

# No place for him in cabinet, party

PM confirms Latif Siddique's removal over hurting religious sentiments; removal to be effective after president's return from hajj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Abdul Latif Siddique would be removed from the cabinet and the Awami League for his comments on hajj, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Tabligh Jamaat.

"Derogatory comments about hajj that hurt the religious sentiment of Muslims will never be tolerated," Mesbah Uddin Ahmed Siraj, AL organising secretary, quoted the PM as saying.



"He [Latif] will be dropped from the cabinet and all the party posts."

Hasina made these comments while talking to AL leaders at Sylhet Osmani International Airport on her way to Dhaka from London, after attending the 69th UN General Assembly in the US.

Later at night, when some senior leaders including AL general Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam met her at the Gono Bhaban, Hasina said Latif's

Punish him, removal not enough  
Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded that Abdul Latif Siddique be tried under the law for his recent derogatory comments about hajj and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

"Removing Latif from the cabinet and the party posts [of Awami League] is not enough to assuage public anger," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press conference.

"He should be brought to justice as he has hurt the religious sentiment of the

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## Hajj rituals begin 1.4m gather in Makkah

AFP, Mount Arafat, Saudi Arabia

Muslims began a mass movement yesterday out of the holy city of Makkah towards nearby Mina and Mount Arafat in western Saudi Arabia, beginning the annual hajj pilgrimage.

A pillar of the Islamic faith, this year's hajj comes with Saudi authorities striving to protect pilgrims from two deadly viruses, Ebola and the MERS coronavirus.

It is also taking place against the backdrop of widespread revulsion among Muslims towards ISIS jihadists.

Saudi Arabia and four other Arab nations have joined Washington in air strikes in Syria against the militants, who have declared a "caliphate" straddling that country and Iraq where they have

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## COMMENTARY

# Two PMs and their diaspora

Hasina's UN foray marred by a "rotten apple"

MAHFUZ ANAM

Today we address two different topics -- one of the two PMs' trip to the UN and another of a "rotten apple", linked only by the fact that they both occurred in New York.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made what can be termed as "a significant trip" to the UN. Her active participation in the various pre-General Assembly summits and making substantive inputs in them were credible demonstration of Bangladesh's important role in such vital development and security areas as poverty alleviation, gender discrimination and UN peacekeeping.

Our PM likes the global stage and seldom misses any chances of being on it even when protocol and relatively low level of other participants should have led her to decide otherwise. She enjoys being in the company of other

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Kamal lying unconscious at National Institute of Chest Disease & Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Innocent faces cop brutality

Jessore shopkeeper now fighting for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was just an ordinary man with no links to political or criminal activities. Neither did he pose a direct or immediate threat to anyone's life. Yet he was shot by police

and that too at point-blank range.

Aminul Islam Kamal, a victim of shooting during police action on 20-party activists on Wednesday, was now fighting for life at the National Institute of Chest Disease & Hospital (NICDH) in the capi-

tal's Mohakhali.

"Doctors had to cut off part of his lung, as it was riddled with pellets. We operated on him twice to save his life. But he is still not out of danger," said Dr Abdur Rahim,

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On behalf of Directors, Officers and Workers of **Keya Group** we cordially extend heartiest thanks and congratulations to Mr. Abdul Khaleque Pathan, Chairman & Managing Director, Keya Group for being awarded as a Commercially Important Person (CIP-2012) by the Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh. He received award from **Honorable Commerce Minister Mr. Tofael Ahmed** for his magnificent contribution to the economy of Bangladesh through knit garments manufacturing and export.

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The honorable Chairman **Mr. Itemad Ud Daulah** and the honorable Managing Director **Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah** of **DIRD Group** have been declared as **CIP (Export)- 2012** by the Government of Bangladesh in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the national economy & RMG sector. They have been awarded for **DIRD Garments Ltd. & DIRD Composite Textiles Ltd.** (Concerns of **DIRD Group**) respectively.



We, the employees of **DIRD Group**, extend our heartiest congratulations to **Mr. Itemad Ud Daulah** and **Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah** and wish all the success for their future endeavour.

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