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PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. POLICE CHIEF VISITS RAJSHAHI FOR JOINT US-BD
COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVE**

DHAKA, OCTOBER 2 -- Michael Reese, Chief of Portland Oregon's Portland Police Bureau (PPB), will travel to Bangladesh October 1 – 7. Accompanied by Police Commissioner Michael Kuykendall, Chief Reese will travel to Rajshahi to observe his PPB police officers in action as they work hand-in-hand with members of the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

The U.S. Departments of Justice and State, specifically the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), have partnered with the Portland Police Bureau to bring PPB officers to Bangladesh over the next two years to work with Rajshahi Metropolitan Police community police officers. The Portland Police Bureau has an active community policing program and the goal of this effort is for the PPB to share their expertise with the RMP in order to strengthen the RMP's own community policing efforts.

Portland and its surrounding suburbs have a population of just over 1 million people, similar in size to the city of Rajshahi, making Rajshahi a logical choice for the program. Portland also has a sizeable Muslim population, including Bangladeshis. Portland is committed to having strong police/community relations and is constantly seeking ways to improve its approach within its minority communities. This partnership is an excellent example of that commitment. The Portland police officers are here not only to teach. While in Bangladesh, the PPB officers are expected to explore the community of Rajshahi, eating, living, and mingling with the citizens of Rajshahi. Many of these PPB officers will experience for the first time what it is like to be a minority in a foreign land, and will take these experiences back with them to improve the PPB's own community policing efforts.

ICITAP also works closely with The Asia Foundation in the Rajshahi and Rangpur Divisions, in cooperation with the Inspector General of Police, the Rajshahi and Rangpur Deputy Inspector Generals, and the RMP Commissioner, to educate the police and public in the value of working in partnership to solve community problems. The Asia Foundation, which receives funding from USAID

for this program, and the Portland officers have already begun training RMP officers and the initial reactions have been positive.

While in Rajshahi, Chief Reese and Commissioner Kuykendall will observe and even participate in the training. Chief Reese will visit various police training facilities, attend community forums, and meet with senior police and civic leaders in Rajshahi. Before departing Bangladesh, Chief Reese is scheduled to meet with Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker to discuss additional ways that the two agencies can benefit each other.”



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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)