

## RAILWAY RECRUITMENT SCAM

# Mridha, five others sued

M RAHMAN

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued a suspended general manager of the railway's east zone and five other staff in connection with irregularities in the department's recruitment process.

Three cases were filed with Chittagong Kotwali Police Station. General Manager Yusuf Ali Mridha, suspended over a Tk 70 lakh scam in April last year, and senior welfare officer Golam Kibria, suspended over similar charges of irregularities, are made accused in all the cases.

The other four charged with irregularities are record keeper Sarwar Hossain and train number trackers Ismail Hossain, Sohel Rana and Shahida Akter.

ACC last week completed an investigation into the recruitment under three categories -- train number taker, goods assistant and record keeper -- and found that the accused had been involved in altering answer scripts and tampering with tabulation sheets.

The railway's east zone recruited 10 people as train number taker and one each to the posts of goods assistant and record keeper in March 2012, ACC sources said.

The investigation team had interrogated the candidates whose answer sheets were altered, an ACC official told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity. The candidates admitted that they had been given appointment in exchange of bribes.

"We seized all the answer sheets. In some answer sheets, we found figures of marks obtained were overwritten without any signature of the examiners" he said.

Giving examples, another ACC official said that at the top of an answer paper, the figure was changed from six to 39.5. In another, the total of obtained marks was 20 at first, which was then changed to 29 and five was added as grace number to make it 34.

Widespread irregularities and corruption in the railway came to light when Ali Azam, driver of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's assistant personal secretary Omar Faruq Talukder, pulled over Faruq's microbus at the Pilkhana headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh in the wee hours of April 9 last year and hollered that there was illegal money in the vehicle.

Upon search, BGB personnel found Tk 70 lakh reportedly collected from job seekers.



## RELENTLESS AT SHAHBAGH



1) Mock gallows at Shahbagh intersection where anti-war criminal activists have been staging non-stop demonstration since February 5 to demand death penalty for jailed Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah and other war criminals. 2) Foreign Minister Dipu Moni visits the scene to express solidarity with the movement. 3) Two demonstrators during the daybreak, who stayed up all night at the intersection. 4) Students of schools, colleges, and universities vigorously participate in the mass protest. 5) A family with kids arrives at Shahbagh way past midnight. 6) A campaigner holding a placard, which carries the caricature of a war criminal with the caption reading "Hang".

PHOTO: STAR

## Crossfire incidents yet to stop: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite criticism from different levels, crossfire incidents are yet to stop, said Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday.

"The crossfire issue was discussed in parliament several times, but the trend still remains, ignoring hues and cries against it," he said, adding that failure of law enforcers at times to properly follow guidelines resulted in the incidents.

Menon was addressing an "Advocacy meeting on prevention of torture and the ratification of optional protocol to the convention against torture: Creating national awareness" in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Odhikar, a rights organisation, organised the meeting to urge the government to ratify an optional protocol of the UN "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

or Punishment".

The protocol recommends states to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and various other problems prisoners face in jails. Bangladesh ratified the convention in 1998.

"It is unfortunate that the government is still continuing cases against Limon (who lost one leg in Rab shooting in 2011) and his family members," he said.

However, awareness was being raised against "torture" by law enforcers, who themselves were being trained on human rights issue, he said, adding that a "Torture and Custodial Death (Prohibition) Bill 2009" was under discussion.

European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna said democracy and human rights were currently Bangladesh's top priority and lawmakers, civil society members and citizens should come forward to stop any kind of torture.

## Arrest of rights activist's abductors demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Dr Iftekharuzzaman yesterday demanded that the people involved in Wednesday's abduction of a female human rights activist of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), who was rescued later, must be arrested and brought to justice.

He also demanded that the concerned ministries and the law enforcement agencies should act more responsibly to stop similar incidents in future.

While the incidents of violence against women have increased recently, ASK and other organisations are standing beside the oppressed women, he said. "In this context, the abduction of the human rights activist made us frustrated and aggrieved."

The rights activist was abducted on Wednesday afternoon and was rescued by detectives 34 hours later after ASK filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station on Thursday.

Bangladesh Jaitya Mohila Ainjibi Samiti expressed deep concern over the abduction, said a press release. The organisation of female lawyers also expressed disappointment as no-one has been arrested in this connection yet.

## 3 sisters 'stab' youth in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three sisters allegedly inflicted serious stab injuries on a 19-year-old youth, as he "jilted" the youngest sister, on Bailey road in the capital yesterday evening.

Locals caught the girls and handed them over to Ramna police.

Injured Shahruck Hossain Mallick is a trader in Bangabazar area.

Shahruck's friend Maidul Islam Hridoy told The Daily Star that the youngest of the three sisters had a relationship with the victim.

As the youth started keeping away from the girl after one year, the three sisters launched the pre-planned attack on him with a knife.

## Ensure one-third seats for women in parliament

*Mahila Parishad demands*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), a women's rights organisation, yesterday demanded that the government ensure one-third of the parliamentary seats for women through direct elections.

They also demanded for the reallocation of electoral constituencies, wherein women can be elected member of the parliament from the constituency they belong.

The BMP members made the demands at a gathering on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital.

BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu said, "If more women members of the parliament are elected through direct elections, it can be ensured that their voices will be heard in the parliament and they will be able to formulate and pass laws for the welfare of women."

BMP President Ayesha Khanam said, "We cannot expect positive change in women rights movement if a female MP of one constituency is allocated to a completely different constituency of which she has no knowledge."

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## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationist Atia Huq died due to old age complications at her

Dhanmondi residence in the capital yesterday.

She left behind two daughters and a son.

Atia is one of the founding teachers of Maple Leaf International School. She also taught at Faizunnesa Girls' School, Comilla, Residential Model School and Adamji Cantonment School and College. She also was the headmistress of Shaheed Anwar Girls' School and College.

**Azizul Haq Kiron**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Azizul Haq Kiron, a journalist and secretary of Gurudaspur upazila press club in Natore, passed away at his residence on Saturday night. He was 55. He was suffering from diabetes for long.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Chaskoir village of Gurudaspur upazila in Natore.

He worked for the daily Sangbad.

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