

Don't use mobile phones while on duty

Police authorities ask the force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policemen have been instructed not to use mobile phones or stay busy on the device while carrying out duties. In an order signed by Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) said members of the force can only use cellphones for official purposes and during emergency.

In some cases, police members involved in security planning can use mobile phones, but their phone numbers should be written against their names, reads the order issued on March 12.

It asked the policemen not to post anything on social media or take selfies while on duty. The PHQ prohibited cops from playing games, watching videos, listening to music, browsing Facebook or YouTube pages and reading news in portals during duty hours.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the order. It was issued nine days after Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal came under a knife attack from a youth in Sylhet's Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) during a programme on March 3.

Two policemen, who were deployed to provide security to the SUST teacher, were seen using their mobile phones before the attack. The photograph of the cops went viral in social media and Sylhet Metropolitan Police later withdrew the two from duty.

The PHQ said recently it was noticed that on-duty policemen use mobile phones without official or emergency needs. The unnecessary use of cellphones by cops hampers discharging duties properly, which is not expected at all.

If any cop is found violating the instructions, he will be held responsible for negligence of duty, read the order.

Earlier on November 10, 2015, former IGP AKM Shahidul Haque during a meeting at Rajarbagh Police Lines had instructed cops not to use cellphones while on duty.

'We don't want a new Cold War'

Says Nato chief

AFP, London

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday the alliance did not want a return to Cold War hostilities with Russia while expressing support for Britain's strong stance on the nerve agent attack.

He said the targeting of former double agent Sergei Skripal fit a "pattern of reckless behaviour" to which the US-led military alliance had responded, but insisted political dialogue must also continue.

"We don't want a new Cold War, we don't want a new arms race, Russia is our neighbour therefore we have to continue to strive for an improved better relationship with Russia," he told BBC radio.

He noted that Nato allies have in recent years imposed economic sanctions on Russia and deployed more troops in eastern Europe in response to the "changed security situation".

But he stressed: "To isolate Russia is not an alternative."

He added: "At some point Russia will understand that it is in its interests not to confront us but to cooperate with us, and we are ready to do so if they respect some basic norms and rules for international behaviour."

Nato has backed Britain following the March 4 attack in the southwestern English city of Salisbury, which left Skripal and his daughter Yulia in a critical condition.

"We have no reason to doubt the findings and assessments made by the British government, not least because this takes place at the backdrop of a pattern of reckless behaviour by Russia over many years," Stoltenberg said.

British foreign minister Boris Johnson yesterday stressed the government's "quarrel" was with President Vladimir Putin rather than the Russian people.

"Our quarrel is with Putin's Kremlin, and with his decision, and we think it overwhelmingly likely that it was his decision to direct the use of a nerve agent on the streets of the UK, on the streets of Europe, for the first time since the Second World War."

"That is why we are at odds with Russia," Johnson said, during a museum visit in west London alongside his Polish counterpart Jacek Czaputowicz.

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, who has questioned whether the Russian state was responsible for the attack, yesterday warned against a "drift to conflict".

Writing in The Guardian, the Labour leader said "a connection to Russian mafia-like groups that have been allowed to gain a toehold in Britain cannot be excluded".

Iran deal signatories meet as Trump deadline looms

AFP, Vienna

Iran was yesterday expected to resist US pressure to toughen the 2015 nuclear deal as time runs out to meet President Donald Trump's ultimatum to fix the accord by May 12.

Trump has said that if the deal between Iran and six big powers, which curtailed Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, is not "improved" by then, he will withdraw.

In particular Trump says that the "terrible" agreement does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme or Tehran's activities in the Middle East.

In addition, parts of the agreement are due to start expiring in the mid-2020s.

Iran, which according to the UN atomic watchdog has been abiding by the deal since it came into force in January 2016, has ruled out any changes to the agreement.

The talks in Vienna yesterday, a regular review of the accord, involved

Iran, senior US official Brian Hook and representatives of Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany.

According to US officials, Hook was in Berlin on Thursday to meet British, French and German counterparts to try and agree a common line.

The European parties to the agreement are desperate to save it and have been scrambling to find ways to persuade Trump not to rip it up.

"We share all the concerns with the missiles, with the regional destabilisation, with the support to terrorism, with the malign activities of Iran," one European diplomat said.

"We are ready to take steps to address these concerns."

But he added: "We need to make sure that we don't throw out the baby with the bath water, so we keep the nuclear agreement and we act on the rest in parallel... Disregarding the JCPOA (the deal) would put us in the worst place to address the other concerns."

Tigers win a cliffhanger

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The right-hander impressively refocused and struck a four towards widish extra cover, before taking a double off the next ball and finally ending things with a six to remain unbeaten on a match-winning 18-ball 43 and register a memorable win.

Bangladesh will take on India in the final of the tournament tomorrow.

Going back to the controversial decision, with Bangladesh requiring 12 runs off the last over, Udana bowled a short ball to Mustafizur that yielded no run and the umpire signalled it as the first bouncer of the over.

Udana once again bowled a short delivery in the next ball which Mustafizur failed to connect with before running off for a single. He was run out at the bowler's end, following which Mahmudullah walked over to the leg umpire and queried whether it was a no-ball as it was the second bouncer of the over. Although later denying it, at one point the leg umpire Ravendra Wimalasiri did seem to signal for a no-ball.

Nurul, the 12th man, was then engaged in a clash with Sri Lankan fielders and was dragged back towards the dugout as emotions ran high between both sets of players.

In chase of 160, Bangladesh struggled to get started as they fell to 33 for two after losing Liton Das (0) and Sabbir Rahman (13), who was promoted to number three, inside four overs. Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim then steadied the ship and played sensibly to take the Tigers to 50 runs in the Powerplay.

The pair added 64 for the third wicket, but stumbled again as

Mushfiqur was caught at extra over off the bowling of Amila Aponso after scoring a 25-ball 28. Tamim departed after 43 balls, coming down the track after reaching his half-century and edging to the keeper.

Shakib then joined Mahmudullah with Bangladesh requiring 50 off the last five overs and the duo played sensibly to bring the equation down to 27 runs required off the last three overs.

However, Shakib departed after scoring seven off nine, handing a straightforward catch to Akila Dananjaya at deep fine leg after going for a flick to Udana. The fielder celebrated the catch by imitating a snake charmer playing his flute; a fitting rebuttal to Bangladesh's Nagin Dance.

The game went down to the wire, Bangladesh needing 23 off the last 12 balls. The Tigers then plundered 11 off the penultimate over bowled by Thisara Perera before the drama unfolded.

Earlier, Shakib, who replaced Abu Hider in the playing eleven, opted to field and the Tigers' initial brilliance with the ball reduced Sri Lanka to 41 for five inside nine overs.

But Shakib opting for the unusual theory of not bowling a left-arm spinner against left-handers Kusal Perera and Thisara Perera, changed the course of the game as the pair added 97 off 61 balls for the sixth wicket.

Kusal struck his 10th T20I fifty and completed 1,000 runs in the shortest format of the game before eventually departing for 61 off 40 balls in the 19th over. Thisara also blazed his way to a fifty before being dismissed off the last over as Sri Lanka pillaged 60 runs off the last five overs to post 159 for seven in 20 overs.

All set for mega

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But the risk is not that high as the government will be one of its customers, he said.

Project documents show Bashundhara will sell its products to state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) as well as to other local buyers.

Once in operation, the plant will refine 1 lakh barrels of crude oil per day whereas Eastern Refinery Limited, the only refinery company in the public sector, refines 33,000 barrels, according to a feasibility study report prepared by Bank Asia.

The plant is expected to produce 4.7 million tonnes of petroleum oil every year against the existing local demand for 5.89 million tonnes.

Of the demand, only 1.2 to 1.3 million tonnes come from local sources and the rest is imported.

A 2016 estimate by the Japan International Cooperation Agency shows the demand for refined fuel in Bangladesh will rise by six times to above 30 million tonnes by 2041.

Bashundhara has been planning to

set up the plant for the last two years and approached various banks for financing four months ago, said Mohammed Belayet Hossain, senior deputy managing director of the Group. "Banks have responded positively about financing and the construction of the plant will start in due time," he said.

Currently, the Group's asset is worth around Tk 50,000 crore, he said.

The business group has signed an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract with PROKOP ENGINEERING Brno of Czech Republic. The company, founded in 1990, is an expert in the construction of industrial plants, especially in the fields of processing crude oil and oil products and gas processing.

In the South Asian region, India can meet its own demand and even exports its surplus production of refined oil.

In 2016, Pakistan and Sri Lanka produced 40 percent and 30 percent of their demand for refined oil, according to the project documents.

In the same year, Bangladesh produced only 20 percent of its demand and imported the rest.

Easter Island

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in Chile and wrote an in-depth feature on the issues facing it.

Nobody really knows how the colossal stone statues that guard Easter Island were moved into position.

We also don't know why during the decades following the island's discovery by Dutch explorers in 1722, each statue was systematically toppled, or how the population of Rapa Nui islanders was decimated.

Shrouded in mystery, this tiny triangular landmass sits in the middle of the South Pacific, 1,289 miles from its nearest neighbour.

The remains "could add more data to show it's not a simple or straightforward answer to what happened," said Jane Downes, a professor of archaeology at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland.

However, the landscape is quickly changing and soon these statues could

be gone forever, taking with them any clues about what happened to this civilisation.

"You feel an impotency in this, to not be able to protect the bones of your own ancestors," Camilo Rapu, the head of the indigenous organisation that controls Rapa Nui National Park on the island told Casey.

"It hurts immensely."

Easter Island has just 6,000 residents and more than 100,000 visitors each year, injecting up to \$70 million (£50 million) into the economy each year.

The 887 statues gaze inland across the island with an average height of 13ft (four metres).

Many of the most important statues are on the coast.

Three of the main ones - Tongariki; home to a line of monoliths, Anakena; the sandy beach and Akahanga; the ancient platforms - are at risk of being eroded by rising seas, scientists warn.

UN launches

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Myanmar's Rakhine state, in the absence of any evidence that they will be safe if they go back.

The Rohingya fled after Myanmar launched a brutal crackdown on insurgents six months ago that the UN has called "ethnic cleansing" -- a claim the country vehemently denies.

But Grandi insisted that despite those circumstances, he would not stop fighting for the repatriation of those who wish to return home.

"I think it is very important to talk about the right of the Rohingya to return," he said, adding that he "cannot entertain the notion" where their displacement is deemed permanent.

Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed in November to begin repatriating Rohingya who volunteered to return to Rakhine state, where the persecuted Muslim minority has lived for generations.

Grandi conceded that the conditions for safe return are not in place and that discussions with Myanmar on repatriation "have been pretty basic, not very frequent (and) not very advanced".

But, he added, those talks "have continued".

"We have to take this thing one step at a time," he said, reiterating the need for humanitarian assistance while repatriation negotiations play out.

SC hearing

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Anti-Corruption Commission on Thursday filed two separate leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC challenging the HC order that granted bail to Khaleda.

The Office of the Attorney General and the ACC both submitted the petitions that also sought extension of the SC order that stayed the bail order until Sunday.

Earlier on Wednesday, Khaleda filed two separate petitions with the SC for vacating its order that stayed her bail hours after the SC stayed the HC order.

The BNP chief has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

Upon receiving the petitions, SC Chamber Judge Hasan Foez Siddique forwarded those to the apex court's full bench for hearing.

In the petition, Khaleda said her lawyers did not get any scope to place their arguments at the SC before it stayed the bail order, Sagir Hossain Leon, her counsel, told this newspaper.

Citing from the petitions, he said Khaleda was given a sentence of five-year imprisonment and she has been in jail since February 8. Courts have a long tradition of granting bail to a convict or an accused if the person is a woman, he said, adding, Khaleda is now 73 and has been suffering from various chronic degenerative medical conditions.

No room for debate as Egypt's Sisi poised for second term

AFP, Cairo

With Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the cusp of winning a second term in this month's election, what's left of the opposition is reduced to praying he will step aside in four years.

There is little else his critics can realistically hope for after Sisi eviscerated his opposition in his first term.

In the run up to the March 26-28 election, a succession of would-be candidates were abruptly sidelined like doomed characters in an Agatha Christie novel.

"Watch out. That stuff that happened seven or eight years ago (the 2011 democratic uprising) will not happen again in Egypt... it looks like you really don't know me well. Ha ha," Sisi said in a January speech after his latest rival, a reserve military general, was detained for announcing his candidacy.

Such words play well with Sisi's supporters, including many Egyptians who have had enough of the turmoil that followed the 2011 uprising that ousted president Hosni Mubarak.

A former army chief, Sisi was first elected in 2014, a year after he ousted his bungling predecessor Mohamed Morsi.

Morsi was the country's first freely elected civilian president, but also a divisive Islamist whose policies sparked massive protests.

Move on for 'Rakhinisation'

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The UN has branded last year's military crackdown ethnic cleansing, with a top official saying it carried all the "hallmarks of genocide."

Myanmar vigorously denies the allegations and says refugees are welcome to return.

But so far it has agreed to allow back only 374 of 8,000 refugees whose names have been put forward for the initial phase of repatriation.

Many traumatised Rohingya in Cox's Bazar camps are also refusing to be repatriated to Rakhine -- where holding camps and hostile neighbours await them.

In their absence a blizzard of development projects, government and army-sponsored or privately funded, are transforming northern Rakhine.

Taking space vacated by fleeing Rohingya is an old game in a state seen as the frontline of a Buddhist nation's fight against encroaching Islam.

"The military has been engineering the social landscape of northern Rakhine State so as to dilute the Rohingya population since the early 1990s," says Francis Wade, author of "Myanmar's Enemy Within: Buddhist Violence and the Making of the Muslim 'Other'".

The Muslim minority are denied citizenship and labelled "Bengalis", outsiders who -- the logic runs -- have successfully been pushed back to their country of origin.

In a pattern with echoes of "the Israeli settler project in the West Bank" Buddhist communities then move in, altering the "facts on the ground" gradually rubbing out Muslim rights to the land, he added.

"I'd expect to see more Buddhists settle there over the coming years. And then we'll forget what the area once was, and that process of erasure will be complete."

ROHINGYA OUT, RAKHINE IN

Chit San Ean is the beneficiary of the Ancillary Committee for the Reconstruction of Rakhine National Territory in the Western Frontier (CRR), a private scheme established shortly after the refugee crisis began.

In a zone under a strict army lockdown the resettlement plan could not fly without military consent.

Funded by ethnic Rakhine donors, the CRR's ambition is to establish a "Muslim-dry" buffer zone running the nearly 100 kilometres from state capital Sittwe to Maungdaw town, according to Oo Hla Saw, a Rakhine MP who advises the committee.

"All of this area was under the influence of Muslims. After the military operations, they had to flee... so we have to establish this area with the Rakhine population," he told AFP.

The CRR will fund jobs and homes "so this little population can grow and grow," he added.

It's a trickle so far, with around 64 households -- some 250 people -- moved by the CRR, with 200 more families on a waiting list.

They are among the poorest of the poor, mostly daily wage labourers from Thandwe around 600 kilometres to the south or squatters from Sittwe.

Two village tracts, Koe Tan Kuak near Rathedaung and Inn Din near Maungdaw, have been designated for the scheme so far.

The army concedes the second site was the scene of extrajudicial killing of Rohingya captives as violence engulfed the region last August.

Koe Tan Kuak was a similarly mixed settlement of Buddhist and Muslim homes.

The CRR-sponsored hamlet promises a rudimentary existence.

There is little work, no electricity or running water but donors have gifted each family a \$450 shack on stilts, made from plywood and metal sheeting.

New residents hope to eventually own land, a prospect previously beyond their reach in Myanmar's second-poorest state.

Rakhine nationalists say the CRR is a bulwark against Islam and a means to ensure their ethnic group has a say in development projects driven by the Burmese-dominated central state, who they distrust deeply.

"Who should be given priority other than Rakhines in Rakhine State?" explained Than Tun, General Secretary of the CRR.

Flight

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getting bigger, the clouds covering the world around her again.

As the plane touched down and turned towards the end of its journey, a number of ambulances came in site. Armed men stood around while people, with headsets barked orders around them. A flight attendant approached Annie and told her she was home.

A snuffle escaped from her as she held back tears. Just that one snuffle. Then she looked out again. She was home but she had perhaps left the best parts of her behind.

The flight attendant again spoke to her and she replied inaudibly. "The government has sent these for you. They are trying to offer their help," the attendant said. Annie nodded. Covering her head, she turned to the window and sobbed. Her mother squeezed Annie's arm. Shwama just looked devastated.

The rest of the passengers walked off the plane and onto the waiting coach. The three would be the last few to leave the plane. They had survived.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
Local Government Engineering Department		Office of the Executive Engineer	
District: Manikganj		www.lged.gov.bd	
Reference No. 46.02.5600.000.07.002.17-650		Date: 15/03/2018	
e-Tender Notice No. 17/2017-2018			
e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following packages:			
Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender method
175813	GDP-II/MAN/Daul/WR-92	Improvement of Desgram-Sailabari road at ch. 1325-2575m under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj. ID No. 356104007 (2nd Call)	OTM
174944	GSIDP/MNK/DW-07	Improvement of Tara Khalshi near Fanindanath Halder House Sarbojanin Mondir Union Khalshi Latitude 23.92090 Longitude 89.82206 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174943	GSIDP/MNK/DW-06	Improvement of Gazisail Durga Mondir Union Kolia Latitude 23.96765 Longitude 89.87633 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174942	GSIDP/MNK/DW-05	Improvement of Abudanga Dakhin Para Jame Mosque Union Jeonpur Latitude 23.9209 Longitude 89.82206 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174941	GSIDP/MNK/DW-04	Improvement of Jainta Baitul Mamun Jame Mosque Union Jeonpur Latitude 23.96939 Longitude 89.80629 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174940	GSIDP/MNK/DW-03	Improvement of Mulkandi Soshan Union Chakmirpur Latitude 23.95286 Longitude 89.85526 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174939	GSIDP/MNK/DW-02	Improvement of West Sometpur Eidgah Jame Mosque Union Chakmirpur Latitude 23.97644 Longitude 89.82005 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
174937	GSIDP/MNK/DW-01	Improvement of Daulatpur Sadar Kendrio Soshan Union Chakmirpur Latitude 23.97376 Longitude 89.83584 under Daulatpur Upazila Dist-Manikganj	LTM
These are online Tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.			
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 4.00pm on 01-04-2018. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).			
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