



A long tailback on one side of Airport Road around 4pm yesterday. Due to the gridlock, many had to walk braving the weather, inset.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Gridlock on Dhaka-M'singh Highway in Uttara

Protesters block road for 4hrs over death of child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway in the capital's Uttara was blocked for around four hours yesterday over the death of a child, causing a gridlock.

Eight-year-old Rifat, son of carpenter Abdur Rashid, was found dead in the water tank of a house in Dakkhin Khan area on Monday, two days after he went missing. Relatives alleged that Rifat was killed by their neighbour.

Protesting the death, around 400 to 500 locals took to the street and blocked both sides of the highway in Rajlakkhi area, Uttara from 12:30pm.

The blockade created gridlock on the road, causing sufferings to hundreds of commuters. As the child's mother Sahera Begum works at a garments factory, many workers also joined the protest.

Traffic movement on the road resumed around 4:30pm when police dispersed the protesters -- firing tear gas canisters and charging batons on the agitators.

Rifat, a first grader at a local school, and his parents used to live at Munshi Market, Dakkhin Khan.

Momena Begum, an aunt of the deceased, said Rifat was flying kite with his friends on Saturday morning at their neighbour Ajit Basak's house.

Ajit apparently chased them. Rifat's friends ran away, but he did not return home, she added.

Rifat's relatives searched for him everywhere.

The next day, Rifat's sandals were found at Ajit's house.

"That's why we are suspicious but they didn't let us search his house," Momena said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladesh spends less than S Asian average on education

Says World Bank country director; calls for bigger, effective investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite Bangladesh's remarkable success in ensuring education for almost every child, the country needs to invest more to make sure that they receive quality education, said Robert J Saum, World Bank (WB) country director for Bangladesh yesterday.

He was speaking at the launching of "World Development Report 2018 (WDR 2018): learning to realise education's promise" at a hotel in Dhaka.

"Learning assessments show that primary and lower-secondary level students often do not have the reading, writing or mathematical skills that are expected in their respective grade level," said the WB country director.

Referring to the report, Saum said many young students in Bangladesh, as in other low and middle-income countries, find it hard to get good jobs because they leave the education system without the required skills in language and mathematics.

The government should address this learning crisis by making effective investment in education, the WB report said.

However, Md Shahrir Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, said the government achieved a number of milestones in primary education in the last 10 years.

"Providing quality education in primary and high school level is a prime agenda of the government and we have taken a number of initiatives to improve the

quality already," he said, adding that the government increased budgetary allocation for education fivefold in last 10 years.

The report shows that schooling is not the same as learning. In Bangladesh, children can expect to get around 11 years of schooling, but they lose about four-and-a-half of those due to its poor quality.

For example, 35 percent of third graders scored too low to even be tested on reading comprehension in Bangla, and only 25 percent of fifth graders in the country passed the minimum threshold in math. Learning outcomes are worse for students from poor and vulnerable backgrounds.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Rain dissuades turnout

Publishers call for extending fair to cover losses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sporadic rain throughout the day affected turnout at the Ekushey book fair yesterday.

Stalls of publishing houses that opened at 3pm were compelled to close within one and half hours following sudden rain and gusty wind at around 4:30pm.

They had no option but to wrap their books in polythene sheets to protect those from getting wet. At least 50 stalls faced problems as water trickled inside and damaged books because of poor infrastructure, said stall attendants.

"We did not expect more visitors today due to this inclement weather though we hoped to stay open till 9pm," said Tarana Tabassum Disha, an attendant at the stall of the little magazine "Koradkal".

Some bookworms, under the shield of umbrellas, were passionate enough to show up.

They later stayed on the corridor of



Two attendants remove rainwater from the roof of their stall at the book fair yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangla Academy's new buildings, Bardhaman House and Media Centre.

"I am yet to buy a book from this year's fair, but it was a mistake to come here on

such a rainy day" said Mahfuz Sarker, a student of Cumilla University.

Oitijhya Publication's chief

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Sufferings of migrants' spouses go unnoticed

Says study on social costs of migration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour migration is mostly seen as means of economic progress, but it has social costs, especially on spouses and children who remain home. Husbands face higher level of social and psychological stress than wives when their spouses work abroad, says a new study.

In addition, spouses of migrant workers face loneliness and social stereotypes, and shoulder additional workload.

Around 89 percent left-behind wives experienced derogatory comments. They remain worried that negative statements can lead to dissolution of their marriage, the study added.

"Sufferings that migrants' spouses go through are not recognised by the society. The state also has no social protection arrangement for them," said Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, chair of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University.

She was speaking at a dissemination programme in Dhaka's Girdap auditorium yesterday.

RMMRU conducted the study on social costs of migration with support from Swiss Development Cooperation. Sample size of the study, between 2014 and 2017, was 1,741 households -- 279 internal migrant households, 1,061 international migrant households and 401 non-migrant households.

Some 90 lakh Bangladeshis work abroad, making it a major source of foreign remittance, which is annually 15 billion dollars.

LEFT-BEHIND HUSBANDS

Some major challenges husbands face are loneliness, burden of additional household responsibilities, psychological

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

SAMSUNG

স্মৃতিতেই থাকুক পুরাতন টিভি
এক্সচেঞ্জ অফারে ঘরে আসুক
নতুন টিভি

32" LED টিভির জন্য
সর্বনিম্ন ৳২২,৯০০
সর্বোচ্চ ৳২০,৯০০

32" SMART টিভির জন্য
সর্বনিম্ন ৳২২,৯০০
সর্বোচ্চ ৳৩০,৯০০

43" JOY CONCERT টিভির জন্য
সর্বনিম্ন ৳৩৬,৯০০
সর্বোচ্চ ৳৪৩,৯০০

অনুমোদিত পরিবেশক:

SAMSUNG SmartPlaza

FairElectronics

TRANSCOM DIGITAL

electra

RANGS INDUSTRIES

সংযোগ: ১৬৬০ ৩০০ ৩০০

১৬৬০ ৩০০ ৩০০

১৬৬০ ৩০০ ৩০০

১৬৬০ ৩০০ ৩০০

[/SamsungBangladesh](#)

[/samsungelectronicsbd](#)

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

GET A KICK-START TO YOUR CAREER WITH A GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED DEGREE

We are Accredited Locally and Globally

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS SUMMER 2019

Apply Online
www.admissions.northsouth.edu

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"My BBA at NSU not only advanced the frontiers of knowledge but also prepared me for life, work & leadership."
- Ishrat Jahan Synthia, Senior Lecturer, SBE

"Apart from education, NSU has a strong programming community that helped me train for and perform in various programming competitions."
- Mohammad Samiul Islam, Software Engineer, Google-UK

WE OFFER

Degrees in the fields of Business & Economics, Engineering & Physical Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Health & Life sciences.

SALIENT FEATURES

- Our faculty members have earned qualifications from reputed foreign university.
- 24 active student clubs promoting extra-curricular & co-curricular activities.
- Join a community of 22,000+ alumni working globally.
- State of the art campus with total CCTV surveillance, large food court & gymnasium.
- Fully automated library with more than 51,000 printed books and 88,000 E-books.
- Globally recognized degrees & credit transfer opportunity to 75+ prestigious universities.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ◆ In 2018 alone, 4370 students received scholarships worth of 15.40 crore Taka.
- ◆ The top TEN scorers in the admission test are awarded 100% merit scholarships.

Admission Test
Saturday, 16 March, 2019
10:00 am at NSU Campus
Application Deadline
14 March, 2019

Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229, Phone: +880-2-55668200, Ext. 5002, 4001, 01732-903003
Email: admissions@northsouth.edu; web: www.northsouth.edu; [f](#) [nsu.admissions](#)