

LEAVING COUNTRY WITHOUT PERMISSION Tuku's PO detained at airport with wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku's personal officer (PO) Anisuzzaman Dolan and his wife were detained at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital on Wednesday as they tried to fly to the United States without taking official permission.

Talking to The Daily Star, Tuku said, "I asked the airport authorities to bar him from flying to the US as he [Dolan] did not take my permission."

Instructed by the state minister, the airport authorities barred Dolan and his wife from flying to the US and detained them at the airport for a few hours, said a source in the home ministry, adding that Dolan had come to office yesterday.

Several sources in the ministry claimed Dolan was involved in influencing postings of several police officers and sending several other officers to United Nations' peacekeeping missions; taking bribes from them.

Dolan might have been trying to flee to the US fearing a change of government, they said, adding that he might be sacked soon on different grounds.

Dolan could not be reached for comments.

Cancer patients' lives hang

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Associate Prof Dr Shahida Alam of radiotherapy at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra said cancerous cells can become aggressive and spread.

"Interruptions can also reduce chances of controlling or killing the malignant cells for which the radiotherapies were given," she said.

A 25-year-old female patient, on condition of anonymity, said, "Doctors told me that it was crucial to complete my radiotherapy doses without interruption. I have been staying at the hospital for the therapy is my only hope for a cure."

She had a cancerous brain tumour removed four months ago and her doses,

five times a week, were coming to an end this month.

Each dose at DMCH costs a minimum Tk 200 and she cannot afford doses at private hospitals where costs are at least five times higher.

Moreover, the patients complained that the authority was not providing any date on when the therapies would resume.

DMCH Director Brig General Md Mostafizur Rahman told The Daily Star that he had informed the authorities concerned and they were trying to repair the machine as soon as possible.

The machine had previously broken down for six days in February and around Tk 1 crore had to be spent to fix it, the administration sources informed.

Int'l design

FROM PAGE 5

visited the three old bridges yesterday to select a place where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stones of the new bridges on October 31.

Last year, the government decided to build these bridges as the existing ones are no longer in a condition to handle the heavy traffic flow on the highway billed as the country's economic lifeline.

Obaidul Quader said the existing two-lane bridges would also be rehabilitated. The new four-lane bridges will be constructed at a cost of Tk 8,487 crore, of which Japan has committed to providing Tk 6,429 crore as soft loan, he said.

In order to prepare the designs and carry out initial works, a Tk 2,315 deal has already been signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

An international tender will be floated once the appointed consultant prepares the designs, which will take four to six months.

"We are hoping to begin the construction of the new bridges by the next year and complete those in two and a half years," said an official of the Roads and Highways Department.

The new Kanchpur, Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges will be 396 metres, 870 metres, and 1,410 metres long.

BNP rallies

FROM PAGE 3

they tried to arrange a human chain demanding release of Aamar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman at Wasa intersection. The law enforcers also drove away opposition leaders and activists from the area.



Construction work of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover has left the road from Moghbazar intersection to Bangla Motor in the capital in a dilapidated condition which gets waterlogged whenever it rains.

PHOTO: STAR

Life sentence for custodial death

FROM PAGE 5

current parliament had first sat in 2009. It was drafted to conform to the UN convention against torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, adopted on December 10, 1984.

Bangladesh signed the convention on October 5, 1998, during the tenure of an Awami League-led government, promising to create effective legislation and take

administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture.

As per the law, torture means acts which cause physical or mental pain and are intended to intimidate, coerce or punish someone to obtain information or a confession. It also says, "...any person who attempts to commit, aid and abet in committing, and conspires to commit an offence shall also be guilty of an offence."

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haq proposed the passage of the "Parents' Care Bill 2013", also passed in voice vote.

The law allows aggrieved parents to file cases against their children if the latter decline to support them.

The spouse or any relative, including in-laws, will be considered offenders and punished if found guilty of having objected to such support, it said.

Bring charges against

FROM PAGE 3

"We are giving you time [15 days] for the last time," said the justice.

A member of HM Ershad's erstwhile government, Qaisar was arrested in the capital on May 21 following an arrest order by the tribunal. He, however, secured bail on August 5 on the grounds of his poor health.

The investigation agency, upon completing their probe, said Qaisar was a Razakar commander and member of the local peace committee in Habiganj during the Liberation War. He was involved in at least 16 incidents of crimes against humanity including abduction, murder, confinement, torture, arson and genocide.

Court to read

FROM PAGE 5

while another Jagannath University student, Golam Mostofa, at his village home in Manikganj on May 26.

Four of them have already

confessed to their role in the murder before courts.

On March 5, detectives pressed charges against 21 accused. But police are yet to arrest rest 13 accused who were BCL men.

Road crash kills 3 of a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three members of a family were killed and six others injured as a human hauler collided head-on with a pickup on Kalihati-Balla road in Charan of Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday noon.

The dead are Koruna Rani Das, 45, wife of Jagadish of Dharpara village in Gopalpur upazila; Shilpy Rani Das, 25, her daughter; and Puspo Rani Das, 2, her granddaughter.

Locals took the injured to Kalihati Upazila Health Complex.

IOJ calls for lift of rally ban

FROM PAGE 3

The IOJ leaders also asked the government to stop the mass roundups of opposition leaders and activists and expressed their support for the BNP chief's formula on a neutral caretaker government, which was placed in parliament Wednesday.

When asked about Hefajat-e Islam's participation in the 18-party rally today, Mufti Faizulla,

secretary general of IOJ, which is a part of Hefajat-e Islam, said Hefajat was not a part of the opposition alliance but it could join the rally if it wanted.

Both the IOJ chief and Mufti Faizullah are leaders of Hefajat.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed an indefinite ban on political gatherings in the capital from October 20.

Nine more claim innocence

FROM PAGE 5

firearms and the other under the arms act, are 50 and 52 respectively. Of them, 29 and 30 respectively are out on bail.

On Wednesday, 23 of those out on bail and common accused in both cases claimed they were innocent and stated they would not produce witnesses.

The cases were filed a day after seven truckloads of arms and ammunition were seized at a jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) in Chittagong city on April 2, 2004.

Yesterday, former CUFL Managing Director Mohsin Uddin Talukder expressed the intent to produce wit-

nesses and sought time.

Moreover, while Kamal was reading out the charges before the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal Number 1, one accused arrogantly said he had something to say and that the court "will write it".

This was in response to the court's assurance to his verbal appeal that he could submit whatever he had to say in writing after Kamal had read out the charges.

The court angrily warned the accused, former DGI director Maj Gen (retd) Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury, that he could not direct the court in that way.

Rezzakul apologised and the court allowed him to place his statement on October 30.

Pro-BNP lawyers postpone

FROM PAGE 5

Court Bar Association (SCBA) said the convention was postponed so that the lawyers can provide legal assistance to opposition leaders and activists, who have been detained and arrested recently.

On October 22, JAOP had announced that they will organise a convention on the SCBA premises.

Rafiqul Islam Miah claimed that many lawyers from across the country were coming to

attend the scheduled convention, but some of them were detained as the government had imposed an indefinite ban on rallies, human chains, demonstrations, sit-ins and processions in the capital from October 20.

He said those detained and arrested opposition leaders and activists have requested the lawyers to postpone the convention so that they can discharge their duties.

Case dismissed

FROM PAGE 3

In his complaint, Alam said on October 21, the accused attacked Col (retd) Abdul Majid and Enam Ahmed both assigned to provide security to the BNP chief.

On October 21, former Chhatra Dal president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku was detained from BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's convoy during a scuffle between police and her personal staff.

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