

**RAILWAY  
Persons  
qualified in  
tests demand  
appointment**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of job seekers who had qualified in the recruitment test for posts of assistant stationmaster and guards at Bangladesh Railway demanded immediate employment yesterday.

They made their demand at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The job seekers said the railway department is yet to appoint them although the recruiting procedures were held in 2006.

A total of 101 aspirants qualified in the test and of them 81 candidates were selected as assistant stationmasters and 13 as guards (grade-2), they said.

Addressing the programme, Kazi Fayeaz Alauddin, one of the qualified candidates for the post of assistant stationmaster, said they filed a writ petition with the High Court in 2011 seeking order in favour of their recruitment.

In response, the HC issued a rule upon the government to recruit them but they are yet to be employed.

The job aspirants threatened of hunger strike unless they are appointed by October 8 this year.



Streets in Rangamati town remain almost empty and shops stay closed yesterday following imposition of Section 144 after a clash between the indigenous communities and Bangalee settlers on Saturday. To prevent further clashes, a larger number of law enforcers were deployed. The photo was taken from Bonrupa area. Inset, a PDB employee, injured in the clash, receives treatment at Rangamati Sadar Hospital.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



**HARUN MURDER  
Court rejects  
family's plea  
against  
charge sheet**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday rejected the "naraji" (no confidence) petition of the victim's family against the charge sheet in college teacher Harun ur Rashid murder case.

Sylhet Government Women's College teacher Harun was stabbed to death in front of his house at Goura Govinda Tila in the town on March 21, 2010 as he reprimanded his college student Sujina Akhtar Munni over her relationship with one Abdul Latif Kawsar.

On May 3, 2011 the criminal investigation department (CID) filed the charge sheet with the court against Alimul Islam, Russel Ahmed, Kawsar, college students Munni and Safia Khatun Lipi and hotel manager Lokman Ahmed.

Later, Harun's wife Afroza Harun filed the naraji petition.

The court also rejected the prayer for fresh investigation by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and fixed October 23 for next hearing of the case.

The victim's family will move to the High Court against the order, said counsel for the plaintiff EU Shahidul

**Strike adds to passengers'**

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flight was rescheduled for 12:00pm today.

A bakery worker by profession, Mostafa said he had stayed at a city hotel for the first two days, but had later gone home town in Narail as no fresh date was given by the Biman authorities.

He said he had already informed his fellow Bangladeshi at the bakery firm about his plight. "I hope my employer will understand the situation," he said while sitting on his luggage at the airport.

Badsha Mondol, 44, who works at a powder manufacturing workshop in Malaysia, said he was supposed to fly on Saturday. But he could not fly until 8:00pm yesterday.

Badsha, hailing from Kushtia, said he had talked to his employer and informed him about the flight disorder of the national carrier. The employer told him to come as early as possible.

The daylong countrywide hartal enforced by a group of 12 Islam-ist parties to protest an anti-Islamic film in the USA prolonged the sufferings of many migrant workers as they had to arrive at the airport much earlier than their already uncertain flights. Moreover, because of less availability, costs of public transport services shot up too.

Mostafa said: "I came early because of the hartal as I was anxious that I might fail to turn up in time," he told The Daily Star.

Abu Sayed, who came to see off his uncle Mohammad Khokon, a worker at a garden in Malaysia, said they had come to the airport at 8:00am although their plane was due at 7:30pm to avoid hassle.

He said his uncle was supposed to leave the



Golam Mostafa

country on Saturday evening by a Biman flight.

Minhaj Uddin and Mohammad Liton both work in the plantation sector in the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia. They said Biman should improve its services and passengers should not be left to suffer because of its failure.

"What will happen to those passengers whose tenure of visas may expire before they can fly? Who will

take the responsibility? On many occasions, the employers do not want to employ them if they are late at their workplaces," said Minhaj.

Liton said he would have faced trouble because of the delay had Minhaj not had a relative in Dhaka, with whom he had been staying for the last couple of days.

Mohammad Bahar, 35, said he must reach Oman by this morning to save his job. The serious schedule chaos that hit Biman in the second week of September has already hampered the travel plans of several thousand passengers.

The disorder, which has forced Biman to shut its domestic operations and deploy two small aircraft to ferry the stranded passengers, will persist until tomorrow, an official admitted.

M Shahnewaj, Biman's director of marketing and sales, earlier told The Daily Star that the situation would improve from September 25 when two aircraft would join the Biman fleet.

Sources said the flight disorder, now in its second week, has affected more than 2,000 passengers, as Biman has concentrated all its efforts for ferrying hajj pilgrimages smoothly.

**Keep Subhan in jail**

FROM PAGE 20  
Simon said Subhan had been involved in the killing of eight Hindus of Kustiapara and Shakhariara of Pabna on April 17, 1971.

"About 1,000 people of Demra of Faridpur of Pabna were killed in early May 1971, by the Pakistani army. In that month, about 400 people of Nazirganj and Satbaria union of Sujanager were also killed. Subhan was allegedly involved in the killing missions," the prosecutor said.

Simon said after the Liberation War, a case was lodged against him but he escaped to Pakistan along with war crimes accused Ghulam Azam.

The prosecutor feared he may flee again.

Tribunal-2 Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq then said, "Why do you want a warrant now?"

"We are concerned about his allegations. He [Subhan] is Jamaat's naye-e-ameer and has been trying to hinder the war crimes trial in various ways.

"Subhan was leading propagation inside and outside the country and he may flee the country once charges are made under the International Crimes Tribunal Act," Simon explained.

The tribunal chairman said the accused was arrested in a case filed with the Pabna Police Station. He then issued the order to have him produced before the tribunal.

Meanwhile, a Pabna court denied Subhan bail in the vandalism case yesterday.

Pabna Superintendent of Police Jahangir Hossain said he had been informed of the tribunal's order to produce him before it and they would take steps accordingly.

Earlier, Tribunal-1 in the war crimes case against Ghulam Azam recorded the depositions of two witnesses from whom the investigation team collected evidence.

The defence would cross-examine them today.

The Tribunal-2 yesterday directed the authorities concerned to publish an ad in two national dailies asking war crimes accused Abul Kalam Azad to appear before it within 10 days of the ad publication.

The tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir delivered the order as the accused could not be arrested. According to a police report the accused was on the run.

On September 9, the tribunal had taken into cognisance formal charges

filed against the expelled Jamaat member for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The same day, it had issued an arrest warrant, for the second time, against Azad and directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to submit the execution report on the order.

Citing the DMP's execution report submitted yesterday, Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman told reporters that Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, remained absconding and that the police were looking for him.

As per its rules and procedures, the tribunal directed the registrar office to publish ads in two national dailies, one Bangla and another in English, asking Azad to appear before the court, said Sahidur Rahman.

"If he [Azad] fails to appear before the court within 10 days, trial proceedings against him would be held in his absence as per law," said the prosecutor.

Mesbahuddin Ahmed, deputy registrar of the tribunal, told The Daily Star that they would try to publish the advertisements within the shortest possible time.

On July 26, the investigation agency completed its enquiry and the prosecution submitted the formal charges accusing Azad of 10 types of crimes against humanity.

In the formal charges, the prosecution said the former leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami in 1971, was involved in the killing of at least 14 people and in two acts of genocide in Faridpur.

Azad went into hiding around seven hours before Tribunal-2 issued an arrest warrant against him on April 3.

Meanwhile, Tribunal-2 adjourned the cross-examination of Syed Abdul Kaium, the 10th prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, as the defence counsels "could not" appear before the court "due to countrywide hartal".

When yesterday's court proceedings began around 10:50am, Gazi MH Tamim, a junior member of the defence team, told the tribunal that senior members of the team could not come due to the hartal and sought adjournment until today.

On September 17, Kaium testified that Quader Mollah and his accomplices had killed journalist Khondaker Abu Taleb at Mirpur's Jalladkhana during the

**Wait is over for Snow White fibre**

FROM PAGE 1  
to the deadly fungus -- macrophomina phaseolina. BJRI breeders told The Daily Star that unlike other jute fibres, the fibres derived from Snow White variety do not require bleaching, and it has got all the potentials of being commercially used in threads, fabrics and garments.

"Its (Snow White) fibres could have been used alongside cotton at a 30-70 percent ratio and it would've greatly reduced our import dependency for cotton. But after the invention of this special breeding line (Snow White), we found out that the variety is highly susceptible to macrophomina phaseolina," explained, biotechnologist Dr Shahidul Islam of BJRI.

Dr Islam, who was in the core team that Maqsoodul Alam led in decoding the fungus genome, said despite all the potentials of the new jute variety, "We had to withhold its release to farmers because of fungi-susceptibility.

"Now that we traced out all the protein tools of macrophomina phaseolina and how it causes colossal damage to jute, in general, and this (Snow White) variety, in particular, we'll be able to engineer an immune system in the plant so that Snow White withstands the fungal damage."

Dr Islam went on, "We at BJRI even tried to develop a line (pre-variety stage) by cross-breeding Snow White with another line so that it no longer remains susceptible to macrophomina phaseolina. But that experiment in 2007 did not work as we ended up getting a line comparatively much less susceptible to the fungus but at the same time it lost many of the expected characteristics of Snow White line."

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced in parliament that Dr Alam and his team decoded the genome of the most deadly fungus that causes seedling blight, root rot and charcoal rot of more than 500 crop and non-

crop species including jute and soybean.

The gene sequencing of macrophomina phaseolina would particularly help Bangladeshi scientists to develop jute varieties capable of fighting the fungus that causes an annual yield loss of around Tk 4,000 crore damaging 30 percent of the country's precious natural fibre, experts said.

Jute is the second biggest fibre crop next to cotton. And Bangladesh is the world's second-biggest producer of jute, next to India, and the biggest exporter of the natural fibre.

Genome sequencing helps scientists find genes much more easily and quickly. It allows scientists identify and understand how genes work together on a plant's various features like growth, development and maintenance as an entire organism. This allows them to manipulate the genes and enhance, reduce or add certain features of the plant.

**Worry over polls security**

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candidates, especially by the ruling party-backed candidate Simeen Hussain Rimi and her supporters, they alleged.

Afsaruddin said yesterday "Some thugs chased me while I was campaigning for the vote in Kapasia on Saturday."

"For this reason, I did not dare to go to the upazila today," he added.

Afsaruddin and Asadullah also expressed concern over the holding of a free and fair by-poll in Gazipur-4 constituency, which fell vacant following the resignation of AL lawmaker Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj on July 7.

While visiting the constituency in the last two days, it was seen that supporters of the ruling party-backed candidate were violating electoral code of conduct even in front of the local election officials.

Supporters of Simeen Hossain Rimi were also seen

barring their opponents from campaigning.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kapasia Police Station, said they had not received any directive from the EC to conduct drives against listed criminals and recover illegal arms.

Usually, the EC directs the law enforcement agencies to launch drives against listed local criminals or recover illegal arms to maintain a voter friendly environment in a constituency.

Due to lack of security measures, Shushashoner Jonney Nagarik (Shujan), a citizens' body for good governance, cancelled its pre-scheduled projection meeting in Kapasia on Wednesday.

Quoting local police, officials of Shujan in Kapasia said "The law enforcers informed us that they did not have enough personnel and it would be impossible for them

to control any untoward situation, if it arose."

Afsaruddin Ahmad, the independent candidate, denied attending the Shujan meeting, sources in Shujan said.

Iqbal Haider, Shujan general secretary of Kapasia, said the EC was yet to ensure a level playing field for all the candidates.

"We do not see any hint that the EC will take the initiative to ensure equal opportunity for all candidates during the rest of the election days," he added.

Mihir Sarwar Morshed, district returning officer, said "The chief election commissioner would pay a visit to the district today [Monday] and hold talks with the candidates."

This is the first ever election to be held on September 30 under the present new election commission constituted in February this year.

**India destroy England**

FROM PAGE 1  
scored 170-4 before England were shot out for their lowest T20 total of 80 in front of 20,000 spectators at the Premadasa stadium.

India rested seamer Zaheer Khan, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and opener Virender Sehwag for the group A match that held only academic interest since both teams had already qualified for the Super Eights.

But it was a morale-boosting win for the 2007 champions ahead of the next round, as they dominated England from start to finish.

Harbhajan, 32, who had been out of favour with the selectors since August last year before being recalled for the World Twenty20, claimed a wicket off his second delivery when he came on in the sixth over.

When his spell finished in the 12th over, England had slumped to 60-8 and lost their ninth wicket also at the same total.

England were in danger of falling for the lowest ever total in Twenty20 internationals -- 67 by Kenya against Ireland in 2008 -- before the last-wicket pair of Steven Finn and Jade Dernbach prevented the humiliation.

But the total still fell below England's previous lowest score of 88 against the West Indies at the Oval last year.

Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was also an unexpected selection for the match, claimed 2-13 as England faltered against both pace and spin.

Seamer Irfan Pathan bowled Alex Hales and trapped Luke Wright leg-before in his first two overs

to reduce England to 18-2.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and the innings ended in the 15th over to complete a dominant win for India.

Other notable contributions for India came from Gautam Gambhir, who made 45, and Virat Kohli, who smashed 40 off 32 balls.

Makeshift opener Pathan fell for eight before the in-form Kohli hit six boundaries during a second-wicket stand of 57 with Gambhir.

Sharma and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni took 38 runs in the last three overs to lift India past the 150-run mark.

England made one change from the team that beat Afghanistan, dropping left-arm spinner Samit Patel to play seamer Tim Bresnan.

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