



Farm labourers stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to realise their various demands, including ratification of ILO Convention 141/149.

Bureaucratic tangle, political interference hinder rural dev

UP chairmen tell journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucratic tangle and political interference in approving the projects at union parishad (UP) level seriously hamper the rural development, said the UP leaders yesterday.

They said due to interference of upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) and non-participation of UP chairmen at district development coordination committee (DDCC), much-needed projects cannot be taken up.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, Bangladesh Union Parishad Chairmen Samity (BUPCS) President Mir Enayet Hossain said the UP level projects are placed at the upazila development coordination committee (UDCC) for primary selection.

The meeting is attended by UNO, officials of other departments at upazila level and the UP chairmen.

The selected projects are then sent to the members of parliament (MPs) who are the advisor of the UDCC. They re-scrutinise the projects on the basis of their own choice and then send them to the DDCC where the minister-in-charge of the district or the MP as its chairman approves the projects finally.

"As a result, many important projects are either consciously or unconsciously excluded," said Enayet Hossain.

Besides, there are evidences that many urgent projects could not be implemented timely as ministers or MPs concerned remain out of the country or find no time to attend the DDCC meeting, he added.

Enayet Hossain said money allocated this year to repair flood damaged roads under 'Food for Work' programme was so meager that even 20 percent of the work

could not be completed.

BUPCS Secretary General Abul Haris Rikabder said the authority of auctioning major markets and leasing out of water bodies has also been transferred to the UNOs. "This has created fund constraints at the UPs violating the power of the peoples' representatives and hampering the rural development," he added.

The UPs are supposed to get one percent of the total land registration fees, but that is never given to them. The UP chairmen have to persuade the UNOs to get that revenue, he said, adding, "It is really pity for the peoples' representatives to request their own employees for fund."

BUPCS Publicity Secretary Abdur Razzak Pintu said the honorarium of a UP chairman and a member is only Tk 500 and Tk 300 respectively which is very disgraceful for them.

Chhoto Ratan shot Ahsanullah Master

Prosecution witness tells court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness in the Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case yesterday told a court that he recognised 21 people, who carried out the assassination of the legislator.

Abul Kashem, who conducted the conference on May 7, gave his deposition before Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1. He described how a group led by Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leader Nurul Islam Dipu carried out the attack that day.

He was also cross-examined by a defence lawyer on behalf of accused Nurul Amin. He will be cross-examined again at the same court at 2:00pm today.

Kashem told the court that Dipu, Shipu, Tipu, Chhoto Ratan, Khokan, Alamin, Faisal, Bulu, Roni, Monir and Dulal opened fire on Ahsanullah and Mahal with pistols and revolvers. The AL lawmaker was

present at the conference to form a committee of Sechchhasebok League.

Another group of Mahbub, Anu, Kana Hafiz, Bara Ratan, Sohag, Jahangir, Salam, Amir, Mohammad Ali and Moshir also opened fire, the witness added. Chhoto Ratan shot Ahsanullah at around 12:35pm when the latter was leaving the stage, he said.

On completion of their mission, they left the spot and went northward, Kashem added.

On the same day, the witness went to the place of occurrence and police prepared a seizure list in his presence. Police seized a banner with 12 blood stained holes, 12 cartridges and blood stained soil from the spot, Kashem said.

Twelve of 30 accused in the case were present on the dock during the hearing. Of the accused, Kabir Hossain, Ayub, Pappu Sarker and Alamin are on bail while Dipu and 17 others still at large.

Santhia poura chairman-elect calls hartal Dec 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirazul Islam Pramanik, chairman-elect of Santhia Pourasava in Pabna, yesterday called an eight-hour hartal in the pourasava area on December 26 to protest the 'Jamaat-e-Islami's bid to foil the election results and scuttle the democratic process'.

Although two and a half months have elapsed after the election to Santhia Pourasava, the oath-taking ceremony was not held until now, he said at a press conference at Dhammondin in the city.

Backed by the Awami League, Pramanik won the election on October 6.

He alleged that Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, also the chief of Jamaat, a partner of the ruling coalition, has used his influence to delay the publication of gazette notification of the election results and the oath taking ceremony.

The chairman-elect also announced a series of action programmes, including submitting a memorandum to the Returning Officer on December 23 and laying siege to upazila headquarters and a sit-in on December 28.

Former state minister for information and AL leader Prof Abul Sayeed and Shamsur Rahman Sharif MP were present.



Two girls struggle to get on an overcrowded bus operating on Azimpur-Kalabagan route yesterday as the Mirpur Road has been made off-limits to rickshaws since December 17. Many are also forced to travel in buses as the hawkers occupy the footpaths along the road, causing suffering to the pedestrians.

'Debate helps students enhance analytical power'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth Forum for Democracy, a newly formed organisation, held its first debate session on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Twelve debaters from different public and private universities presented their arguments on the motion -- 'Has the anti-corruption commission been formed in an impartial manner?'

Speaking at the inaugural session, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said the debate helps the students enhance their analytical power and encourage them to make greater efforts to understand social issues.

"If the present generation is able to think logically it will help the country in future," he added.

Muhammad Jahangir, chief coordinator of the forum, said this organisation would provide a platform for the university students to express their logical opinion.

The forum would also help the students to arrange and participate in debate competitions.

Director of the British Council June Rollinson also spoke at the inaugural session.

The forum organised the debate in association with the British Council.

Exhibition of antique furniture begins

UNB, Dhaka

A month-long exhibition of antique furniture began yesterday at the Soukhin Emporium of Gulshan City Corporation Market to give interested people glimpses of the past.

Beds, dressing tables, chests, tables, lanterns, different types of clocks, ornament boxes, decorated wooden doors and partitions, vaults and variegated pots of ancient times are being displayed in the exhibition.

Inaugurating the show, Information Minister M Shamsul Islam urged the history-conscious people and cultural activists to evaluate the folk artisans and take initiatives to preserve a unique tradition of the country for the next generations.

'Make SSKOP strike a success'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sangbadik Samik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) yesterday called on the government to announce immediately the formation of a sixth wage board for the journalists and employees of the newspaper industry.

The Parishad leaders also urged all to make the December 26 strike in the newspaper industry a success.

It called the 24-hour strike to press home its seven-point demand, including formation of the sixth wage board and 60 percent dearness allowance.

The Parishad leaders held separate meetings with the newsmen and employees at the offices of The Daily Star and The New Nation on Monday and Tuesday to make the strike a success.

Biswadi Das, chief of The Daily Star unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists, and Sayed Afzal Hossain, chief of The New Nation unit of DUJ, presided over the meetings at their offices.

Oikya Parishad leaders Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Fazle Imam, Matiur Rahman Talukdar, Altaf Mahmud, Mohammad Asadullah and Abul Hashem and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Shahriar Khan, Shamsur Rahman and Md Al-Amin of The Daily Star and Hasanuzzaman Khan and Rafiqul Islam of The New Nation spoke at the meetings.

DHAKA TODAY

Folk song festival
A three-day Zainul folksong festival to celebrate the 90th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin will be inaugurated by Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:00pm. On the opening day Gazir Pala will be presented.

Lalon festival
Bangladesh Lalon Parishad organises Lalon festival through discussion and musical function. Venue: Poel Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

Drama
Bangladesh Theatre will stage a drama titled 'She-Morning' directed by Humayun Kabir Himu. Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6:30pm.

Indonesian Batik Show
An Indonesian Batik Show will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop
South-South Centre Bangladesh in collaboration with Family Health International organises a national workshop for key stakeholders on HIV Risk Reduction. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 9:30am.

Freshers' reception
A reception for the freshers of Dhaka

International University will be held with State Minister for Education AN M Ehsanul Haq Milon as chief guest. Venue: Ziaur Rahman Hall of National Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Entertainment Media Journalist Association organises a seminar on the 'Five decades of film journalism' with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will hold a discussion to mark the Victory Day with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30am.

Inauguration
The inaugural ceremony of Nitul-Eureka CNG Station will be held with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A KM Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Opposite Raowa Club, Mohakhali. Time: 3:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Roundtable
Campaign for Good Governance will host a roundtable on 'Citizen's society: Sovereignty, friendship and poverty alleviation in South Asia' to mark the upcoming Saarc summit. Venue: VIP lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 9:00am.



Information Minister M Shamsul Islam admires a piece of antique furniture at an exhibition at the Soukhin Emporium of Gulshan City Corporation Market in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain/drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country, with chances of light rain/drizzle at places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog is expected over the river basins during early morning. Met Office bulletin said forecasting unchanged night temperature over the country in the period.

Highest temperature 29.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and Chuadanga and lowest 12.8 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:17pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.7	18.5	79	73
Chittagong	28.0	17.0	62	76
Rajshahi	28.3	17.4	94	77
Khulna	27.3	18.9	94	83
Barisal	27.6	17.0	86	91
Sylhet	23.8	15.4	87	78
Cox's Bazar	29.1	17.4	65	71

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director General
Directorate of Youth Development
Ministry of Youth and Sports
108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. DYD/YTC (26 Nos.)/Pra Anu/60/2000 (Part- Piroj)-622
Dated: 29/11/04

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are invited from qualified contractors (ABC licence-holder) renewed in 2004-2005 financial year for execution of internal electrification works of Pirojpur Youth Training Centre under the project titled "Establishment of 26 New Youth Training Centres (amended)" under the Directorate of Youth Development.

Tender will be received up to 12:00 hours of 28-12-2004/14-09-1411 BS at the office chamber of the undersigned, Senior Assistant Secretary (Youth-2), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Building No.-7, Room No.-724, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12-storied Government Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka and the consulting firm Engineers Consortium Limited, 870, Shewrapara, Rokeya Sarani Road, Dhaka and the tenders received will be opened on the same day at 3:00 PM in presence (if any) of attending tenderers. Earnest money amounting to Tk 30,000/- (thirty thousand) only should be submitted with the tender in the form of Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Project Director, 26 New Youth Training Centres Establishment Project Directorate of Youth Development, Dhaka. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled outright. The time limit for the work is 90 (ninety) days. Only those ABC licence-holding contractors' firms that have completed similar type of works worth Tk 10.00 (ten) lakh or above under a single work order under any government/semi-government/autonomous organisation/this directorate can purchase the tender form. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled outright.

Tender schedule along with terms and conditions should be purchased on depositing Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only through Bangladesh Bank/Treasury Challan under the "Code No. 1/3640/0000/2366" and submitting the original copy of the challan at the offices of the undersigned, Senior Assistant Secretary (Youth-2), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Building No.-7, Room No.-724, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka; Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12-storied Government Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka and the consulting firm Engineers Consortium Limited, 870, Shewrapara, Rokeya Sarani Road, Dhaka, by the contractor himself or his authorised representative (with the signature of the representative attested by the contractor) producing the original book of pre-qualification by 27-12-2004 during office hours. Bill will be paid subject to receipt of fund. Attested copies of pre-qualification/enlistment book renewed in 2004-2005 financial year, Income Tax, VAT and Trade Licence should be submitted with the tender. If the total "quoted rate" in the tender of selected contractor/contractors' firm is more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost, then he shall have to deposit 10% (ten per cent) of the estimated cost as additional security in the form of Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Project Director, 26 New Youth Training Centres Establishment Project, Youth Development Directorate, Dhaka, before the work order is issued. In case of failure to deposit the stated additional security money or showing reluctance, the work order will not be issued and the tender will be treated as cancelled. Bill will be paid subject to receipt of fund. If there is any mistake in the addition and multiplication including rate analysis and rate quoting in the tender submitted, then the said tender will be treated as cancelled.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or in full or part without assigning any reason and is not bound to accept the lowest rate. The amount of work and money can be more or less.

For Director General
Zillur Rahman
Project Director

DFP-28646-30/11
G-1279 26 New Youth Training Centres Establishment Project

CU ARTS FACULTY BLDG ON VERGE OF COLLAPSE

Teachers observe strike today

CU CORRESPONDENT

Arts faculty teachers of Chittagong University (CU) will observe a daylong work abstention today demanding immediate renovation of the decade-old faculty building.

Some 165 teachers of 10 departments will take part in the programme to press home their demand.

The faculty building is on the verge of collapse.

Around 5,000 students are attending their classes with great anxiety as the building may collapse at any moment resulting huge loss of lives.

CDA demolishes 20 structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) started demolishing unplanned and illegal structures hindering development and expansion of road and intersection at Anderkilla in the city yesterday.

During the daylong eviction drive, CDA demolished over 20 structures including several high-rise and century-old buildings on both sides of the road from General Hospital to Anderkilla intersection.

CDA sources said they will continue the drive to demolish over fifty buildings including ten century-old ones along the road stretching from Terry Bazar to Anderkilla.

Cadets put CMFA principal's office, residence under lock and key

CU CORRESPONDENT

Cadets of 24th and 25th batches of Chittagong Marine Fisheries Academy (CMFA) yesterday put the office and residence of the principal under lock and key demanding his immediate removal.

The angry cadets also staged a sit-in and observed a token hunger strike at the parade ground of the academy to press home their demands.

Members of Marine Fisheries Ex-Cadet's Association broke the hunger strike by offering water to the participants in the afternoon.

Security has been tightened on the academy premises.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Directorate
Ministry of Education
Bogra Zone, Bogra

Tender Notice

Tender Notice No-10/Extension/EE/ED/Bog/2004-2005 Dated: 27/11/2004

Tenders in sealed cover are hereby invited as per 'The Public Procurement Regulations-2003 from pre-qualified contractors of the said project of Education Engineering Directorate for the development work of selected educational institutions under the project titled "Extension of the Existing Buildings of Selected Educational Institutions."

a) Name of work	Extension work of existing buildings including sanitary, water supply and electrification in selected educational institutions.
b) Amount of earnest money for each group	Tk 48,000/- (forty-eight thousand) only.
c) Price of tender document per set	Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable).
d) Time limit for completion of work of each group	04 (four) months.
e) Last date and time of purchasing tender document	27-12-2004 (up to office hours).
f) Last date and time of submitting tender document	29-12-2004 (up to 12.15 PM).
g) Date and time of opening tender box	29-12-2004 at 12.30 PM.
h) Date, time and place of opening tender document	29-12-2004, Time-3.30 PM, Place-Zone Office, Bogra (in presence of tenderers, if any).
i) Offices where tender document to be had at	Office of the Chief Engineer, Education Engineering Directorate, Shikha Bhaban, Dhaka; Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi; Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Directorate, Bogra; Pabna, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Dinajpur and Panchagarh Zone and Office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Engineering Directorate, Sirajganj district.
j) Offices where tender to be received at	Offices of the undersigned and the Assistant Engineer of Sirajganj district.
k) List of selected educational institutions, group No, location of the institution and other terms and conditions are enclosed with the tender document. Interested tenderers can obtain necessary information from the offices mentioned in (i).	
l) Earnest money	Earnest money mentioned in the tender notice should be submitted in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of "Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Directorate, Bogra Zone, Bogra."

Terms and Conditions:

- Permission for purchasing tender document should be taken from the proper authority after producing the original copies of the following papers and the attested photocopies of those papers should be submitted with the tender at the time of submitting tender.
 - Registration book.
 - Up-to-date licence renewal certificate.
 - Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate.
 - Up-to-date VAT registration certificate (with ten digits).
- Bill will be paid subject to receipt of allocation. But the contractor shall be bound to complete the work within the stipulated time.
- Income tax and VAT will be deducted against each bill as per government rules and regulations.
- The successful tenderer should provide bank guarantee as performance guarantee at the rate of 10% of the quoted price within 7 (seven) days of issuing the Letter of Intent. Otherwise, the Letter of Intent/work will be treated as cancelled.
- The quoted price should be stated in figures and words and should be consistent with the current market price.
- The contractors who have failed to complete work within the stipulated time without valid reasons could not participate in the tender.
- If the work is cancelled under any circumstances or the name of the organisation is changed, then the contractor can not claim any financial benefit.

The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Directorate
Bogra Zone, Bogra

DFP-28719-30/11
G-1278