

Trump returns

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woman stated that she had information that individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee and supporting Ms. Clinton," the statement said. Clinton was the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee.

"Her statements were vague, ambiguous and made no sense. No details or supporting information was provided or even offered. It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information."

Trump Jr said Veselnitskaya then turned the conversation to the adoption of Russian children and a US law blacklisting Russians linked to alleged human-rights abuses.

President Trump was "not aware of and did not attend" the meeting, Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's legal team, said in an emailed statement.

Trump Jr said he was asked to attend the meeting "with an individual who I was told might have information helpful to the campaign" at the request of an acquaintance he knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant.

"I asked Jared and Paul to attend, but told them nothing of the substance," he said.

"The meeting lasted approximately 20 to 30 minutes," he said. "As it ended, my acquaintance apologized for taking up our time. That was the end of it and there was no further contact or follow-up of any kind. My father knew nothing of the meeting or these events."

The New York Times report said Trump Jr was promised damaging information about Clinton before agreeing to meet with the lawyer. It cited three advisers to the White House briefed on the meeting and two others with knowledge of it.

The Times first reported on the meeting on Saturday, after which Trump Jr issued a statement confirming that it took place, but made no mention of the Clinton aspect.

Representatives for Manafort and Kushner did not respond to requests for comment.

Allegations of the Trump campaign's ties to Russia have cast a shadow over Donald Trump's first five months in office.

A federal special counsel and several congressional committees are investigating possible contacts between the campaign and Russian representatives as part of a larger probe into allegations that Moscow meddled in the election.

The June meeting was the first confirmed private meeting between members of the president's inner circle and a Russian national, the Times reported, citing confidential government records and interviews with people familiar with the documents.

The revelations come after President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the allegations of election meddling during the summit of leaders from the Group of 20 major economies in Hamburg, Germany.

The Kremlin has denied US intelligence agencies' conclusion that Moscow tried to tilt the election in Trump's favour, using such means as hacking into the emails of senior Democrats.

Trump has repeatedly denied any collusion.

Iraqi troops

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A senior commander said yesterday that Iraqi forces were engaged in "heavy" fighting with the remnants of jihadist forces, but that the battle was near its end.

Lieutenant General Sami al-Aridhi of the elite Counter-Terrorism Service said the jihadists had been reduced to an area of the Old City of about 200 by 100 metres (yards).

"They do not accept to surrender," Aridhi told AFP.

But "operations are in their final stages," and "it is likely that (the fighting) will end today", Aridhi said.

CIVILIANS TRAPPED

Aridhi said his forces had information that there were between 3,000 and 4,000 civilians in the area but that could not be independently confirmed.

Backed by the US-led coalition battling IS, Iraqi forces launched their campaign in October to retake Mosul, which was seized by the jihadists during the mid-2014 offensive that saw them take control of large parts of Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

Army, police and special forces, backed by waves of US-led air strikes, seized the eastern side of the city in January and launched the battle for its western part the next month.

The fight grew tougher when security forces entered the densely populated Old City on the western bank of the Tigris River, which divides the city, and intense street-to-street fighting followed.

The cost of victory has been enormous: much of Mosul in ruins, thousands dead and wounded and nearly half the city's population forced from their homes.

The United Nations has said 920,000 people fled their homes during the Mosul operation, and while some have returned the vast majority remain displaced.

FARHAD MAZHAR 'ABDUCTION' 'Ex-female employee of his NGO gives statement under 164'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former female employee of Farhad Mazhar's NGO in a judicial statement yesterday said the writer contacted her several times on July 3, the day he reportedly went missing from outside his Adabor residence in the capital, court and police sources said.

She said the writer gave her Tk 15,000 through a mobile banking platform around 7:00pm that day.

However, she said Farhad used to give her Tk 10,000 - Tk 12,000 a month depending on her need and that in April, she asked the writer to give her money.

On July 4, Farhad in a judicial statement before another magistrate said several unidentified men forced him into a microbus and blindfolded him minutes after he came out of his Adabor house to buy medicines in the early hours of July 3.

Law enforcers found him on a bus in Jessor's Noapara around 11:30pm on the same day.

"At around 11:00am, I phoned him

and wanted to know whether he had been abducted. He told me that he was alright."

She also said she joined Farhad's organisation UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative) between 2006 and 2007. She got acquainted with the writer when she was posted in Cox's Bazar. She left the NGO in 2009.

Earlier on May 31, the HC in a suo moto move directed the relevant authorities to take necessary steps to remove all the stairs from Mayor Mohammad Hanif flyover.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to remove the stairs from the flyover.

Following a stay petition filed by Orion Infrastructure Limited, the SC chamber judge on June 9 issued status quo on the removal of stairs set up on the flyover for entry and exit.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and Deputy Attorney General SM Moniruzzaman stood for the state.

As the authorities concerned of the flyover set up two stairs at Jatrabari from where vehicles enter the flyover, they pose a huge risk. Furthermore, bus stoppages have been created at the points centering the stairs.

Everyday thousands of passengers use the stand from where they board various buses especially local services like to Gulistan-Demra, Motijheel-Madonpur, Gazipur to Signboard and Gulistan to Madonpur routes. Many passengers who want to get down at Jatrabari also use these points and the passengers go below using those stairs.

Top 100

FROM PAGE 1
Saleh Carpet Mills Ltd and SK Steel and Chowdhury Knitwear.

On June 20, the finance minister told the parliament that a total of 202,623 persons and companies, which had borrowed money from 55 state and private commercial banks, defaulted on their loans as of March 2017.

Muhith also said the National Board of Revenue has seized around 4,490 kilograms of gold in the last seven years from the airports and different other checkpoints.

There were 2,928,093 individual taxpayers in the country in 2016-17, which was expected to reach 30 lakh at the end of the fiscal year, he said.

"Some nine lakh new taxpayers were registered in the first nine months of 2016-17." Over four lakh new taxpayers submitted their returns in the same fiscal year, he said.

The government has taken various steps to bring more people under the tax net and to increase revenue collection from income tax to 50 percent from the existing 37 percent by 2020-21.

Asked how the Unesco would be monitoring whether the government carried out SEA properly, the country representative said, "The draft decision had a reference to IUCN guidelines for environmental assessments, but certainly, Unesco would support the government as required."

It is the duty of the particular state party to protect their heritage site fulfilling the requirements as outlined in the convention, she said.

A world heritage site is of outstanding universal value, she said, adding that the international heritage community may sometimes require more efforts or stronger approaches than outlined in the national rules and regulations of a country.

Kaldun pointed out that following

Open help desks

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issued by the ministry.

A control room on public health emergency operation centre [chikungunya disease control room] was launched on July 3 at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). A workgroup has also been formed to work 24 hours a day under the IEDCR, informs the release.

A round-the-clock hotline for answering people and doctors on chikungunya has also been set up. The hotline numbers are 0193710011 and 01937000011.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque has meanwhile claimed chikungunya has not spread in an epidemic form and is limited to Dhaka city.

"People outside Dhaka are not infected by chikungunya as of now... So, it has not reached epidemic proportions," he told a press conference at the conference room of the ministry yesterday.

Zahid claims they took adequate measures to create mass awareness to prevent the disease. He added the doctors had been given training to that end.

He further said the city corporations should gear up their activities to destroy aedes mosquitoes to check chikungunya outbreak.

Symptoms of the disease are visible in four to seven days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito. Chikungunya is characterised by an abrupt onset of high fever frequently accompanied by joint pain.

Other common signs and symptoms of the disease include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. The joint pain is often very debilitating, but usually lasts for a few days or may prolong for weeks.

The Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday chalked out elaborate programmes to make people aware of chikungunya. Officials of the DSCC held a views exchange meeting with students of five education institutions to make them aware, said a press release.

An information centre has been opened at the DSCC with a hotline number 9563507 to get information regarding chikungunya, it read.

SC scraps

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On May 22, a Cox's Bazar court sent Ruhul Amin to jail as he surrendered before the court, seeking bail. At the time, he was posted to the Economic Relations Division as deputy secretary.

The HC granted bail to the duo as they filed bail petitions.

The authorities issued detention warrants for eight staff from Bogazici

Remove stairs

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of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover for the benefit of the people.

However, experts said there should not be stairs in the flyovers as they can cause various difficulties in vehicular movement.

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