

# Tired hajis toil

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Afiab along with two other fellow pilgrims from the same area was waiting at the entrance to the Hajj Camp in Ashkona having no clue to what to do to go home.

Frustration gripped him and his two companions -- Khamir Ali, 90, and Yusuf Ali, 75, after the owner of the bus that was reserved to carry them home had cancelled the trip as hartal supporters vandalised a bus carrying pilgrims the previous day.

The ninety-year-old has none to blame but their fate. Asked what he would do, he only pointed his hand to his forehead and remained silent.

Abdul Malek, assistant hajj officer, told The Daily Star around 5,000 pilgrims had returned from Saudi Arabia in the last two days and 115 of them were languishing in the camp.

Many others left for home as vehicles carrying the pilgrims were out of the purview of hartal, while many were staying with relatives in the capital.

"I have just landed at the airport with no information about the hartal. I don't know how I will reach home at Raninagar in Naogaon," said Ratan Sarkar who works at a construction firm in Dubai.

"My relatives had earlier come to Dhaka and stayed at a hotel in Fakirerpool. I found a CNG-run auto-rickshaw that demanded Tk 1,000 for a trip there," Ratan added.

Many passengers at the airport said they had come hurriedly to Dhaka on Saturday after the hartal was announced. Many of them stayed at relatives' houses, while many others had to check in at different city hotels.

"I left most of my luggage home and could not see off my relatives as I had to hasten to come to Dhaka," said Mohammad Suman of Noakhali.

Many of the migrant workers, who are immensely contributing to the national economy and development by sending remittance, expressed utter dissatisfaction and frustration over the ongoing political unrest.

"It is really unfortunate that we are experiencing miseries due to whimsical political agitations," said Yasin Ahmed of Comilla who returned from Saudi Arabia after five years.

All the 103 Bangladeshi workers, who were scheduled to fly yesterday for plantation jobs in Malaysia under state arrangements, have meanwhile left the country despite the hartal.

They however had to face a bitter experience in reaching Dhaka by early Sunday morning before the hartal hours started.

Haji pilgrim Firoza Begum, 55, who was critically injured in the early hours yesterday in an attack by hartal pickets on a bus carrying 38 pilgrims, was receiving treatment at the intensive care unit at Samorita Hospital.

Earlier, she underwent neurosurgery because of the brain and scalp injuries caused by the attack on the bus to Bogra from Dhaka.

She was sitting beside her husband on the bus when something hit the right side of her skull around 3:30am, Abdur Rashid, a friend of Firoza's husband, told The Daily Star.

She was initially rushed to Mohammad Ali Hospital and was shifted to Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital and finally to Samorita Hospital around 11:00am, Rashid said.

He informed that Firoza and her husband had arrived in Dhaka around 4:00pm on Sunday. They started around 11:00pm for home in the bus hired by their hajj agent.

Rashid said the bus did not have a windshield.

The officer-in-charge of Bogra police said the bus had come under attack near Noymail, Jamalpur on the Dhaka-Bogra Highway.

# China keeps heat on Japan in island row

AFP, Tokyo

China yesterday kept up the pressure on Japan over the disputed Senkaku islands, sending its coastguard to the area following Beijing's week-end mention of "war" after Tokyo reportedly readied to down its drones.

Four Chinese coastguard vessels sailed into the territorial waters of the islands -- which Beijing calls the Diaoyus -- on Monday morning, the Japanese coastguard said, where they remained for about two hours.

The manoeuvre came days after China, in one of its strongest statements so far in an increasingly acrimonious spat over the islands, said if Japan fired on its unmanned aircraft it "would constitute a serious provocation, an act of war of sorts".

"We would have to take firm countermeasures, and all consequences would be the responsibility of the side that caused the provocation," China's defence ministry said.

Those comments, published Saturday, came after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invoked support in Asia for a robust response to what he said was Beijing's attempt to "change the status quo by force".

They also followed reports that Abe had given the okay to a plan to shoot down drones entering Japanese airspace if they did not heed warnings to leave.

On Sunday, he told troops the "security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe".

"You will have to completely rid yourselves of the conventional notion that just the existence of a defence force could act as a deterrent."

# RPO amended

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the way for making war criminals ineligible for running in the general elections.

The amendment got rid of a section of the RPO that prevented from running in the polls party candidates who had not been in the party for a considerable period of time.

Previously, candidates who had been in a party for three years or more at a stretch from the day he or she filed the nomination papers were allowed to run, reports Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

The newly passed law also increases the security money and election expenditure for candidates in the national election, reports UNB.

It, however, excludes the election expenditure from the expenses to be incurred by the party chief for travelling to various constituencies for electioneering.

# Violence escalates

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private TV station Channel 24, leaving a reporter injured in the capital's Mouchak, while some pro-hartal men beat up a cameraman of Somoy TV in Rajshahi. A district correspondent of Rtv was injured in a clash between the AL and BNP men at Kanaikhali in Natore.

Our district correspondents report: BNP-Jamaat men vandalised houses and looted shops owned by Hindus, uprooted railway tracks in Lalmonirhat, damaged a pilgrim-carrying bus in Bogra, and set fire to AL and Jubo League offices in Pabna.

In Old Dhaka, crude bombs went off on the premises of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court, on the rooftop of Dhaka police super's office, and at the entrance to Dhaka deputy commission's office.

Pro-hartal activists also blasted cocktails in more than 100 places in the capital. They set ablaze an AL office at Dania and torched and vandalised at least eight vehicles, including a minibus at Shhabagh, said police.

In Jhenidah, a group of about eight miscreants threw crude bombs on Abul Hossain, 55, president of Harinakundu upazila BNP and chairman of Daulatpur Union Parishad in the upazila, at Daulatpur bazar while he was returning home from office around 12:00 noon.

As Abul fell on the road, miscreants hacked and shot him to ensure his death, said Harinakundu police.

District BNP president Moshir Rahman accused local AL cadres of committing the murder. Denying the allegation, AL district general secretary Azizur Rahman said Abul was murdered in an internal feud of BNP.

Activists of opposition combine set fire to a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) office and at least 15 business establishments owned by the ruling party men at Harinakundu upazila.

In Chandpur, at least 20 AL and BNP activists were injured as they fought pitched battles at the town's Puranbazar.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when some ruling party men chased a BNP procession at Loharpul of Puranbazar area around 8:30am.

The rival groups regrouped within four hours and got engaged in another clash. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the troublemakers.

A local resident Mohammad Arzu received bullets in his head and other parts of his body and died on way to a hospital.

Although district BNP claimed that Arzu was a Chhatra Dal activist, victim's mother Farida Begum said her son was never involved with any political organisation.

The district administration imposed section 144 in the municipality area till evening today, said Amir Zafar, Chandpur superintended of police.

In Chittagpur, trucker Md Wasim, 32, was going to Cox's Bazar from the port city, with different grocery commodities loaded in his vehicle.

When he was crossing Chhdaha area of Satkania upazila, some hartal supporters started hurling brickbats at the truck. Getting panicky,

# No love lost between 'em

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carried out the attack," said a minister, quoting Hasina.

Khaleda also told Hasina, "You killed many people after '71," according to the minister, who was present at the meeting.

The Daily Star contacted BNP leaders to get their version.

One of them said when Hasina raised the issue of the August 21 attack, Khaleda said, "I wish you a long life. I also want you to be in politics for long.

"Can you [Hasina] remember? ... If not, you can go through records that you had planned to hold the rally at Muktangan. But without informing anyone, you shifted the rally venue to in front of your office. Why did you do this?"

At one stage, Hasina asked Khaleda why she should celebrate her birthday on the National Mourning Day, when August 15 is not her real birthday, the BNP leader said.

In reply, the BNP chief said, "Many people were born on that day. Won't they celebrate their birthday? I will celebrate my birthday."

AL Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, who was present at the Gono Bhaban during Saturday's conversation, quoted Hasina as saying, "You [Khaleda] visited our Dhanmondi-32 house and saw my younger brother Russell many times. Don't you remember the face of little Russell when you cut cake and celebrate your birthday?"

A BNP leader quoted Khaleda as telling Hasina, "We should look ahead and take the country forward."

He said Hasina accused Khaleda of harbouring politics of killings in the name of anti-government movement.

In reply, Khaleda said, "It's not me; rather it was you and your party that had been involved in killings. Taking Jamaat on its side, your party observed shutdowns for a total of 173 days. You paralysed the whole country and the sea port [in Chittagong]. Your brother [Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim] confessed that people were burnt alive on a bus set alight with gun powder [on a hartal day]

Wasim lost control of the steering. The vehicle skidded into a roadside ditch, leaving the driver dead, said Nazmul Hasan, assistant superintendent of police (south), quoting witnesses.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

In Lalmonirhat, a passenger train from Shantahar station was derailed as pro-hartal activists uprooted railway tracks near Mohendranagar station in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, leaving at least 50 passengers and the train driver injured.

Some passengers complained that they were mugged by some unidentified masked men when the train was derailed.

Injured train driver Manik Miah said miscreants had uprooted six to seven feet of the track. The number of casualty was less as the train was running slowly, he added.

Hartal supporters also uprooted railway tracks on Lalmonirhat-Burimari land port route near Hatibandha upazila, disrupting train services for few hours.

In Kishoreganj, one Hasan Ali of Batpara in Kuliarchar upazila died of cardiac arrest at Zahurul Islam Medical College Hospital in Bajitpur yesterday evening, said hospital sources.

Mazharul Islam, general secretary of district BNP, claimed that Hasan was a Jubo Dal activist. He fell sick from a tear gas canister lobbed by police during a clash between the opposition activists and law enforcers at Agarpur bus stop.

Subrata Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Kuliarchar Police Station, said no such clash took place at that spot.

Meanwhile, at least 50 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in a clash between the opposition and AL activists at Bajitpur bazar in Bajitpur upazila.

The local administration imposed section 144 in Bajitpur to be effective from 5:00am today.

In Narsingdi, Shibir activists hurled two crude bombs on the premises of deputy commission's office, damaging the vehicle of the additional district magistrate.

In Chapainawabganj, miscreants cut the tendons of Chhatra League leader Sabuj Rahman Sweet in his right hand and left leg at Sibganj fishery market in the evening.

Local BCL leaders alleged that Chhatra Shibir men carried out the attack on Sabuj.

Explosion, vandalism, and running battles took place also in Bogra, Pabna, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Dinajpur, Gazipur, Jhenidah, Thakurgaon, Pirojpur, Chapainawabganj, Netrakona, Jamalpur, Barisal, Munshiganj, Feni, and some other districts, leaving at least 275 more injured.

Police detained 61 people in the capital and 58 more elsewhere in the country.

## SHIBIR MESS RAIDED

Ramna police last night raided a mess of Shibir activists at the capital's Noyatola and detained three Shibir men.

Police said they raided the mess at 11:00pm and recovered 10 crude bombs and bomb making materials.

on your instructions."

On Hasina's doubts whether the opposition leader's red phone was really dead, Khaleda said, "The phone line has been disconnected for the last three years. We know you are very powerful, but not powerful enough to make a dead phone ring," according to the BNP leader.

Hasina said she tried to reach Khaleda over the red phone for about half an hour. "I have nothing to say if you [Khaleda] don't speak the truth. I called you several times in the afternoon. Your phone rang. How could it be dead? I don't know whether it was dead or kept dead? I will have it checked," an AL leader quoted Hasina as telling Khaleda.

(The report was prepared before the transcript of the phone conversation was available.)

# Charge sheets

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cases, including the five submitted by Ukhia Police Station yesterday, have so far been submitted out of a total of 19 cases.

Md Azad Mian, superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar, ensured the submission of charge sheets, and said police had carried out an extensive investigation for one year to identify the perpetrators in the cases.

In the first information report (FIR), 107 people were accused. Police finally submitted the charge sheets to the court against 161 people.

Advocate Shahjalal Chowdhury, Nayeb-e-Ameer of district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, and also chairman of Ukhia upazila; his younger brother Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury, general secretary of upazila unit of the BNP; and Sultan Mahmud Chowdhury, organising secretary of the same upazila unit of the BNP, among others, were made accused in the charge sheets, police sources said.

Jamaat leader Shahjalal, however, secured bail from the High Court after being in prison for long.

In early September this year, police submitted charge sheets in seven cases. Of those, Ramu police submitted one, and two each by Ukhia, Cox's Bazar and Teknaf police.

Faruk Ahmed, assistant superintendent of police of Ukhia Circle, said the investigation was at the final stage in the remaining seven cases with Ramu Police Station. The charge sheets of those cases would be submitted soon, he added.

Islamist fanatics ransacked, looted and burnt 12 Buddhist temples in Ramu on September 29 night last year, one of the worst communal attacks in the living memory.

They also looted 50 dwellings and torched 15 houses at Buddhist villages in the area.

The zealots set fire to five Buddhist temples and ransacked two Hindu temples in Ukhia the next day. They also ransacked 11 houses at a Buddhist village in Teknaf the same day.

Police later filed 13 cases in connection with the incidents, while the victims lodged six more cases with four police stations, accusing 15,182 people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Ramu and Ukhia on September 3 this year, and inaugurated the Buddhist temples reconstructed after the attacks.

# Nizami's lawyers continue to skip proceedings

## Tribunal now to stop recording testimonies of defence witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If Nizami's defence lawyers do not show up before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 today, like they did yesterday and the day before, the court would close recording defence witnesses' testimony.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, yesterday observed that the lawyers of Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami were not cooperating with the tribunal.

Since the formation of the tribunals, counsels for Jamaat leaders had been staying absent on hartal days with the excuse of security concerns even though the court on several occasions offered counsels police protection.

The tribunal yesterday also offered police security for senior defence counsel Mizanul Islam. "The car is ready. Police protection will be given immediately after it has been sought," said Justice Kabir.

Junior defence counsel Asad Uddin, who appeared on behalf of senior counsel with a two-day adjournment petition,

said the defence counsels do not feel safe to come to the tribunal under police security.

"Strange! It seems you [defence counsels] are not cooperating with the tribunal intentionally," said Justice Kabir.

At this point, tribunal member Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim said the tribunal was cooperating with both the parties using its discretion, otherwise the war crimes cases would have been disposed of much earlier as the act concerned have provision for speedy trial and no provision for adjournments.

Justice Fazle Kabir said the tribunal, as if it was a regular court, adjourned on defence plea many times on the hartal issue.

Offering the defence police protection again, the tribunal chairman said they were ready to adjourn for 15 minutes so that Mizanul Islam could be brought in.

The defence was silent.

The tribunal then adjourned the proceedings until today.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali said the defence was wasting valuable time of the tribunal.

# Modified brinjal

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Scientists at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (Bari) genetically engineered brinjal, one of the most consumed vegetables in the country, by inserting a crystal protein gene (Cry1Ac) taken from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, otherwise known as Bt. Since then it has been known as Bt Brinjal.

The Bt gene insertion in brinjal gives it resistance against fruit and shoot borer (FSB), considered to be the most widespread and devastating pest in South and Southeast Asia. FSB infestations inflict 50 to 70 per cent yearly crop loss in brinjal.

Officials present at the NCB meeting yesterday confirmed The Daily Star that four varieties of Bt Brinjal -- Bt Brinjal-1 (Uttara), Bt Brinjal-2 (Kajla), Bt Brinjal-3 (Nayantara), and Bt Brinjal-4 (Iswardi local) -- would first be released on limited scales as per a production manual following biosafety guidelines.

Uttara would be released in Rajshahi region, Kajla in Barisal, Nayantara in

Rangpur and Dhaka regions, and Iswardi Local in Pabna and Chittagong regions, said the officials.

Detailed plan of variety releases, seed multiplications, and best practices in farmers' field-level production would be worked out soon, the sources added.

Though it will be the country's first home-grown GM crop, consumers in the country have long been exposed to GM food through consumption of imported GM soybean oil.

GM crops are derived from traditional plant varieties by altering their genetic makeup in laboratories for faster growth, resistance to pests, production of extra nutrients, or any other beneficial purpose. This is usually done by adding one or more genes to a plant's genome using genetic engineering techniques.

The Bt Brinjal release decision came amidst outcry by a section of Green groups, who consider GM crops to be counter-productive for ecology and fear potential health risks.

## Career Opportunity

**Omera Petroleum Limited**, a subsidiary of MJL Bangladesh Limited, is going to launch LPG operation under the brand name of OMERa. Omera brand products are known in the market for its high quality and best services.

The most invaluable asset in an organization is its people. Our goal at our company is to provide solutions and services on how organizations can fully utilize their human capital that their strategic goals and objectives are met.

We are recruiting to fill the following positions:

### Job Title: Head of LPG Sales and Marketing

#### Job Summary

- The head LPG Sales & Operations is responsible for developing and executing plans to meet the target for the Sales, marketing and distribution of LPG. Responsible for creating product awareness, developing new sales channels/opportunities, managing stakeholders, secure supply, logistics & distribution in order to drive the sales of LPG through the sales of business units in line with company's goals and objectives, building dedicated team, providing leadership and motivation. In addition, the incumbent is responsible for building, maintaining and sustaining good and lasting customer relationship with all internal and external LPG stakeholders.

#### Responsibilities

- Reports to Managing Director.
- Developing strategies and plans for Sales and marketing of LPG.
- Develop cost efficient pricing to generate good margins in line with set targets.
- Undertake market expansion actions that will satisfy customers' need and ultimately maximize company turnover from increased throughput.
- Monitor market trends, competitor activities and consumer preference to position company's LPG drive accordingly.
- Initiate a systematic addition of LPG cylinders into the system to match the expected expansion and volume sales.
- Ensure the plants are constantly stocked to meet the sales demand and zero stock out.
- Actively identify and initiate new/additional product development initiatives for various target consumer market.
- Initiate programs to increase margins and market share for LPG.
- Ensure all LPG processes are well documented in line with ISO standards.
- Produce a concise activity monthly report on LPG Sales to Managing Director.
- Effectively supervise team members engaged in Sales & Operation.

#### Requirements

- Graduation/masters in Economics/Chemistry/Engineering or relevant field.
- Knowledge of Strategic Management & Marketing.
- Knowledge of General Business & Product Knowledge.
- Knowledge of Oil & Gas industry dynamics.
- Planning and process control.
- Minimum 10 years of post-graduation relevant experience, 3 of which must be in a supervisory capacity with sales team in reputable organization.
- PC Utilization (Excel, Word, Power Point).

### Job Title: LPG Sales and Marketing Manager

#### Job Summary

- The Sales & Marketing Manager will be primarily responsible for the day to day commercial operation of LPG Plant.

#### Responsibilities

- Establish, follow and develop a significant portfolio of clients in specific geographical zones.
- Prepare quotations for clients, detect their needs and formulate satisfying strategies in coordination with the Management.
- Manage and monitor the delivery lines to ensure the top quality delivery at the right time in safety condition and suggesting corrective measures if necessary.
- Survey and study the market, research risk factors and competition while searching for new clients and prospective ones.
- Produce a daily/weekly report to the management.
- Manage a team of distributors and follow up their performance and accuracy.
- Maintain and visit clients regularly and follow up the consumptions of the clients.

#### Requirements

- Graduation/masters in Economics/Chemistry/ Physics/Engineering or relevant field.
- Minimum 3-5 years of post-graduation relevant experience.
- Candidate must be able to manage a work force including office staff, sales and manual workers.
- The candidate must be fully literate in English and IT.
- The candidate must have leadership, enthusiasm, endurance and charisma.
- PC Utilization (Excel, Word, Power Point).

#### Method of Application

If you possess the requisite educational qualification, skills and experience, we invite you to send a resume with cover letter through e-mail [career@omera.com.bd](mailto:career@omera.com.bd) , using the job title as the subject of the mail or via post to "The Human Resource Department, Omera Petroleum Limited, Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan – 1, Dhaka-1212" by November 12, 2013

Only short listed candidate will be contacted for interview. Selection will be made purely on Merit Basis.

**Omera** LPG