

Indian minister quits key anti-corruption post

Anna Hazare's hunger strike against graft enters third day, gathers support

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The indefinite hunger strike launched by India's leading social activist Anna Hazare against corruption in high places claimed its first casualty on Wednesday night as Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar resigned from a committee set up to combat graft.

Pawar quit the Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, saying he does not want to be "associated" with the panel anymore.

Pawar, the chief of Nationalist Congress Party, a key component of the country's Congress-led coalition government, said he has written a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, informing him that he does not want to remain in the GoM.

However, Hazare said Pawar should resign as a minister also. "Our problem has not been



Sharad Pawar

resolved by Pawar resigning from the GoM. One Pawar goes, another will come," he said.

The 72-year-old activist began his hunger strike at Jantar Mantar here on Tuesday demanding the government draft a new parliamentary bill which will give more powers to the Ombudsman to check corruption.

Meanwhile, support for Hazare, a known crusader against graft, swelled across the country with civil society activists holding sit-ins in several cities.

Nearly 200 people joined Hazare in fasting at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday and thousands of students, professionals and activists took out a candlelight procession at New Delhi's iconic landmark the India Gate.

Congress's insinuation that Hazare was protesting at the behest of the ruling party's opponents drew sharp rejoinder from Hazare.

Turkey to disclose Libya 'roadmap'

AFP, Ankara

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan were to disclose a Libyan "roadmap" yesterday at 1600 GMT, Turkish news channel NTV reported, without elaborating.

Erdogan was to hold a news conference at his party headquarters in Ankara on Libyan developments, Anatolia news agency reported.

He pressed the regime's envoy for a ceasefire and political reform in Libya, but there was no immediate agreement, a senior Turkish diplomat said.

Ankara is trying to see whether there is "any common ground" for a ceasefire and an agreement on a "roadmap" of political reform to end the turmoil in Libya.

Thousands flee key Libyan city in fear of regime assault

Nato denies charges of killing rebels in airstrikes

AFP, Near Ajdabiya

Libyan insurgents and civilians stampeded out of Ajdabiya yesterday on rumours that loyalist forces were at the gates of the eastern town, hours after an airstrike tore into the rebels' defences.

Families packed into cars and trucks joined rebel military vehicles in a charge northeast towards the insurgent stronghold Benghazi, some 160 kilometres away, AFP correspondents said.

The administrator of the hospital in Ajdabiya said many civilians left in panic because of the unconfirmed rumours of advancing Gaddafi forces, but that the rumours were unfounded.

Many rebel fighters remained in the town along with doctors at the hospital, after its patients were evacuated to Benghazi as a precaution, administrator Majbali Yunis said on the telephone.

The flight began soon after rebels

were hit by an air strike near the key oil town of Brega, 80 kilometres west of Ajdabiya, they said was carried out by Nato jets in which two fighters and a paramedic were killed and 10 fighters wounded.

The wounded were rushed to Ajdabiya in ambulances which were followed by a convoy of rebel military vehicles.

The fighters, already angry at what they perceive to be lack of air support from Nato vented their fury over the airstrike.

"Instead of attacking Gaddafi they are attacking us," said Suleiman Rifadia, a volunteer medic at the hospital.

"How come Nato is dropping bombs east of Brega when Gaddafi's forces are to the west (of the town)," asked another rebel fighter who was sobbing uncontrollably.

Saleh Faraj, a former soldier siding with the rebels, said at least three rebel

tanks were hit in the air strike. The same number was given by other rebel fighters.

"There was no fighting anywhere. (The warplanes) flew back and forth and then they struck our forces," said Faraj.

"We only like (French President) Sarkozy," he added. "We don't want Nato or anyone else."

In Brussels, Nato said it was trying to confirm the reports.

Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim told a news conference in Tripoli that British warplanes had bombed Libya's biggest oil field at Al-Sarir in the southeast, damaging a pipeline to Tobruk, which is under rebel control.

Nato denied the allegation.

"The only one responsible for this fire is the Gaddafi regime and we know he wants to disrupt oil getting to Tobruk," said Lieutenant General Charles Bouchard, commander of the Nato mission.

Khaleda demands referendum

FROM PAGE 20 and alleged that the committee is working in an "autocratic manner".

Criticising the government move to curb judges' power in the name of amendment, Khaleda said late president Ziaur Rahman introduced the provision for referendum before changing the basic structure of the constitution.

"This provision is now being scrapped. But we'll not accept if parliament, judiciary or any other committee

is empowered by seizing the power from the people," she warned.

On war crimes trial, she said nothing of the International Crimes Tribunal including its act, regulations, investigation as well as its formation is transparent or of international standard.

"The government has set a heinous trap for a farcical trial and unjustified detention by forming the so-called tribunal to try war criminals," the former prime minister

told the reception.

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a Pro-BNP lawyers' body, organised the programme at Engineers' Institution in the capital.

BNP Vice-chairman TH Khan, standing committee members Moudud Ahmed and Jamiruddin Sircar and SCBA President Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and General Secretary Badruddoza Badal, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Probe Rab firing

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Farid Ahmed issued the rule following a news report published in the Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Deputy Attorney General Razik-Al-Jalil said the court did not deliver the ruling in detail.

Also yesterday, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku told journalists that the NHRC chairman viewed the Limon issue from his perspective.

If the allegation made against Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is true, the elite force has its own departmental and legal steps for the offenders, he said, adding that Rab also has its own system of investigation.

Asked whether the ministry would form the probe committee, the state minister said it would be formed if necessary.

Meanwhile, yesterday in a press release Rab Legal and Media Wing stood by their version of the shootout claiming Limon and his cohorts opened fire at Rab members prompting them to retaliate. However, it was not confirmed exactly how Limon was wounded.

The press release said as per the existing law, an

investigation in this matter has been on under a magistrate since its incidence.

Yesterday, when journalists went to the prison ward of National Institute of Traumatology and Research (Nitor), where Limon is being treated, they were not allowed in. Relatives of Limon were also refused entry to the hospital, as Limon is now accused in two cases including one for possessing illegal arms, and that his visitor-privilege is restricted.

Masud Hasan, a villager from Limon's home, told The Daily Star that as far as he knows, Limon is a very good lad. He said it is hard to believe that a boy like Limon would have a gunfight with Rab.

Limon's mother Henu Ara Begum said her son is innocent and he lost his leg for Rab's mistake. Rab has filed two cases against Limon to label him as an armed miscreant, she alleged.

She said she heard that Rab personnel were pursuing and intimidating villagers to be witness for the law enforcement agency.

Our Barisal correspon-

dent adds: Panic has spread in Limon's village as plainclothes Rab have been staying there since Limon's story came in the media.

Hemayet Hossain, chairman of Satura union, told The Daily Star that he enquired about Limon in the locality and found nothing bad. He suspects some local elements behind the incident.

Officer-in-Charge Tofazzal Hossain of Rajapur Police Station said a case was filed against Limon with his police station in 2009 for his involvement in a clash.

On this the family said Limon protested when his uncle beat his mother over a family feud. Following that the uncle filed that case accusing Limon, among others, for the untoward incident.

New elementary particle found

AFP, Washington

Data from a major US atom smasher lab may have revealed a new elementary particle, or potentially a new force of nature that could expand our knowledge of the properties of matter, physicists say.

The science world was abuzz with excitement Wednesday over the findings, which could offer clues to the persistent riddle of mass and how objects obtain it -- one of the most sought-after answers in all of physics.

But experts cautioned that more analysis was needed over the next several months to uncover the true nature of the observation, which comes as part of an ongoing experiment with proton and antiproton collisions to understand the workings of the universe.

"There could be some new force beyond the force that we know," said Giovanni Punzi, a physicist with the international research team that is analysing the data from the US Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

"If it is confirmed, it could point to a whole new world of interactions," he told AFP.

While much remains a mystery, researchers agree that this is not the "God Particle," or the Higgs-boson, a hypothetical elementary particle that has long eluded physicists who believe it could explain why objects have mass.

Career Opportunity

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- Develop quarterly town hall presentation with support from the planning and other departments
- Arrange travel plans, itineraries, travel reservations, and hotel accommodations for the President's trips, as well as those for his visitors from abroad
- Maintain and ensure confidentiality of information by authorized personnel and ensure that the personnel files of all department heads and those containing the President's Direct Reports are updated and kept confidential
- Plan and organize meetings, conferences, other functions, and appointments on behalf of the President and/or visiting head office executives
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Applications are invited either online at www.bdjobs.com/chevron or to the following address on or before **15th of April 2011**. Only short-listed applicants will be called for assessment(s).

Human Resources Department
Chevron Bangladesh
"Bay's Galleria", 4th Floor
57 Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

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Govt to create

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act as stand-by teachers to fill the shortage created every year from leaves of absence due to professional training, medical leave, maternity leave, casual and earned leave or retirement, said Dr Afsarul Ameen, primary and mass education minister.

"We have appointed 52,000 teachers in last two years, yet teacher shortage remains a big worry in primary education," he said.

Asked about when the pool would start working, he said, "The date is not fixed yet, but we would form the pool as soon as possible."

Ministry officials said a vast number of teaching posts fall vacant for a temporary but significant amount of time, hampering the studies of the students.

Every year, an average of 20,000 teachers from government, non-government registered and community primary schools take part in the yearlong 'Certificate in Education' (C-in-Ed) training, showed ministry statistics.

Also, some 5,000 posts of

teaching assistant and headmaster of government primary schools fall vacant that take an average eight to 14 months to fill up, the statistics said.

Besides, around 6,000 female teachers take maternity leave each year while many others take leave for medical reasons or go into retirement.

The credentials for being appointed as a teacher under the pool are graduation for the male teachers and HSC pass for the female teachers, said Afsarul Ameen.

He also said Tk 72 crore would be required as salary of the teachers every year and the amount would be adjusted from the ministry's budget.

Currently, more than 3.65 lakh teachers, 41 percent female, are taking classes in 81,000 primary schools across the country, showed ministry reports.

The teacher-student ratio in the country is 1:50, with some 1.65 crore students studying in these institutions, the reports said.

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Walk in interview for Sales Manager on Thursday, 21-04-2011 Secretary cum Receptionist on 28-04-2011 at 2.30pm to the following address:

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Husain Chamber, (7th Floor) 43, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MJL Bangladesh Limited (formerly Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd.), a joint venture Company in the downstream energy sector of the country, seeks motivated individuals for immediate appointment with following positions:

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- To achieve volume target and manage goals, both personal and team, to meet overall company objectives;
- To develop new customers in assigned territory and provide feedback to management for strategic planning.

Qualification / Experience:

- Masters in Marketing or MBA with the major in Marketing from any recognized University; work experience is not mandatory.

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Job Responsibilities:

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Qualification / Experience:

- Graduate / Hons Graduate from any recognized University; work experience is not mandatory.

If you possess the requisite skills and qualifications, we invite you to send a resume with covering letter and a recent passport size photograph to following address by **April 17, 2011**, through post mail (or by email: career@mobilbd.com). The position being applied for should be marked clearly at top of the envelope.

Human Resource Department, MJL Bangladesh Ltd.
Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview. Any persuasion after submission of application will automatically disqualify the candidature.

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