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BANGLADESH RAILWAY

Bribery, anomalies rule recruitment

600 staff got quick appointment on back dates in 2 months

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Yusuf Ali Mridha, the suspended general manager (east) of Bangladesh Railway, had recruited more than 600 railway employees on back dates in just two months before an amount of Tk 70 lakh was seized from a microbus of the former railway minister's aide Omar Faruq Talukder.

Railway officials said Mridha had expedited the appointment process with direct support from Faruq, the sacked assistant personal secretary of the then railway minister Suranjit Sengupta.

Many job seekers have alleged that they had paid money to get jobs in the railway's east zone.

The public administration ministry in



Yusuf Ali Mridha

August, 2010, approved the recruitment of 7,275 railway staff within a year. It later extended the deadline by six months to February 11 this year, as the railway managed to recruit only a few hundred staff in the one-year time frame, said the officials.

A total of 1,611 railway employees -- 1,128 in the east zone and 483 in the west zone -- were recruited between August, 2010, and February this year. Of them, 624 were appointed in the east zone after the expiry of the February 11 deadline, according to a source in the railway's establishment department.

"One-third of the total recruitment was made after the expiry of the February 11

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Killings by BSF unfortunate

Says Indian law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Law Minister Salman Khurshid yesterday regretted the killings by the Indian security forces at Bangladesh border.

"It is extremely unfortunate. We all know what provokes such happenings. Whatever are those, these incidents are unacceptable and regrettable," he told reporters at a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital.

He said India was working hard to sign the Teesta water-sharing deal "as quickly as possible" and that the issue was a matter of "high priority" for India. However, sometimes domestic issues preoccupy and affect the international affairs, he said.

Salman Khurshid was leading an Indian team in

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HALL-MARK GROUP Govt to probe ministry's favour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasan Mahmud, the minister of forest and environment, yesterday said he would investigate his ministry's decision to cut Tk 40 lakh penalty money, slapped against Hall-Mark Group, down to Tk 4 lakh.

The Department of Environment fined the company for initiating an industrial park at Savar on the outskirts of the capital without any environmental clearance.

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BATTLE FOR WATER



Residents of Islambagh in the capital's Lalbagh area jostle to collect water from a Wasa lorry yesterday. Water crisis has turned acute in the capital making lives of city dwellers a sheer misery.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Water crisis grips Dhaka

HELEMUL ALAM

Amid frequent power cuts and the summer heat, water supply to Dhaka dwellers has dropped drastically in the last one month.

Adding to the water crisis, dwellers of some areas were getting unusable foul-smelling water from Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. The stinky water was allegedly spreading waterborne diseases as well.

People living in Gulbagh, Madartek, Mohammadpur, Shekhertek, Pisciculture Housing, Shyamoli, some parts of Dhanmondi, Elephant Road, Uttar Adabar, Indira Road, Green Road, Monipuripara, Sher-e-Bangalanagar, Ashkona, Gopibagh,

Nowabpur, Mir Hazirbagh, Rajarbagh, Bashabo, Kadamtala, Sabujbagh and Ahmedbagh were getting foul-smelling water.

"We have not got a single drop for the last three months, which has made our lives miserable," said Syed Mohammad Abul Baten, a resident of Road-1 of Mohammadia Housing Ltd.

He said around 2,000 residents of Road-1 had to survive for months by buying water from Wasa tankers, paying sometime more than twice the official price.

He claimed that they had lodged a complaint with Wasa Zone-3 Executive Engineer Nurul Islam but the complaint fell on deaf ears. The official did not even take any action

against tanker drivers involved in charging extra, he claimed.

The Daily Star called Executive Engineer of Zone-3 of Wasa Nurul Islam on May 24. He hung up when The Daily Star correspondent started asking questions about the problems in Mohammadia Housing and the complaint that had been lodged.

Managing Director of Dhaka Wasa Taqsem A Khan, however, claimed that there was no water crisis in the capital apart from in some scattered pockets. Severe load-shedding hampered pumping up of water, he said.

About the Mohammadia Housing, he said they had been working to set up two pumps at Pisciculture Housing and Kaderabad and the

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No talks if leaders kept behind bars

Say BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding release of top opposition leaders to create a congenial atmosphere for talks, the BNP yesterday said no consensus could be reached keeping the opposition leaders behind bars.

The main opposition leaders also said the perpetrators of the 1/11 (January 11, 2007), the day on which the immediate past caretaker government

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The Economist

'Hard, tense time ahead'

The Economist has published two articles on current political situation in Bangladesh. Titled "Bangladesh's toxic politics: Hello, Delhi" and "Politics in Bangladesh: Banged about", the articles -- dated May 26, 2012 -- are now on the British news magazine's website. The Daily Star reprints them here.

BANGLADESH'S TOXIC POLITICS: HELLO, DELHI It is up to India to try to stop Sheikh Hasina ruining Bangladesh

The Punch-and-Judy show of Bangladeshi politics, in which the ruling party -- run by the daughter of a former president -- bashes the opposition -- run by the widow of a former president -- before

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Thousands of people live in illegally developed slums on the slopes of hills in Chittagong city, risking being victims of landslides during the monsoon. Every year before the rainy season the Hill Management Committee decides to relocate the endangered hill dwellers, but very little is done. The situation is the same this year ahead of the monsoon.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Risky living at hill slopes

Authorities yet to take any effective action to remove houses from Ctg hills despite fatal landslides every monsoon

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Though monsoon is knocking on the door, the authorities concerned have yet to take any effective step to evacuate thousands of people living on the slopes of hills in Chittagong city with the risk of being victims of landslides.

The Hill Management Committee (HMC) tables proposals for evacuation and rehabilitation before monsoon every year, but usually very little is done. The committee was formed following a devastating landslide that left 127 people killed on June 11, 2007.

On July 1 last year, 17 people were killed in a landslide. Many slums have been developed on the slopes of hills where low-income group people -- garment workers, rickshaw pullers, and day labourers -- are residing. Politically blessed locally influential quarters have built the slums on government lands and rented those out.

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2 more days to go

Let the beauty unfold once again

Lux channel i superstar is coming back
28th May, On channel i, at 9:30 pm

LUX CHANNEL i

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