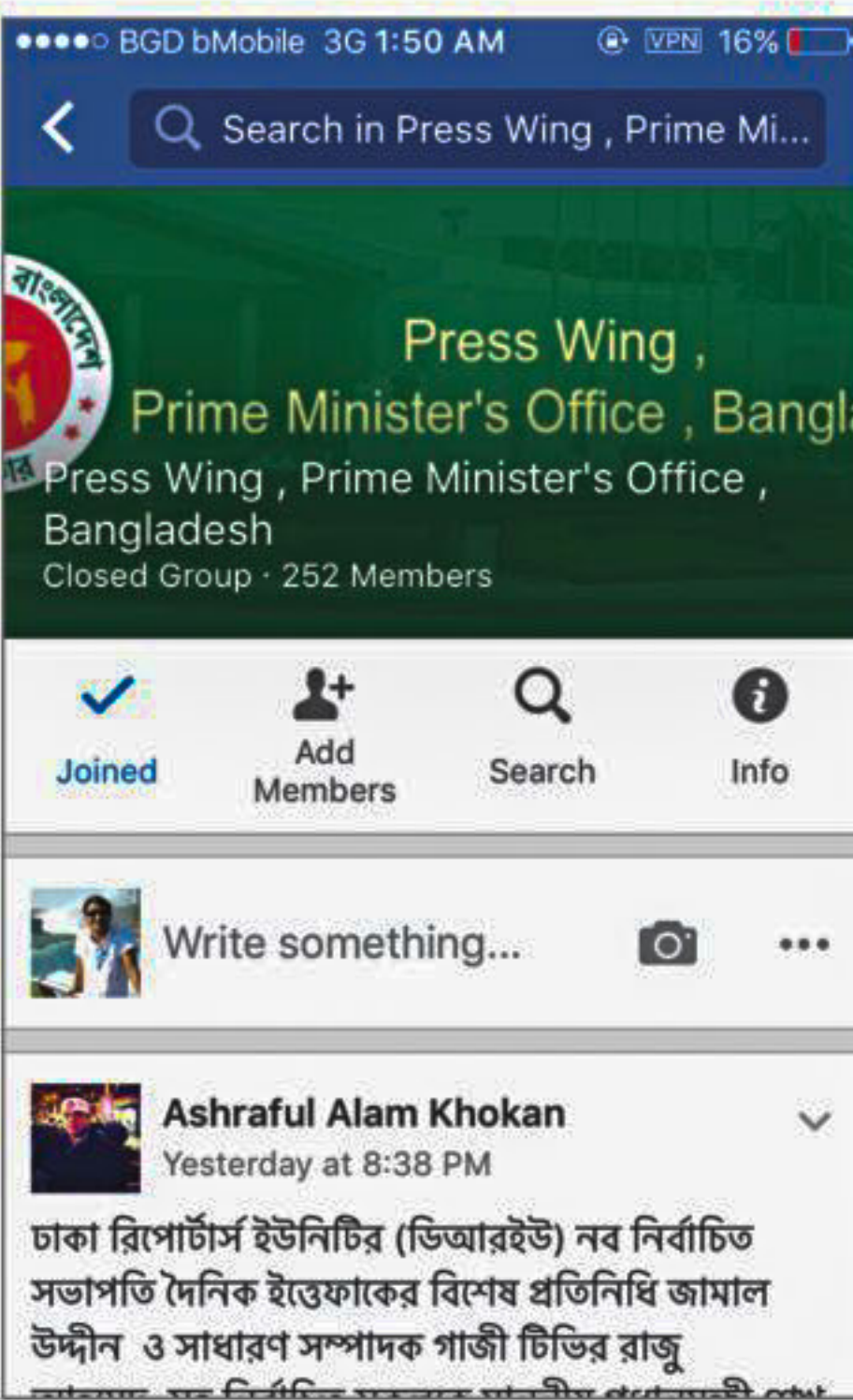
On Friday at 3:40pm, Palak shared a photo of the BPO Summit. Before posting the photo, he updated his status saying he was at Chalanbeel Singhra.

There were many Twitter posts which made it its way into his Facebook page.

However, Palak denied sharing anything on Facebook. "I am not using Facebook. But my Facebook account is synced with Twitter. And whatever I've posted on Twitter is uploaded on Facebook automatically," he told The Daily Star.

A Facebook user, wishing anonymity since the user

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Screenshots of Facebook posts by, clockwise from top left, the press wing of the Prime Minister's Office, Gazipur-2 MP Zahid Ahsan Russel, the VAT Intelligence, the ruling Awami League, State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Bangladesh Cricket Board. These posts were made after November 18, the day the government blocked access to the social networking site on 'security' grounds.



"Restriction on Facebook for the last two weeks has irked people a lot, and

MUSTAFA JABBAR

EX-PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH COMPUTER SAMITY



"I don't know what to say. Actually, I don't have any answer. Perhaps it's

AL MP ZAHID AHSAN RUSSEL

ON WHY HE WAS USING FACEBOOK



"Don't the criminals and terrorists know how to log into Facebook using

AN ANONYMOUS USER

ON THE GOVT BLOCKING OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

PAKISTAN LYING, STILL

GENOCIDE

Coolly planned, carried out

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Pakistanis had a secret plan -- to fake a political dialogue with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while its military prepared to mow down the Bangalis, to terrorise them, to exterminate the Hindus who they viewed as Indian agents, to let loose a genocide campaign and teach the "treacherous" Bangalis a lesson.

Accordingly, president Gen Yahya Khan and Pakistan People's Party leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto arrived from the west wing of Pakistan to start the dialogue on power transfer from March 15. Bangalis were elated at the beginning thinking Mujib was finally coming to power as his party, the Awami League, had overwhelmingly won the 1970 election.

Under the cover of dialogue, soldiers and weapons started pouring in for butchering the Bangalis.

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Help save voices of freethinkers

Widow of slain blogger Avijit urges int'l community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rafida Ahmed Bonya, the widow of slain writer-blogger Avijit Roy, has urged the international community to come forward to help save the voices of Bangladeshi freethinkers and maintain a healthy secular society.

"These brave Bangladeshi journalists, writers, bloggers, and publishers love their country and want to make a difference in their own homeland," Bonya said at a Congressional briefing in Washington on "Shrinking Space for Civil Society and Human Rights in Bangladesh" on Tuesday.

They are out, along with general people, on the streets to protest these murders, the impunity, and the inaction of the Bangladesh government, she said.

Bonya said the extent of impunity is so great today that Islamist terrorists are attacking secular bloggers, writers and even publishers in broad daylight, in front of thousands of people or even inside houses or offices.

These terrorists killed five secular bloggers, writers, and a publisher this year and wounded many others. "We have



Bonya

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Mustafizur Rahman

The world in his hand

SPORTS REPORTER from Cig

Mustafizur Rahman isn't someone who gets overly expressive about his feelings off the field. On the field though, he is a completely different character.

So when the time came for him to speak to the media regarding his inclusion in the ICC's 2014-2015 ODI team of the year yesterday, he was a tad nervous. While he kept his answers short and concise, it was evident that the achievement meant a lot to him.

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