

Job seekers for fresh recruitment

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recruitment process and starting it afresh.
Many expressed their joy after hearing of the termination of General Manager (GM) of the east zone, Yusuf Ali Mridha, who allegedly led the 'bribe nexus'.
On Sunday, the recruitment process in 38 categories was suspended, while measures were taken against Mridha and two others for their alleged involvement in the Tk 70 lakh scam that was reportedly a part of the bribe money collected from the prospective job seekers.
Niamat Ali, an elderly trolleyman working in the railway for long, told The Daily Star that after his son qualified in the oral test for 'khalashi' post, he met the GM and requested him to consider his son's recruitment under the 40 percent 'dependent quota'. "But the GM demanded Tk 4 lakh

from me," he claimed.
Despite being in pitiable financial situation, Niamat later managed around Tk 2 lakh, but the GM was not happy with the amount. "I even touched his feet," Niamat said. "But he refused me saying that 'job is not so easy that by touching my feet you will get it'.
Mohammad Farid, an applicant for junior auditor post, qualified in the written test held on October 9 last year.
An honours final year student of MM College in Jessore, Farid said he went to the Central Railway Building in February this year to see the written test result.
A staff at the office of additional financial advisor and chief accounts officer (FA & CAO) demanded Tk 5 lakh from him. "The staff told me that he will not give me viva card without money," he alleged.

"Since I could manage only Tk 2 lakh, the staff was not pleased with the amount," Farid said adding that he did not get the viva card.
Another applicant for the same post, Abdul Kadir, who could not qualify in the written test, said he submitted an application to the Additional FA&CAO Nazrul Islam to scrutinise his answer script as his written test was satisfactory.
"But the official refused my application," he said, adding, "When I was coming out of the office, a staff demanded Tk 6 lakh to ensure the job."
Nazrul Islam, who was the convener of the recruitment committee, was unavailable for comments.
Demanding cancellation of the whole recruitment process, both Farid and Kadir said they would apply again if the new recruitment process starts.

Mokhlesur Rahman, an Upper Division Assistant (UDA) working at the store department at a railway workshop at Pahartali, said his son SM Zahidul Islam obtained 3rd position in the written test for a 'Trade Apprentice' post held on April 29 last year and appeared in the oral test on December 5.
"But we did not see his name in the result that was displayed on April 5 this year," said Mokhlesur alleging that the officials who were in the recruitment committee included only the names of those who could bribe them.
Despite several attempts, officials involved in the recruitment committee could not be reached for comments.
Mokhlesur hoped that new recruitment process would start soon and it could create scope for the competent applicants.

Long sail, steep fall

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his over four-month stint in the cabinet.
The seven-time elected lawmaker, who became minister for the first time, was considered by many as one of the best parliamentarians in the country, and a constitution expert.
Now disgraced, the former railway minister was also seen as an outspoken politician both inside and outside his party -- the ruling Awami League.
The AL -- both while in power or in opposition -- used to take legal advice from Suranjit on various crucial issues. And he was made co-chair of the parliamentary special committee on constitution (15th) amendment.
Before April 9, Suranjit faced little criticism. But things rapidly changed as his assistant personal secretary (APS) and two top railway officials were detained with a huge amount of bribe money at the Border Guard

Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters in the capital.
As a politician, Suranjit does not have that great a past records but he had successfully faced corruption allegations against him in the past.
Born on May 5, 1945 in Derai upazila of Sunamganj, Suranjit started his political career with leftist parties.
In the pre-liberation polls in 1970, he was elected to the provincial assembly as a candidate of National Awami Party from Sylhet.
He participated in the Liberation War in 1971. In the first constituent assembly of Bangladesh, he was a vocal member of the opposition bench. Later, he floated and led Ekota Party.
As the lone opposition member in the House in 1972 and one of the framers of the country's constitution, Suranjit refrained from signing it, claiming that the constitution did not fully uphold the spirit of the Liberation War.
He joined the AL in early 1990s and later became a

member of the party presidency. And he was made parliament affairs adviser to the prime minister when the AL came to power in 1996.
But he triggered criticism both inside and outside his party for his role during the political changeover in 2007.
In association with some other party leaders, Suranjit reportedly got involved in efforts to oust AL chief Sheikh Hasina from the party helm. It was believed that Suranjit and the others acted on advice of the then army-backed caretaker government.
After the AL-led grand alliance assumed power in 2009, Suranjit was made a member of the AL advisory council.
Known as a "pro-reform" leader of the party, he, however, was made chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry in 2009. Hasina has reservations about "reformist" party leaders.
Suranjit used to criticise various government activi-

ties inside and outside the House, often embarrassing the government. His comments on share market crash were much-talked-about.
He was also vocal about "poor" performance of some ministers including (former) communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, Home Minister Shahara Khatun and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam.
A lawyer by profession, Suranjit finally was made a minister on November 28 last year and given the charge of railway ministry.
Suranjit was criticised for his role concerning Vested and Debottor (endowed) property after the Liberation War.
A number of people in his constituency alleged that he acquired such property from the minority community after liberation.
And allegations were also made against Suranjit that he took possession of property of minority people who had left Bangladesh for India during the Liberation War.

Cricketers taken for Kamal's ride

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touring Lahore to play one one-day international and a Twenty20 match on April 29 and 30 respectively.
Pakistan greeted the decision gleefully and patted Kamal for his wholehearted effort to make this tour happen. The PCB also thanked Bangladesh government for giving the "green signal" against widespread outcry of security fears.
Is Pakistan now safe for a cricket team to tour? Kamal is convinced and so is the highest authority of Bangladesh. But ask anybody else or even a Pakistani and he will whisper in your ears, "Peace must return to Pakistan before cricket does".
And there is little doubt peace is yet to return to Pakistan. For instance, you will get frequent terrorists attack be it in Lahore or Karachi. In fact, more than two years after the Lahore

attack, the same group staged a brazen assault on a major naval base in Karachi.
And not long ago a father and his son were listening on radio the exciting Asia Cup final between Bangladesh and Pakistan in remote Wana town of South Waziristan when their radio (which was a radio bomb) exploded and killed both.
FICA, the worldwide cricketers' association, has recently conducted its own security assessment in Pakistan and got "unfavourable" responses. The ICC in an attempt to avoid sending its match officials has embarked on changing its rule by formulating special dispensation which will allow the series to go on with "non-neutral" match officials.
The BCB president however said that "he will not send his players to Pakistan" if the ICC do not comply

with the standard practice which means sending its neutral umpires and officials for the Pakistan series. But apart from his judicious remark, his activities revolving around the Pakistan tour has raised many questions.
It has now become an open secret that he has made the Pakistan tour a personal mission ever since he won PCB's nomination for the post of ICC vice-presidency. Kamal got the PCB nomination even before he got the nomination from his own board which is unique if not bizarre. And it was treaded as quid-pro-quo from the PCB which relentlessly hammered Kamal from every direction. A proactive Kamal led a 9-member security assessment team to Pakistan and took little time to announce that Lahore is safe; as if all the landmines have

been removed from there.
Many felt as the board president, he should have allowed somebody to lead the security assessment team because it did not look decent.
Although it would be the cricketers who will be out there in the middle, it was learnt that Kamal waged a personal campaign to convince the players to agree to tour Pakistan. Not many cricketers have publicly expressed their fear of touring Pakistan but a survey conducted by The Daily Star Sport suggests that almost every national team player is against touring Pakistan.
But who cares, they are paid to do their jobs; trained to fight for the nation. And it seems Kamal is hell bent to put them in the line of fire, because to sit in the throne of the ICC presidency, needs that sort of a sacrifice.

cover up the crime. Azam is a key witness to the whole saga.
His father Dudu Mia told The Daily Star yesterday that he was unaware of the whereabouts of his son.
Azam is a close friend of the sacked APS Omar Faruq, a relative of Faruq told this paper on condition of anonymity.
Faruq went to the Jahangirnagar University to pursue higher education but Azam discontinued studies.
Later, when Faruq became the APS, he asked Azam to become his driver, the relative added.
The two were "very close" and this could explain why Azam dared to demand part of the Tk 70 lakh reportedly obtained from recruitment

business in the railway ministry over the last few months.
This paper has also learnt from Faruq's relative that Azam was "angry" with Faruq as the latter refused to entertain a request by Azam for appointment of a few candidates of his choice.
"Faruq tore up the list of people Azam gave him. He also threatened to sack Azam," the relative said.
An enraged Azam, who witnessed the graft Faruq had been committing, finally spilled the beans late on the night of April 9 - driving the microbus into the Palkhona headquarters in the capital and hollering that there was illegal money stashed in the vehicle.

Who's driver

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It is also unclear why no case has been filed since the Tk 70 lakh scandal surfaced although the minister has resigned and the APS has been sacked and two railway officials have been suspended.
The Border Guard Bangladesh claimed driver Ali Azam Khan was released the following day, but he seems to have just vanished.
Railway's suspended security commandant of Dhaka division Enamul Huq, who also was detained by the BGB men, told The Daily Star at his Kamalapur Railway Station office on April 11 that the BGB did not release Azam.
Azam's family fears he has been liquidated to

Good step, but not enough

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Salish Kendra (ASK) at the CBC Centre on Asad Avenue in the capital.
Referring to the ongoing probe into the scandal, he said, "Now, people may know who were behind it."
Sultana Kamal, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said Suranjit had set a good example by quitting his post, and broadened the scope for a fair probe into the incident.
"He took a good step," Sultana Kamal, also ASK executive director, said at the book launch.
Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, told The Daily Star that Suranjit's resignation is a good step and will help conduct a neutral probe into the scandal.
"But, it is not enough. The culprits must be found out and brought to justice immediately."
The government should do that as soon as possible for its own sake; otherwise its image would be tarnished, said the former adviser.
On completion of the probe, the government must let people know about the

findings and take action against the people responsible, Akbar said.
TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star that the railway minister's resignation is a positive thing for the country's political culture.
"It is a good example for others to follow."
It will allow scope for an independent and influence-free probe, he said.
"The railway minister's resignation is not the end of the story." It is part of a process that needs to have a proper conclusion, which includes a fair probe into the incident and bringing the culprits to justice, said Iftekharuzzaman.
He said the government should find the microbus driver, an important witness to the incident, and ensure his security.
Praising the prime minister's role in Suranjit's resignation, he said people had expected her to play such a role.
Hafiz Uddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, thinks Suranjit did not resign voluntarily; rather he was forced to step down.
He said Suranjit had not

set an example by quitting his post. He was apparently forced to resign.
"If he did it for the sake of investigation, why didn't he resign soon after the incident?"
Following the incident, the minister said he would not resign though people were suspicious about his involvement in the incident, said the former adviser.
It was strong public opinion, extensive reportage and the prime minister's stance that led to his resignation, Hafiz Uddin said.
The Daily Star yesterday talked to a cross-section of people on the issue. They said the government would have been in a better position if Suranjit had resigned just after the incident.
"He [Suranjit] should have stepped down soon after the incident. If he had done that, his image as a veteran politician would not have been maligned in such a way," said Abu Sayed Ahmed, a private bank official, in the capital's Shahbagh area.
BNP NOT IMPRESSED
Acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said Suranjit wanted to continue as rail-

way minister in spite of widespread criticism.
"Unlike Syed Abul Hossain [ex-communications minister], he did not get protection from the prime minister. That is why he had to step down," he told reporters at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital.
The BNP leader said Suranjit is a senior politician and people had a lot of expectations from him.
"But the incident surprised us. We demanded his resignation for the sake of democracy.
might have hoped that the prime minister would protect him but that did not happen because of the role of the media."
Alamgir said the incident and Suranjit's resignation made it clear that corruption has crept into all ministries. Everybody knows about the Padma bridge corruption but the government did not take any action, he said.
Asked whether BNP would accept the probe report after Suranjit's resignation, he said the resignation would make no difference to the probe into the scandal as no fair investigation is possible under this government.

LUX Channel i Superstar 2012

Registration Form

Name:

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy):

Father's Name:

Mother's Name:

Address:

District:

Postal Code (optional):

Mobile number:

Phone number:

e-mail address:

Educational Qualification:

Educational Institution:

Pictures: (example)

Declaration

I hereby declare that the decision of registering myself in Lux Channel-i Super Star 2012 as per the rules and regulations of the contest is completely my own.

Signature: _____

• The participant should be female, above 18 years of age and Bangladeshi by birth • Last date for registration is 30th April, 2012 • The contestant if selected for next round, will have to show proof of age i.e. educational certificate etc. • The contestant if selected for next round, might have to show proof of nationality i.e. National ID card etc. • LCSS authority will appoint judges for every round of the competition • In every round, judge's decision will be deemed as final • The contestant if selected for next round, will be notified through phone and email address provided in the registration form • If any contestant provides any wrong information during registration or any other phase of the competition or makes any request through anyone for any undue favor then her candidature will be cancelled from whichever stage of the competition she is in • Employees and family members of employees working in Unilever, Channel-i, Asiatic or any other organization directly involved with LCSS 2012 will not be eligible to participate in the contest • The authority reserves the right to change or modify any rules of the competition at any point in time without any prior notice.

The registration form along with the pictures should be sent to: PO Box No. 507

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