

DIG Mizan quizzed over 'illegal' wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Mizanur Rahman for about seven and a half hours to glean information about his alleged illegal wealth.

"We are collecting information from him on his and his relatives' wealth," said an ACC high-up who is overseeing the interrogation process.

"We'll then trace the source of money," the official said, adding after examination of his statements and documents they will take further steps. The official asked for anonymity. After the interrogation, DIG Mizan, however, denied the allegation about illegal wealth.

Mizan was withdrawn as additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) following a marital scandal in January.

Mizan told the journalist, "I've mentioned the amount of my wealth in the income tax file. I don't have anything more than that."

ACC's Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary interrogated Mizan, who has been attached to the Police Headquarters since January 10.

Mizan arrived at ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters about 45 minutes earlier than the schedule time of 9:30am. The quizzing began around 9:00am.

After the end of interrogation, around 4:25pm, when Mizan was leaving the building with a smile on his face, journalists encircled him for his comment.

Refuting the allegations, the DIG said ACC quizzed him for a long time and he told them that he did not have illegal wealth.

"Beyond [the wealth mentioned in] my tax file, I have no extra wealth. If you want to know more, go to the enquiry officer," he said.

Asked that he bought wealth under his relatives' names to SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Summer is when Dhaka streets take on the hues of nature. Set against a gloomy sky, the red and yellow flowers seem to set the street ablaze. The photo was taken yesterday near TSC, Dhaka University.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Toddler keeps asking for lost leg



PHOTO: STAR

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Ever since she regained consciousness after a surgery, the two-and-a-half-year old girl has been tirelessly searching for her amputated right leg.

"Where is my leg?" little Sumaiya keeps asking frantically, while her teary-eyed parents watch over her.

"We don't know how to console her," her parents said while talking to this correspondent at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday.

"She was in excruciating pain when she arrived at the hospital on April 22, after a tractor had crushed her right leg and injured her head and chest," doctors at RMCH said.

"We have tried our best to save her leg, but we could do nothing to help the little soul," said Dr. Ajoy Kumar Roy, director of RMCH.

"Already she has had two surgeries and a third may be conducted on Sunday," said Dr Shafiqul Islam, head of surgery department at the hospital. "The girl is suffering from Anaemia, so she cannot be operated on unless she is fit," he added.

Meanwhile, Shafiqul Islam Babu, father of the child, is desperately worrying about her treatment costs and her future. "Please stop my daughter's tears," he begged the doc-

tors and this correspondent.

Babu is a day labourer at a local rice factory and the sole earner in the family. Babu, his wife, and their two children -- Sumaiya and her brother Kajol, 6 -- live in the Mahiganj area of Rangpur city.

"I make Tk 250 a day, and have not been to work since her accident," Babu said. He doesn't know where the money will come from for further treatments. He has already spent Tk 60,000 for his daughter's treatment, he said, adding that he borrowed the money on high interest.

On April 22, Sumaiya's mother Kazoli Begum took her to a local market and bought her a bright red dress. After they returned, the child insisted to go to the mill where her father worked; she wanted to show her new dress to her father.

After meeting her father, Sumaiya went out to play in the mill which is located on Rangpur-Sundarganj road in Mahiganj area. Suddenly, a tractor, after losing control over its wheels, hit the girl, while she was playing. Locals rescued the girl and rushed her to RMCH.

Contacted, Babul Mia, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rangpur Sadar Police Station said that the tractor has been seized, however, the driver could not be arrested yet. "The victim's family did not file any case yet, so we could not arrest anyone," said the OC.

BRINGING TARIQUE BACK Wrote several letters, will write more Says foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has sent several letters to the British authorities and will write more as part of its ongoing efforts to bring back BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, said Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday.

Tarique is convicted in two cases and accused in over a dozen other cases including the one for attempting to assassinate present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2004 when she was leader of the opposition.

"The process of writing letters to the British government is going on. We have already written several letters in this regard," the foreign minister said while responding to a query during a press briefing held at his ministry in the capital.

The briefing was organised ahead of the 45th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, to be held in Dhaka on May 5 and 6.

"We've got responses from the UK Home Office," and based on the responses from the British government, "We'll write more if needed," Mahmood Ali added.

The issue of bringing Tarique Rahman back from the UK came to the fore after State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam stated that Tarique handed over his Bangladesh passport to the British Home Office four years ago.

Tarique's party, BNP, acknowledged his action saying that he had done so

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Nishat Majumdar sets out to conquer new Himalayan peak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nishat Majumdar, the first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest will start another expedition to scale Imja Tse, also known as Island Peak in the Everest region.

A seven-member IFAD Bangladesh team, led by Majumdar, will start the expedition on May 6 to conquer the 6,189 metre peak.

The announcement came at a press conference and flag handing over ceremony at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor was the chief guest at the event, and handed over a Bangladeshi flag to the team for hoisting on the Imja Tse peak. IFAD Group



PHOTO: COLLECTED

managing director Tanveer Ahmed presided. He handed over the flag of sponsor firm IFAD Group to the team.

Other members of the team are noted singer Kanak Aditya, traveler Anu Tareque, Dhaka university teacher and dramatist Maruf Kabir, Bangla Channel-conquering swim-

mer Sohag Biswas, Yasmin Lisa and Raquib Hasan.

Nishat Majumdar said if the youth are involved in such adventures, they will be imbued with patriotism and keep themselves away from drugs and militancy. "We want the earth to be habitable for all," she said.

Asaduzzaman Noor said the youth of this generation are showing their bravery through adventure, sports and creativity and these bold youths will take the country forward.

An accounts officer of the Water and Sewage Department (WASA), Nishat Majumdar became the first Bangladeshi woman to climb Mount Everest, the highest summit in the world on May 19, 2012.



Foot over-bridges are an integral element of road safety in the capital, but those constructing it are working without safety measures of their own. A worker is seen busy erecting a foot over bridge in the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue without any safety harness or scaffolding, hanging dangerously right above busy traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Where children had their say

Two-day dialogue between Saarc MPs and school students ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hailing from a school in Barisal, Md Yeasin never thought that he would have a chance to talk to a lawmaker and discuss issues that affect his life.

However, he got a chance -- a chance to interact with a lawmaker. Interestingly, it's a lawmaker from Bhutan. During the first meeting, Yeasin did not miss the opportunity to ask the visiting lawmaker about the malnutrition problems in South Asia region and how to overcome those.

In reply, the Bhutanese lawmaker said such problems exist in different countries and his government had taken necessary measures to address the problem.

Some of the steps his government has taken include running awareness campaign on health, giving free medical facilities, and planting vegetables on school yards to meet the demands of nutrition of school

children, he added. The conversation took place at a programme titled "South Asia Parliamentary Platform for Children" at the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel yesterday.

Like Yeasin, a total of 350 school students from different districts across the country got an opportunity to interact with at least 36 lawmakers from the eight countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) during the two-day programme organised by UNICEF.

Yesterday was the concluding day. On the day, students (aged under 18) participated in the programme where lawmakers from other countries also informed them what measures their respective governments have taken to address issues involving children like health, education, violence and labour.

According to the organisers, the programme aimed to promote chil-

dren's issues, while giving the parliamentarians and the children in the region an opportunity to engage in fruitful dialogue.

Fazle Rabbi Mian, Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament, was present at the programme as a guest. The government has given priority to children during its march towards progress, he said.

UNICEF representative in Bangladesh, Edouard Beigbeder, congratulated the children for their lively conversation with the parliamentarians.

On the first day of the programme, participants focused on increasing investment in children and young adults, bringing about much-needed change for millions of poor, and improving the prospects for healthy economic growth in the region.

The organisers said they are planning to arrange such programmes three times a year.

Edu ministry corrects 'Hajj leave' blunder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Education Ministry yesterday corrected a circular that read Prof Arun Chandra Biswas of Government Bangabandhu College in Gopalganj was granted leave for "performing hajj in Saudi Arabia".

In the corrected circular, the Ministry approved him a 21-day leave from June 1 to go on pilgrimage in India, as he had sought.

Earlier on Monday, the ministry issued a circular where it approved 50-day leave for him from July 25 to September 12 citing "performing Hajj in Saudi Arabia" as the reason for leave.

The blunder soon began making rounds on social media, with many taunting the professor about it.

Prof Arun yesterday expressed gratitude and relief at the issuance of the corrected circular.

Jahanara Imam's movement has seen success

Speakers say on her 89th birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

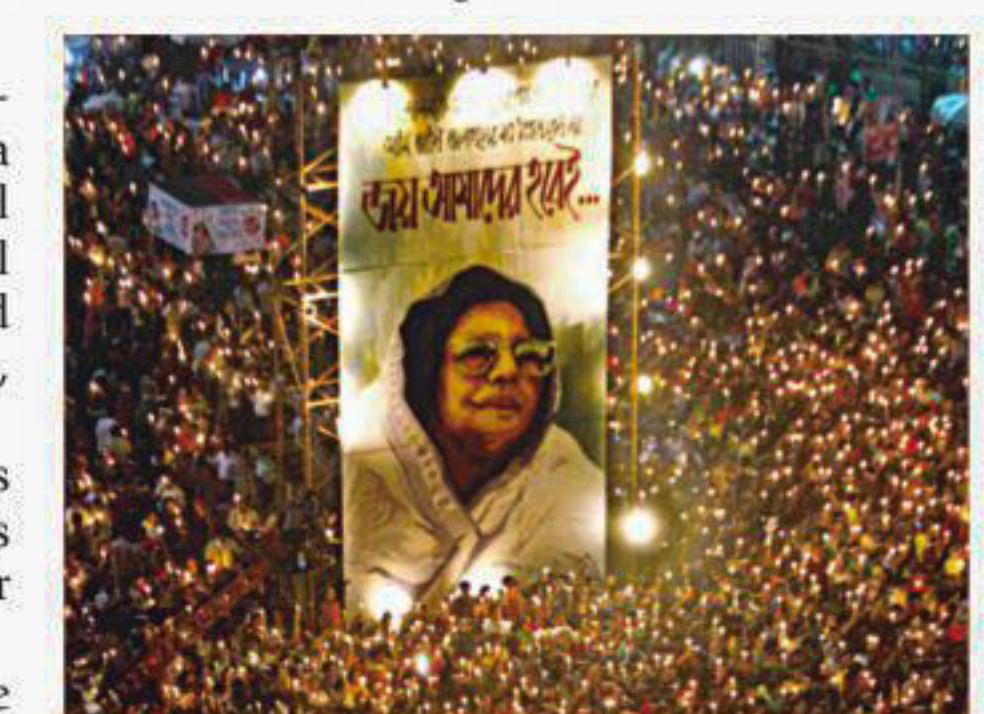
Partial victory of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam-led civic movement demanding trial of war criminals and a ban on communal politics of Jamaat-Shibir has been achieved through the conviction of top war criminals, speakers said at a programme yesterday.

However, they also said the war crimes trial of Jamaat-e-Islami as a party or its associated killer groups—Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams—is yet to start.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee arranged the discussion titled "Sufi Islam of humanity versus Wahhabi-Maududi's Islam of terror", marking Jahanara Imam's 89th birth anniversary at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Speaking as chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon said, "Jahanara Imam started a war against the rise of Moududi ideals and its followers who later got convicted for war crimes."

"Although it was late, her struggle has been successful through trial and conviction of the war criminals."



FILE PHOTO

Former law minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed, who presided over the programme, said the trial of war criminals finally took place due to the sacrifice and the battle of a courageous woman like Jahanara Imam.

A documentary on Sufism titled "Mithat's Dream", directed the Nirmul Committee president Shahriar Kabir, was also screened.

Dhaka University professors Muntassir Mamoon, Robaet Ferdous and Bahauddin, and president of Bangladesh Sammilito Islami Jote Ziaul Hasan also spoke at the programme.