

Haji Aspirants Ministry to look into fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religious affairs ministry yesterday asked its officials to look into the alleged fraudulent activities of a haji operator which disappeared with passports and money of 70 aspirant hajis of Mymensingh and Jamalpur.

The office of Mawna Travels and Tours at Mawna Chourasta in Sreepur upazila, Gazipur, which received more than Tk 1.79 crore to make all arrangements for them to perform haji -- from visa, air tickets to food -- in Saudi Arabia, has been closed for at least a week.

Its owner Ali Ashraf is also absconding, alleged Momtaz Uddin, a haji guide of the aspirant hajis, while talking to this correspondent yesterday over the phone.

The Daily Star yesterday published a report based on statements of several aspirant hajis and Momtaz.

The 70 aspirant hajis have paid Tk 1.79 crore to the haji operator through two haji guides.

Contacted, acting secretary of the religious affairs ministry Abdul Jalil said

they have taken this newspaper's report into account and directed officials concerned to look into the allegations.

"We will take punitive measures if we find any evidence in support of the allegation. Apart from imposing fine, the ministry may cancel licence of the haji operator," Jalil also said.

Two mobile phones of Ali Ashraf, proprietor of Mawna Travels and Tours, were found switched-off for the last two days.

PASSENGER SHORTAGE

A top official of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday told The Daily Star that on average, over 350 to 400 seats remain unoccupied in haji flights every day, causing them to worry about being able to send all intended hajis to Jeddah on time.

"If the current trend of haji flight continues, hajis will certainly be in trouble this year," the Biman official said, wishing anonymity.

"In that case, Biman will not take any responsibility," he added.

So far, over 1,700 seats were unoccupied in Biman haji flights that started on

August 4.

A Biman official said over 125 seats were unoccupied in Saturday's haji flights while 280 seats in Sunday's haji flights and over 700 seats in yesterday's haji flights.

He said only seven days are left for carrying the rest 31,000 hajis to Saudi Arabia. "In this situation, we will not be able to send all the aspirants hajis there if a single seat of haji flights goes without passenger," he added.

Biman yesterday called upon all haji operators and hajis to confirm and collect tickets by today.

In a press release, Biman yesterday warned that there might be uncertainty over the sending of all the aspirant hajis to Saudi Arabia within the schedule time if hajis or haji agencies did not buy tickets by today.

The last haji flight is scheduled for September 5.

Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, director at the haji office at Ashkona Haji Camp, yesterday said they would take stern action against haji agencies which failed to ensure tickets for hajis on time.

West Bengal to be named Bangla

Assembly passes resolution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

West Bengal Legislative Assembly yesterday passed a resolution for changing the state's name from West Bengal to "Bangla" in Bengali and "Bengal" in English.

For the resolution to be formalised, it now awaits approvals of the governor of the state, both houses of Indian parliament -- the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and the president of India.

However, Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, at a press conference following the passing of the resolution said she would make the official use of the new name effective from yesterday and she has already started using it by registering her attendance in Bengali.

Referring to the "Joy Bangla" slogan chanted by Bangladeshis, Mamata said the slogan of her state will be "Joyo Bangla".

The Congress and the BJP staged a walkout before the commencement of discussion on the resolution. The Left Front remained in the assembly, but abstained from voting on it.

BCL activists

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they were staging demonstrations demanding halls.

"We will enforce a strike on the campus tomorrow [today] to press home our demand.... We want to stage demonstrations under a united platform, but the left-leaning student organisations want to lead the movement," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, JNU Proctor Noor Muhammad said most of the classes and examinations were not held yesterday due to the students' strike at the university.

About the attack on students, he said it was difficult for them to monitor demonstration programmes. The university authorities would take actions if anyone files a written complaint with the JNU, he added.

On the vandalism at the journalist association's office, he said the incident occurred due to "an internal problem" of the association. "We have padlocked the office today [yesterday] as the association is financed by the university."

The students of JNU, an institution of 21,000 students, have been boycotting classes and exams and blocking different city roads since August 1 demanding residential halls.

Many students have been living at rented houses and messes as the authorities failed to manage accommodations for them.

Speaking at a press conference in front of Central Public Library in the city's Shahbagh, JNU student Kazi Humayun said demonstrators came under a series of attacks from some BCL men when they were preparing to bring out a procession like the previous days.

The protesters enforced a strike on the campus yesterday demanding the authorities set up residential halls.

"The attackers snatched our loudspeakers, banners, cell phones and vandalised the office of the journalist association at the university," he alleged.

The injured students received treatment at nearby private clinics and hospitals.

On Sunday, some BCL men allegedly attacked the agitating students during a sit-in for residential halls, leaving several injured.

Accusing the BCL, pro-Awami League student body, of conspiring to foil the movement, Golam Rabbi, a final-year student of accounting, yesterday said Chhatra League men beat up students with plastic chairs and sticks for not holding agitations under their leadership.

"If they [BCL men] want to hold a rally, they can do it separately. But they have no right to foil our peaceful movement," he added.

Refuting the allegations of beating up students, BCL JNU President Shariful said

'Neo JMB leader' killed in 'gunfight'

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the attack on Italian physician Piero Parolari, the bomb attack at Kantaji Mandir, the attack on Iskon temple and looting of a petrol pump in Dinajpur in November and December last year, said Gazir Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of police in Bogra.

Moreover, Khaled, Nazrul Islam alias Bike Hasan, Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi and Khairul Islam Badhon, one of the Gulshan café attackers, had a meeting at Ripon's house in Rajshahi's Boalia, where they plotted to kill Rajshahi University Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, police said.

Apart from Jahangir, 27, all three were killed either in police raids or in "crossfire".

THE "GUNFIGHT"

On information that some militants gathered at Noluabari intersection in Bishapur union to carry out subversive activities, a police team rushed to the spot around 3:30am, said Sherpur Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Khan Md Erfan.

As soon as the team reached there, the militants opened fire on them. Police also fired back in retaliation, he said.

Khaled and Ripon were injured in the gun battle. A foreign-made pistol, four bullets, two homemade bombs, bomb-making materials and a knife were also recovered from the spot, the OC added.

The two were taken to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared them dead, said the police official.

Two constables -- Babul Akhtar and Abdul Mottalib -- suffered injuries in the incident. They were taken to Bogra Police Lines Hospital.

KHALED

Khaled was the son of Enamul Haque of Hamidpur village in Chapainawabganj's Nachole upazila.

He passed Alim (HSC equivalent) from Chapainawabganj and got enrolled in Dinajpur Paramedical College. But he did not complete his studies there, said a police official.

Bazlur Rashid, a sub-inspector of Detective Branch of police in Dinajpur, said Khaled planned the attacks and supplied arms and explosives to the JMB men who took part in the three attacks.

Ripon's name appeared in the charge sheet of the cases along with 17 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh men.

RIPON

Ripon was the "chief of Ansar Rajshahi", a splinter group of JMB in the district. The group was planning to kill Hindu homeopath doctor Nirendronath Sarker of Bagmara upazila, police said.

He was coordinating the attack on the doctor through Threema apps. Law enforcers came to know about his

involvement after checking the mobile phones of two of his accomplices -- Aminul Islam Rumi and Enamul Haque Sabuj -- who were arrested in Bagmara on August 16, police claimed.

The group had six members, including Shariful Islam, a third-year student of English department at Rajshahi University and the prime suspect in the murder case of Prof Siddiquee, Rawshan Ali alias Akash of Pabna and Bulbul alias Al Amin alias Billal of Rajshahi.

Ripon, son of late Golam Sabur Badal of Pantharpar in Bagmara, had been missing since May 19, his sister Samina Ferdous told The Daily Star yesterday.

After passing Higher Secondary Examination from Rajshahi University School five to six years ago, he started working at a sanitary shop in Rajshahi city's Malopara.

Ripon had left the job three months before he went missing.

The family filed a missing diary with Boalia Police Station on May 19 and gave police Ripon's photo on July 22, said Samina.

Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police yesterday picked up Samina, her husband Hafijul Islam, uncle Abdus Salam and Salam's son Milu for interrogation, said RMP Inspector Rezaus Sadik.

[Our Bogra, Rajshahi and Dinajpur correspondents contributed to the report.]

ACC arrests two Rajuk officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission last night arrested two senior officials of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha for alleged involvement in misappropriating about Tk 3.46 crore from the government funds.

They are Sydur Rahman, superintendent engineer of Rajuk's Uttara Apartment Project, and Monwarul Islam, executive engineer and project director of Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara and Uttara Lake Development Project.

A team, led by ACC Director Enamul Basir, arrested the two from the capital's Segunbagicha area around 9:30pm, said ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharjee.

Earlier, a case was filed with Fatullah Model Police Station in Narayanganj against 12 people, including Sydur and Monwarul, in connection with the embezzlement.

According to the FIR, the crime took place in the process of awarding compensation for government acquired land in Narayanganj for Purbachal Residential Area in 1995-97.

Boy gets

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"We are a small family and he has no friends so gets very few."

By Ollie's birthday on Saturday, his mother said he had received some 20,000 cards, messages and presents from people all over the world who had seen her plea.

For comparison, the Queen is estimated to have received 17,000 cards for her 90th birthday this year.

Speaking to the Independent, she said she took Ollie to a family friend's house for his birthday.

"He sat in a hot tub with his new selfie-stick and said: 'mum, I'm famous'".

Jones, who is a voluntary support worker for parents of autism, spoke of how positively her family had been affected by the widespread act of kindness.

Having autism means her son struggles with processing, she added, which affects his verbal and academic communication.

"I'd love to thank everyone and remind people that there are 'Ollies' everywhere," she said.

"Some people might think it's just a card - but to us it's massive. Sending cards

can bring so much joy".

Boxes of post began arriving to the Jones's on Thursday, and boxes are said to still be incoming from strangers as far as Cyprus, Crete and Australia.

Speaking to the Plymouth Herald, Ollie said: "No one gives me birthday cards, just me."

"It's fab, amazing and fun - but not so many next year please."

Jones said: "My son made two birthday cards. He has no friends because of his autism and when I saw he had made the cards it pulled my heart strings."

"I thought maybe we could just try to get him a few extra cards this year."

When droves of cards and messages began to arrive, she said it brought "tears to the eyes".

"It was a lump in the throat moment," she said. "All I can say is thank you, the kindness, love and goodwill of everyone has been phenomenal."

The Facebook message has been shared more than 25,000 times and attracted thousands of comments from well-wishers using the hashtag #cards4ollie.

Activists vow to continue

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towards the Sundarbans for at least four months a year. So, the air will not always blow towards the opposite direction of the forest, he added.

The harmful air that would be emitted from the plant would harm the Sundarbans during winter and the rest of the country the rest of the year, he observed.

"Four months is enough to damage the Sundarbans," he noted.

He further said there was no guarantee that water used in the plant would be treated properly before discharging it into the river.

According to the government, ultra-supercritical technology would be used at the plant and all available modern technologies would be applied to prevent pollution. Carbon dioxide to be emitted through the 275-metre-long chimney would remain within a 1.6-kilometre radius of the plant, the government claims.

Density of other gases would be within the permissible limit set by the World Health Organization and other international agencies. The best quality coal from Australia, Indonesia and South Africa would be used at the plant, said the premier on Saturday.

The government is aware of emission of light and sound during coal transportation. The emission would be kept at the minimum level, and coal would be brought to the plant site from deep sea by covered barges, said the premier.

But Prof Muhammad said although it had been said what steps would be taken to avoid damages, their application and implementation was very uncertain.

"The main point is even if the recommendations are followed, damages to the Sundarbans are unavoidable. If ships ply, there will be accidents and risk of pollution, the sanctuary of the dolphins will be affected on the ships' route and the waves, sound and light will harm the biodiversity."

Prof Muhammad also ruled out forming an alliance with BNP to build up stronger support against the Rampal project, saying the conventions of the national committee bans it from joining hands with anybody or any political party who works or worked against national interests in the past.

The BNP took a number of anti-people steps in the past, he said, citing the Phulbari case as an example.

When BNP was in power in 2006, security personnel opened fire on agitating locals and protesters protesting against setting up of an open-pit coalmine at Phulbari upazila in Dinajpur,

leaving at least three dead and 70 others wounded.

Prof Muhammad said the government itself has kept the movement alive and created an opportunity for BNP to use Rampal as an issue to threaten a movement. If the project is cancelled, the movement will not linger, he added.

The economist warned that if the project is implemented, bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India might turn bitter.

"The Sundarbans is our last refuge. If it is destroyed, discontent will take a dangerous shape and will be a permanent arrangement for animosity."

As the next course of action, the committee would hold "March to Dhaka" programme and stage a grand rally in the capital in November to press for scrapping the project.

A Bangladesh-India joint venture company signed an agreement with India's state-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd on July 12, paving the way for construction of the much-debated power plant.

The construction is set to start within three to four months and the plant is scheduled to go into commercial production by July 2019.

Environmentalists have been up in arms about the power plant because of its proximity to the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a Unesco World Heritage Site.

IS suicide bomber kills

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following the explosion.

Aden has experienced a wave of bombings and shootings targeting officials and security forces.

Attacks in the city are often claimed by jihadists from either al-Qaeda or IS, which have both taken advantage of the chaos in Yemen to make gains in the south and southeast.

IS claimed yesterday's bombing on its official propaganda outlet, Amaq.

Earlier this month, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a large group of army reinforcements sent from Aden to fight jihadists in neighbouring Lahj, killing five soldiers, military officials said.

No group has claimed that attack.

But on July 20, four policemen were killed in a bombing attack in Aden that was claimed by IS.

And in May, twin suicide bombings in Aden claimed by IS killed at least 41 people.

Yemeni authorities have trained hundreds of soldiers in the city over the past two months as part of operations to retake neighbouring southern provinces from jihadists.

Security officials told AFP the attacker drove the car bomb into a gathering of recruits at a school in the north of the port city.

The recruits were among 5,000 newly enrolled soldiers being trained to fight the Huthi rebels in the north along the border with Saudi Arabia, military sources said.

Although the complex was locked as recruits registered inside, the attacker drove in when the gate was opened for a delivery vehicle, officials said.

Witnesses said some recruits were buried when a roof collapsed after the blast which left a gaping hole on the building's facade.

Debris was scattered around the complex and nearby buildings were damaged.

The assault killed at least 71 people and wounded 98, medical sources told AFP.

They could not immediately verify whether all those who died were army recruits.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Twitter that its hospital in Aden "received 45 dead and at least 60 wounded"

girls into their classes when they were exhausted.

Some students of the school said aggrieved locals hearing the news of Sathi's death stormed the school and vandalised its doors, windows.

All teachers and the students left the school and the school has been closed.

Teacher Alauddin did not pick up his phone when this correspondent called for his comment but Kamrul Islam, head teacher of the school, said he had heard about the incident.

"We will look into the matter. If we find the teacher guilty, we will take legal action against him," he said, adding that he was in Dhaka on his way to perform haji.

Officer-in-Charge Wali Ullah of Chandpur Model Police Station said they would take action after investigating the incident.

Suicide attack kills 18 in Iraq oasis town

AFP, Karbala

Attackers armed with suicide vests, rifles and grenades killed 18 people in the Iraqi oasis town of Ain al-Tamer, many of them guests at a wedding party, local officials said yesterday.

"They were carrying Kalashnikovs, hand grenades. One of them blew himself up and the others were killed by the security forces," said the head of central Euphrates operations command, Qais Khalaf.

A local council member and a provincial health directorate source confirmed the death toll in the attack, which took place late Sunday, and said at least 26 others were wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but all recent suicide operations in Iraq have been claimed by the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group.

Punished for failure

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VIII student of Bagadi High School, was the second daughter of labourer Delwar Hossain.

"Sathi committed suicide by hanging herself from a wooden beam with a piece of cloth in her room around 2:00pm as her mother expressed their inability to pay the fee," said Wayana Begum, a relative of Sathi.

Shayla Begum, Sathi's mother, said Sathi hanged herself when she went to her neighbour's to borrow the money.

Her younger daughter discovered Sathi hanging from the beam, relatives said.

On Sunday, Md Alauddin, an assistant teacher of the school, allegedly punished Sathi and a few others by compelling them to stay standing for about one hour in the sun on the school's playground.

Later, other teachers took the

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
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 Phone: 0721-812276 Fax: 772279
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Invitation for Tenders
IFT No. 01 (One) OTM 2016-17

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from all eligible contractors in accordance with PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 (with all amendments) for the undermentioned work:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Expatriates Welfare & Overseas Employment.
2.	Agency	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and Public Works Department (PWD).
3.	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
4.	Procuring entity district	Rajshahi.
5.	Invitation for works	Works.
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	306(40)we
7.	Date	29-08-2016.
8.	KEY INFORMATION	
9.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
10.	FUNDING INFORMATION	
11.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
12.	PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
13.	Project name	Capacity Development Program of TTC, Rajshahi.
14.	Tender package No.	W(PWD)/IT-01, W(PWD)/MP-24
15.	Tender package name	Mention at SI 30.
16.	Tender publication date	Within 31-08-2016.
17.	Tender last selling date	27-09-2016.
18.	Tender closing date and time	28-09-2016 at 12:00 noon.
19.	Tender opening date and time	28-09-2016 at 3:00pm.
20.	Name & address of the office(s)	Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
21.	Selling tender document (principal)	Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
22.	Selling tender document (others)	Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi/Executive Engineer, PWD Division-1, Dhaka/PWD Division-1, Chittagong/PWD Division-1, Khulna/PWD Division-1, Sylhet/PWD Division, Barisal/PWD Division Rangpur/PWD Division-1, Rajshahi/PWD Division-Chapainawabganj/PWD Division Pabna/PWD Division Naogaon/PWD Division Bogra/PWD Division Sirajganj/PWD Division Joypurhat /PWD Division Natore.
23.	Receiving tender document	Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi/Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Rajshahi/Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-1, Rajshahi/Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
24.	Opening tender document	Executive Engineer, Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
25.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	
26.	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
27.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	This Invitation for Tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: 1. Contractors/construction firms who have minimum of general experience 10 years. 2. Experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number similar building construction work amounting to Tk 167.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/IT-01) & Electrical work amounting Tk 25.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/MP-24) during last 5 (five) years in a single tender. 3. The tenderer must have a minimum average annual construction turnover of Tk 420.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/IT-01) & Tk 42.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/MP-24) over the last 5 (five) years. 4. The tenderer must have a minimum liquid assets/cash flow capacity of Tk 95.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/IT-01) & Tk 42.00 lac (For Package W(PWD)/MP-24) for 3 (three) months work. Bank statement should be counted 28 (twenty-eight) days before from the date of opening of tender. 5. Fulfilling all other conditions mentioned in the TDS. 6. If tenderer's quoted rate exceeds 10% above or less of official cost estimate then tender will be non-responsive according to the latest amendment of Section 31 of PPA-2006, Act No. 24.
28.	Brief description of works	RCC Work, Internal Sanitary & Water Supply, Internal & External Electrification etc.
29.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1500.00 For (For Package W(PWD)/IT-01) & Tk 1000.00 For Package W(PWD)/MP-24.
30.	Tender Package No.	Identification of package Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in months
	1. W(PWD)/IT-01	Vertical Extension of IT Building at Rajshahi TTC Sopura, Rajshahi 7,00,000-(BD/PO/BG) 12 months
	2. W(PWD)/MP-24	Separation of Metering Panel and HT Line Sopura, Rajshahi 1,10,000-(BD/PO) 04 months
31.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Latiful Islam.
32.	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer.
33.	Address of official inviting tender	Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi.
34.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +880721-812276, Fax No. +880721-772279, E-mail: ee_raj2@pwd.gov.bd
35.	Downloading tender notice	www.cptu.gov.bd, www.pwd.gov.bd
36.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders.	

Md. Latiful Islam
Executive Engineer
Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi

GD-1738