

# Long march starts for Sundarbans

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Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Gono Sanghati Andolon, hosted the rally.

As the long march caravan travelled forward, more people joined in the demonstrations and held rallies at Savar and Jahangirnagar University.

Bangladesh and India had inked a deal on April 20 to set up a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant at Rampal, only 14 kilometres off the Sundarbans.

The project drew huge flak from eminent citizens, including the national committee members, as they alleged that the government in the name of solving the energy crisis had chosen a destructive path to "serve the interests of a vested quarter" at home and abroad.

Environmentalists warned that if the power plant was implemented, it would destroy the Sundarbans, the world's

largest mangrove forest.

Speaking at the rally before the Jatiya Press Club, Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the national committee, urged the government to find alternative sites to Rampal to produce energy.

From the Jatiya Press Club, the long march moved towards Savar via Shahbagh, Dhanmondi and Asad Gate, from where a convoy of buses carrying protesters joined the long march.

Around 1:30pm, the caravan reached the Rana Plaza collapse site in Savar, where the nine-storey building had caved in on April 24, leading to the death of 1,133 people.

The protesters held a 30-minute rally there to commemorate the victims of the disaster.

From there, the long march travelled to Jahangirnagar University, where a brief rally and a

cultural programme were held in the afternoon.

Several hundred people joined the long march from the university and the adjoining Savar area.

At around 6:00pm, the long march arrived at Manikganj and held a rally at the Shaheed Minar in the town till 9:00pm.

Speakers at the rally complained that both the governments of India and Bangladesh were proceeding with the Rampal power plant "to satisfy the greed of some Indian corporations."

Noted columnist Syed Abul Moksud said, "The people of Bangladesh have a history of resisting oppressors. They'll resist the anti-people project as well."

Convener of the national committee Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah said the power plant will destroy the Sundarbans, which not only protects the population of the country's south

from natural disasters, but also provide them with their livelihood.

Anu Muhammad said there has been unprecedented land grabbing in the Sundarbans since the power plant was planned.

"The ecological balance of the area will be destroyed if the government doesn't take immediate steps to cancel the project," he added.

Khalequzzaman of BSD, Shah Alam of CPB and Jonayed Saki of Gono Sanghati Andolon spoke at the rally, chaired by Majanur Rahman Hajrat, general secretary of Manikganj unit of CPB.

The protesters will stay in the town at night.

The long march is scheduled to reach Rampal on Saturday, where the protest programme will end with a rally at Digraj.

On the way to Rampal, demonstrators will stage rallies in Faridpur, Jessore and Khulna.

# Mother dies in front of child

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"The little girl fell on the left side of the road on impact while her mother fell on the right side and was run over by the bus," Jewel, who works as a clearing and forwarding agent in the area, told The Daily Star.

Syed Ziauzzaman, officer-in-charge of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said, "The bus was seized after the incident. But both the driver and the helper managed to escape."

Roksana was whisked off to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Locals took the little girl to Motijheel Ideal School where her brothers Mehedi Hasan, a student of class-VIII, and Leon, a student of class-IV, study, said Anisur.

Roksana's body was kept at the Birdem Hospital.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Saifullah Khan along with two sons breaks down in tears as the body of his wife Roksana, killed in a road accident, is brought to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday.**

Her husband Saifullah Khan trades in medicinal drugs in Mitford area.

Meanwhile, angry locals torched four buses and a truck, and vandalised around 30 vehicles on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway after a private university

student was killed in a road accident in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong around 10:00am yesterday.

Vehicular movement on the highway remained suspended for more than three hours following the incident.

# Closing arguments

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Earlier on Monday, he placed his arguments over the sixth charge.

According to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973, after the prosecution complete placing arguments, the defence

will place their closing arguments. The tribunal may then allow the prosecution to give brief replies to the defence's arguments. On completion of the trial proceedings, the court will keep the case waiting for the verdict or fix a date for pronouncing the conviction.

Sahidur tried to establish the charges for three and a half hours yesterday. He, however, failed to answer a few questions raised by the tribunal chairman and two other members -- Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam.

To prove the first charge linked to the abduction and killing of journalist Serajuddin Hossain, the prosecutor spoke in reference to the testimony given by Serajuddin's son Tawheed Reza Noor

Tawheed had testified at the court that he heard from his mother that Al-Badr men abducted his father from their Chamelibagh residence on the night of December 10, 1971. He later

learnt from relatives and newspaper reports that Mueen and Ashraf had been "directly involved" in the killings of intellectuals in December 1971.

When Sahidur quoted Tawheed's statements, the tribunal said that according to that particular charge, Mueen and Ashraf had instructed Al-Badr men to abduct the journalist.

But "has it been proved [by the testimony]," asked the judges.

"Instruction is not something visible. We have to understand it from the circumstances," Sahidur said in reply.

When the court sought further explanation, Sahidur said the prosecution would address the matter at the time of placing arguments on legal aspects.

As per the second charge, the two accused had been involved in the abduction and killing of journalist Syed Nazmul Haque. Nazmul's son Syed Murtuza Nazmul had testified that he had learnt from his mother and paternal uncles about the involvement of Mueen and Ashraf.

The case document says a gang of 8-10 Al-Badr men led and accompanied by Mueen and Ashraf abducted Nazmul from his house in

the early hours of December 11, 1971.

Referring to the testimony, in which Murtuza said the men who had picked up his father were wearing masks at that time, the tribunal asked, "How could you [Sahidur] prove that they [Mueen and Ashraf] accompanied other Al-Badr men?"

Sahidur said there were documents that showed Al-Badr men had abducted Nazmul.

"Is there any document that shows Mueen and Ashraf were accompanying the other Al-Badr men?" the court asked but Sahidur could not give a proper answer to that.

The tribunal said a particular group had been targeted by Al-Badr men and they had used the same vehicle covered with mud in every incident of abduction. And according to prosecution's documents, Mueen Uddin was Al-Badr's operation-in-charge and Ashraf was its chief executor.

"But you [Sahidur] can't link [all these elements]," it said.

Later, Sahidur placed arguments over eight other charges.

The court adjourned the case proceedings until today.

# Garment makers see 'conspiracy'

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international media like the BBC, and we request it to publish objective news on our factories," he told a press conference at the BGMEA building in the capital yesterday.

Referring to the BBC report that said workers of a particular garment factory was forced to do a 19-hour shift from 7:00am to 2:30am, he said: "We urge the BBC to come here and visit any factory formally or informally."

He also dismissed the Prothom Alo report that said the wage in the garment sector was the lowest compared to that of other sectors.

"It's not true. There are many other sectors such as packaging, tailoring, hotel and restaurant, shrimp and bakery and biscuit industries where the workers' wage is lower than the garment workers."

The BGMEA in association with Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers

and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) organised the press conference amid the continued unrest by garment workers over pay rise.

Workers demand that their minimum wage is increased to Tk 8,114 from Tk 3,000 now. But the owners have so far agreed to hike the existing pay by only Tk 600.

Mannan said production was being hampered due to the unrest, and if it continued, many owners might not be able to pay salary and bonuses ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

Former BGMEA president Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin said vandalism was no solution to increase the pay. "It can only be done through bargaining and negotiation."

According to him, some local and international quarters are behind the unrest. "The government and the intelligence agencies should look into the matter."

Replying to queries on Centre for Policy Dialogue's proposal of doubling the existing minimum wage for entry level workers, BKMEA President Salim Osman said it was a matter of negotiation between the owners and workers.

"Besides, a wage board has been formed to settle the issue and we are hoping to see some satisfactory results by November," he said.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, another former BGMEA president, said the final decision on the minimum wage would come from the board. "We hope the wage board will announce a logical and affordable wage and we will comply with this."

Requesting the workers to return to work and maintain a peaceful environment in their workplaces, BTMA President Jahangir Alamin said protest could not be a means to settle an issue.

"Negotiation is the only way to solve a problem," he said.

# Strong quake

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The provincial government declared an emergency in Awaran and the military mobilised medical teams as well as 200 soldiers and paramilitary troops to help with the immediate relief effort.

"We have received reports that many homes in Awaran district have collapsed. We fear many deaths," Jan Muhammad Baledi, a spokesman for the Baluchistan government, said on the ARY news channel.

"There are not many doctors in the area but we are trying to provide maximum facilities in the affected areas."

Television footage showed collapsed houses caving-in roofs and people sitting in the open air outside their homes, the rubble of mud and bricks scattered around them.

Abdul Qudoos Bizinjo, deputy speaker of Baluchistan's parliament, told Dunya TV there were reports of "heavy losses" in Awaran. Damage to the mobile phone network was hampering communications in the area, he said.

Awaran district has an estimated population of around 300,000, scattered over an area of more than 21,000 square kilometres.

Tremors were felt as far away as the Indian capital and even Dubai in the Gulf, while office workers in the Indian city of Ahmedabad near the border with Pakistan ran out of buildings and into the street in panic.

In April a 7.8-magnitude quake centred in southeast Iran, close to the border with Baluchistan, killed 41 people.

# CPD

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The minimum wage was last raised to Tk 3,000 in 2010, from Tk 1,662.50. Moazzem said the wage board should consider the minimum wage as an income that met the basic needs of workers and their families and provided discretionary income as savings.

According to the economist, the upward adjustment of wages could be implemented better if retailers and buyers were ready to provide better cutting and making charges.

CPD also urged the board to fix tenure for the workers in each grade.

Labour leaders, parliamentarians from the ruling and the opposition parties and independent experts all backed the CPD recommendation, although some demanded more as the living cost has increased tremendously in the recent years.

Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary general of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, said there was no scope for setting the minimum wage below Tk 8,000.

Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, said the sector could not sustain by paying low salary to the workers.

Arshad Jamal Dipu, a director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, did not directly oppose the CPD proposal, but said the current salary structure was not sufficient.

He said none of the parties should be rigid about their demands.

For the last four days, the country's apparel sector has been witnessing a labour unrest seeking revision of the workers' minimum wage.

The sector became volatile after factory owners had proposed a 20 percent or Tk 600 hike in the salary.

Aggrieved by this workers took to the streets and the demonstration spread in Dhaka and its outskirts, as they demanded a minimum wage of Tk 8,114.

## GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2012

# Bangladesh ranked 8th

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Bangladesh, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2012, has ranked 8th in terms of political empowerment of women due to the incumbent government's pro-women policies.

She was speaking at a roundtable on "Equal Futures Partnership" hosted by US Secretary of State John Kerry in New

York, said a foreign ministry media release yesterday.

President of World Bank and the foreign ministers of 20 partner countries from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia participated in the roundtable aimed at enhancing political and economic empowerment of women.

Bangladesh was praised at the meeting for enhanc-

ing its women labour force from 24 percent (2010) to 36 percent (2013) and a significant representation of women at the highest level of politics.

Earlier, Dipu Moni attended another roundtable jointly organised by the Netherlands and Bangladesh on "Working Together to Improve Working Conditions in the RMG Sector in Bangladesh."

## 11.5kg gold

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Earlier, on July 24, customs officials also seized 1,065 gold bars weighing around 116kg after searching a Biman flight at the airport.

## Next JS polls

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Hasina told the Commonwealth secretary general that nearly 6,000 elections at different tiers were held in Bangladesh during the tenure of the present government.

Around 64,000 public representatives were elected in these polls, and many from the opposition parties had defeated the ruling party candidates, she said.

Hasina also said that no one could raise any question about the neutrality of these polls as the government had not intervened in the duties of the Election Commission (EC).

"The Election Commission in Bangladesh is now totally independent and discharging its duties without any sort of government interference," she added.

She reiterated that the EC would hold the next general election in a free, fair and fully neutral manner.

At the meeting, the Commonwealth secretary general renewed his invitation to the premier to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Sri Lanka next November.

Kamlesh told Hasina that her presence is important in the next CHOGM as the meeting would discuss the issue of climate financing for the member countries.

Besides, the next CHOGM would give a special focus on poverty alleviation and the issue of inclusive development of the member states, he said.

Hasina hoped that Commonwealth would play a more effective role in strengthening democracy in its member countries and protecting the interests of developing countries in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

PM's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and her Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, among others, were present at the meeting.

## Career Opportunity

### Applications invited for 02 (Two) posts of Senior Vice President

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates, for the post of **Senior Vice President (Human Resource and Recovery Department) of Uttara Finance and Investments Limited**, having its Head Office (Ext) at Uttara Centre (11th floor), 102 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

Uttara Finance and Investments Limited started its journey in 1995 as a non banking financial institution with licence from Bangladesh Bank. Since inception the company has been providing different kinds of financial services to various individuals and corporate bodies. The company as one of the leading financial institution is committed to all its Stakeholders to enhance their value with the highest standards of business integrity, ethics and professionalism.

### Qualification & Experience

The candidate must be under 45 years as on 30-09-2013 and should possess the following:

Advanced University Degree preferably in Finance, Business Administration, Human Resource or in a similar related area.

Minimum 15 years of experience as on 30-09-2013 at different levels in Banks/FIs or other organizations in the financial sector. Of these 15 years, at least 10 years of experience should be at the level of **"Deputy General Manager/ Vice President"**

The candidate should have sound knowledge of banking and non-banking financial institutions.

### Terms of appointment

The terms and conditions of appointment will be those as may be specified by the Board of Directors including salary and other fringe benefits.

### Receipt of Application

Application together with Curriculum Vitae, one passport size photograph and names and contact details of two references should be submitted latest by 5:30 pm on 13th October 2013, in a sealed cover super scribed with "Application for the post of **Senior Vice President (Recovery or Human Resource Department), Uttara Finance and Investments Limited"**.

### Managing Director

Uttara Finance and Investments Limited  
Head Office (Ext), Uttara Centre (11th floor),  
102 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208



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## Request for Proposal (RFP)

### Justice Sector Business Process Mapping

Reference: RFP-BD-2013-066

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Proposals from interested Companies for **Hiring Consultancy Firm for Monitoring of the Media for 10th Parliamentary Elections of Bangladesh.**

All interested companies may download the Bidding documents (RFP) from <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

**Submission of Proposal:** The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Proposals must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the RFP document by the deadline mentioned below to the **Registry, UNDP Bangladesh**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for submission of Proposals is **Wednesday, 9 October, 2013, 4:30 p.m.** Local time.



## Invitation to Bid

### Procurement of Informative Education & Communication Materials (Shopping Bag, Note Pad, Gel Pen, Pen Drive, T-Shirt, Mug and Gift Items)

Reference: ITB-BD-2013-008

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Bids from interested firms/companies for the **Procurement of Informative Education & Communication Materials (Shopping Bag, Note Pad, Gel Pen, Pen Drive, T-Shirt, Mug and Gift Items).**

All interested firms/companies may download the Bidding documents (ITB) from <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

**Submission of Quotation:** The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Quotations must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the ITB document by the deadline mentioned below to the **Registry, UNDP Bangladesh**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for the submission of Bid is **Wednesday, 09 October 2013, 03:00 p.m.** Local time.

