



State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok and Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan present a bouquet to Nishat Majumder, the first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, at a reception programme at Wasa Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nishat wants to serve people

Wasfia to return home Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, Nishat Majumder, at a programme yesterday expressed her optimism to serve the people of the country with similar dedication and hard work that she had put in to scale up to the peak.

Meanwhile, the second Bangladeshi woman to achieve the feat, Wasfia Nazreen, will be returning to Dhaka on Friday.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) organised a reception programme at its office in the capital yesterday, where State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok honoured Nishat by handing her a cheque of Tk 5 lakh on behalf of Dhaka Wasa.

The utility agency also awarded her with a crest in recognition of her triumph.

Nishat, who is an employee of Dhaka Wasa, said, "I seek the blessings of all so that I can reach the peak in delivering quality public service with the same dedication and hard work with which I reached the Mount Everest summit."

The mountaineer also expressed gratitude to her fellow officials and employees for their cooperation in her endeavour.

Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan also announced the allocation of a residence for Nishat at its officers' quarters while its Non-technical Officers' Association handed her a cheque of Tk 25,000.

Nanok urged Bangladeshi women to come forward with confidence and dedica-

tion similar to that of Nishat to combat terrorism and militancy in the country.

Local Government Division Secretary Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan, Dhaka Wasa Board Chairman Rahmatullah, and Nishat's parents Abdul Mannan Majumder and Ashura Begum also addressed the programme.

Meantime, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury visited Nishat's residence in the capital yesterday evening to congratulate her on her triumph.

Nishat, accompanied by another Mount Everest conqueror MA Mohit, launched her Everest expedition on April 9 and reached the peak on May 19.

Mohit was the first Bangladeshi to scale up the Mount Everest twice from both sides while Musa Ibrahim was the first Bangladeshi to achieve the feat on May 23, 2010.

Meanwhile, Wasfia told The Daily Star yesterday over phone that she is to return to Dhaka on Friday on completion of all procedures and receipt of her certificate in Kathmandu.

"The Mountaineering Division under the Ministry of Tourism in Nepal has already issued my certificate, which I hope to get by Tuesday evening," the mountaineer said.

Wasfia launched her Everest expedition on March 26 under a campaign titled 'Bangladesh on Seven Summits' supported by the Liberation War Museum of Bangladesh. She reached the summit on May 26.

MANPOWER EXPORT Separate directorate to curb harassment mulled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to form a separate directorate and a service centre in "near future" aimed at exporting manpower and preventing harassment of expatriate workers, Expatriate Welfare and Oversees Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain told the parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he also informed the House that fresh manpower export to Malaysia is expected to resume within two months.

He also said the government has identified 22 new countries, including Italy, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Congo, Estonia, Tanzania, Angola and Algeria, as new labour markets for Bangladeshi workers.

About setting up new directorate and a service centre on overseas employment, Mosharraf said the government could not utilise experiences of officials who worked for a certain period of time in labour wings in different diplomatic missions abroad as those officials join other government offices.

Replying to another query, the minister informed that a total of 17.54 lakh Bangladeshi workers have got jobs in different countries in the last three years and five months.

On the Bangladeshi workers' Akama [work permit] change related problems in Saudi Arabia, the minister said a technical delegation from the country will visit Bangladesh and the issue will be discussed at that time.

On finding out new labour markets apart from conventional destinations, he said two facts finding committees have already visited different countries in Africa and Latin America to find out new labour markets there.

"Besides, five high-powered government delegations are visiting now for searching of new labour markets," he added.

One held for acid attack on couple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested an official of a pharmaceutical company from the city's Tejgaon industrial area in early yesterday in connection with an acid hurling incident on a couple.

The arrestee Taposh Kumar Saha is a former colleague of victim Lailun Nahar. Her husband Sheikh Asadul Haque also sustained injuries in the incident.

The victim couple filed a case accusing five of her former colleagues. In the case, she alleged that her colleagues threw acid from a microbus onto them while they were going to their East Goran residence riding a motorbike on Monday.

Anisul Haque, officer-in-charge of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said they were trying to arrest other accused.

The victims, Lailun Nahar, 33, and Asadul Haque, 38, are undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Adequate stock for Ramadan

Claims govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has ensured "adequate" stock of daily essentials including edible oil, sugar and pulses to keep prices of these food items under control during the Ramadan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Faruk Khan told parliament yesterday.

"I want to assure people that the government is not only monitoring the market, but also has imported adequate amount of different essentials to ensure there is no problem in Ramadan," Faruk replied to lawmakers' queries on behalf of Commerce Minister GM Quader.

The commerce minister was not present in the House at that time.

The government will also import some other food items to meet additional requirement in Ramadan, he mentioned.

Responding to another query, he said the government will soon allocate industrial plots at Baosia in Gozaria upazila of Munshiganj to set up an active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) park.

A Bangladeshi trade delegation will visit Ghana, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal from June 23 to July 7 to explore medicine markets there, the minister told another questioner.

Besides, several other trade delegations will visit South Africa, Botswana and Brazil to identify potential medicine markets, added Faruk.

An API is the substance in a pharmaceutical drug or pesticide that is biologically active.

According to available data, local drug makers produce only five to seven percent of the total API requirements in Bangladesh, while the rest is imported.

Industry sources said the opportunity in API manufacturing is huge and 100 percent value addition is possible.

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- ক্রিকেটার তামিম ইকবাল

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