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TIPU MURDER

Suspect Musa brought home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sumon Shikder Musa, a key suspect in the murders of Dhaka Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu, and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity, was brought home from Oman by police yesterday.

A three-member police team brought him back in a Biman flight that touched down at the Chattogram airport around 9:30am, said an official of the Detective Branch of police.

The flight, which was scheduled to land at the Dhaka airport, was diverted to Chattogram due to inclement weather. It reached the capital around noon.

Oman police arrested Musa on May 12 when he was returning to Dubai after offering prayers at a shrine in Salalah city, said the DB official wishing anonymity.

An accused in 11 cases, including the ones for murders and possession of illegal firearms, Musa fled to Dubai on March 12. He was a fugitive convict in one of those cases, the official added.

Investigators were hopeful of making a major progress in the probe of the double murder case through interrogating Musa.

Musa coordinated the killings, said a detective quoting the confessional statement of another arrestee Masum Mohammad alias Akash.

He said Musa supplied the firearm which was used to kill Tipu.

On March 24, Tipu, 55, former general secretary of Motijheel AL, was returning home in his microbus from his restaurant in Motijheel AGB Colony area. The vehicle was at a traffic light in Shahjahanpur when attackers arrived at the scene on a motorcycle and opened fire.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bangladesh Army Stadium came alive yesterday when Arnob and his crew appeared on stage, making the day-long wait worth it for the thousands of people who stayed till midnight in a colourful fiesta of music. The night saw special performances from the sensational Coke Studio Bangla crew, as well as Nemesis, Band Lalon, Tahsan, Warfaze, and the show-stopper, Nagar Baul James. Coke Studio concert, despite its many roadblocks, was a resounding success owing to the sheer passion displayed by the fans.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Activist Mizanur freed after 6hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activist Mizanur Rahman walked out of the DB office in the capital's Minto Road yesterday, six hours after he was picked up.

Mizanur, a resident of Jurain, was released from the office around 4:45pm, said his wife Shamim Hasem Khuki.

He came into the limelight after uniquely protesting the supply of murky water by Dhaka Wasa.

According to Khuki, Mizanur was picked up by a group of unidentified people, including some in police uniforms, from a place close to Jurain's Bikrampur Plaza around 11:00am.

Contacted, Mofizul Alam, officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station, initially denied Khuki's allegation.

Later, he said detectives detained Mizanur for interrogation over his suspected link to an attack on a traffic surgent and a police box in Jurain on Tuesday.

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police too were initially silent about his detention.

AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner of (detectives) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they did not arrest him.

"He was taken to the DB office to talk over some issues."

Three police personnel, including a sergeant, were injured after a group of people attacked them in Jurain following an altercation between the sergeant and two commuters on a motorcycle.

Sergeant Ali Hossain, of Wari Traffic Division, needed 23 stitches on his hand after the attack, said police.

The mob also attacked a police box alleging harassment of a female commuter which police denied.

Policemen suspected Mizanur instigated the attacks.

He came into the limelight after uniquely protesting the supply of murky water by Dhaka Wasa.

Nothing to make up for learning loss

Education budget falls in percentage of GDP

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The proposed budget did not offer any new way out for the recovery of learning loss of millions of students caused by the Covid-19 pandemic through school closures.

The proposed budget for a Covid-battered education sector appeared to have also glossed over the need for capacity building of teachers for the proper implementation of new curriculums.

These two vital measures have been missed out although the theme of this year's budget is "Return to the Path of Development Leaving the Covid-19 Behind".

Moreover, ignoring longstanding appeals of educationists and Unesco recommendations for increasing the GDP's share in the budgetary allocations for education, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal went for a reduction.

GDP'S SHARE IN EDUCATION DROPS

The finance minister allocated Tk 81,449 crore -- Tk

31,761 crore for the primary and mass education ministry, Tk 39,961 crore for the Secondary and Higher Education Division and Tk 9,727 for the Technical and Madrasa Education Division -- for the fiscal year 2022-23.

He had allocated Tk 71,954 crore for the outgoing fiscal year.

In other words, the finance minister allocated only 1.83 per cent of the GDP for the education sector for fiscal year 2022-23. It was 2.08 per cent in the current budget.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) recommends spending 6 per cent of the GDP on the education sector.

The amount of fiscal year 2022-23 makes up 12.01 per cent of the total outlay. It was 11.91 per cent of the total outlay of the current budget.

Attending an event yesterday morning, Education Minister Dipu Moni claimed that the current size of the education budget was 3 per cent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) but it should be increased

to 6 per cent in the future.

Once the ongoing mega projects are implemented, education will be the country's largest mega project, she added.

LEARNING LOSS

The finance minister in his budget speech said the country's education programme faced disruptions since the first week of March 2020 due to the spread of coronavirus infections.

He mentioned that the authorities continued teaching online and through TV and radio. Imparting of lessons through TV continued to keep students focused on their studies even after the reopening of schools, he said.

"In addition, to ensure close monitoring of the progress of students' studies, teachers are continuing their regular teaching activities through mobile phones and personal communication with the students," he said.

Educationists said most students in urban areas have access to learning through the internet but the digital divide

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Budget doesn't reflect reality

Say economists

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The proposed budget has not properly addressed the pressing issues -- higher inflation and the US dollar crisis -- that are causing immense macroeconomic imbalances, said economists in their immediate reaction.

"It seems to me that the proposed budget has not paid enough attention to two macroeconomic imbalances-- inflation and dollar crisis. The budget has been rather oblivious to these although there has been mention of inflation in the budget," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

One of the main elements of inflation is increased domestic demand.

"But there is not enough measure to contain domestic demand," said Zahid.

Reducing budget deficit is one way to contain inflation.

"But we see an increase in the budget deficit from the revised budget. This will stoke inflation," he said, adding that austerity in expenditure would have helped curb prices spike and US dollar demand.

"We have not seen that in the budget."

Zahid went on to say that the duty and higher taxes on some products, also used by the middle-income groups, may fuel the inflationary pressure.

However, he welcomed the initiatives to promote exports.

"The export benefits have been unified. It will encourage other exporters to diversify the export basket."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



HAPPY TOGETHER ... A pair of Purple Swamphens seen soaring across the sky in Sunamganj's Tanguar Haor recently. A species of the Swamphen Occurin, these birds prefer staying in groups, in the company of their comrades. They are inhabitants of marshy, vegetated freshwater bodies such as swamps, rivers, and lakes. Even as bulky birds, they are gifted fliers and can take to the air whenever in the face of danger.

PHOTO: MOSABBER HOSSAIN RIBON

Services will need proof of income tax payment

SOHEL PARVEZ

People will require to submit the proof of submission of their income tax returns in order to get more than 40 types of services, including loans and trade licence, as the National Board of Revenue looks to raise more taxes.

The proof could be an acknowledgement receipt of the return, a system-generated certificate containing the name and taxpayer's identification number (TIN) of the person, or a certificate issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes.

It will have to be furnished in the case

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Budget to help draw investment

Businesses, economists say

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The budget proposed in parliament yesterday is geared toward attracting private sector investment to create employment and expand businesses, but some proposals need to be reconsidered, said economists and businesspeople.

The government has been trying to increase private sector investment to 27 percent of the GDP over the last few years, but the ratio has been stagnant at 23 percent. The budget will help boost competitiveness and ease business opportunities, they said.

"There are indications in some proposals that both domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) will increase if the proposals are implemented," M Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

For instance, tax rates have been made uniform for all export-oriented factories, which will encourage local entrepreneurs.

The proposed budget has set a 12 percent corporate tax rate for non-green export

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7