







Agitated RMG workers demonstrate in Mirpur, demanding arrears. Top right, during the agitation, which lasted for over six hours, they did not allow any vehicle to ply the roads in the area. Bottom, in Narayanganj, workers blocked Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sonargaon upazila over the

PHOTO: COLLECTED

RMG workers take to streets for arrears

Block roads in Dhaka; clash with cops in N'ganj; stage protest in Savar

STAR REPORT

Demanding arrears, RMG workers of three separate factories demonstrated in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Savar yesterday. The protests resulted in chaos on roads, public sufferings and clash with law enforcers.

In Dhaka, several hundred workers of a readymade garment factory blocked Mirpur-1 intersection and adjacent thoroughfares for around six and a half hours.

The blockade lasted from 9am to 3:30pm, disrupting vehicular movement in the area.

"Workers of Zaara Jeans and Knitwear Ltd in Mirpur-1 demonstrated, demanding arrears and allowance," said Dadon Fakir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirpur Model Police Station.

During the blockade, no vehicle could ply the two roads -- Mirpur-1 to Bangladesh

National Zoo Road and Mirpur-1 to Mirpur-10. The demonstration also created

The Daily Star | 3

gridlocks on other roads. The workers said authorities locked the factory's main gate on September 11

without paying their salaries and overtime

of July and August. "For the last two months, we could not pay our rent or loans. If we do not get our salaries, we will be forced to live on the street," said Mizanur Rahman, 40, a swing

machine operator. Around 1,000 people work in the factory, workers said.

They said they took to the street on September 3 and the factory owner assured them of clearing their dues on September 12. "But they closed the factory on September 11," Mizanur added.

Asked about public sufferings, workers said they are suffering too.

GRAFT ALLEGATIONS

same demand.

Prisons DIG Partha denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected a bail petition of Partha Gopal Banik, the suspended deputy inspector general (prisons) of Sylhet division, in connection with a case filed over recovery of Tk 80 lakh from his residence in the capital.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka issued the order, after Partha's lawyer submitted the petition.

The court also directed the investigation officer to submit the probe report of the case by October 28. On July 29, the same court rejected his

bail petition and sent him to jail, after Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) produced the DIG before it and appealed to confine him in jail until investigation is completed. Before his arrest, ACC Director

Mohammad Yousuf quizzed Partha over allegations that he committed irregularities and corruption as DIG (prisons) of Chattogram division.

After interrogation, ACC team accompanied by Partha went to his Green Road residence and recovered the money.

Combating Human Trafficking

Govt to ratify Palermo Protocol: foreign secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will ratify a new international instrument to combat human trafficking, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque said yesterday.

The "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children" -- supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime -- known as the "Palermo Protocol", would help the government launch initiatives to fight such trans-boundary crimes, he said.

"It's a big step towards addressing human trafficking in Bangladesh," the foreign secretary said at a workshop. "So, you'll see a series of actions initiated by various ministries in line with the Palermo Protocol," he added.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) arranged the national consultative workshop on "Comprehensive Responses to Trafficking in Persons" at the InterContinental Dhaka.

The foreign secretary, however, did not specify when the government will ratify the protocol.

Addressing the workshop, he said the protocol is a "legal instrument" rather than one for addressing human rights issues. Therefore, the home ministry will take it forward and a committee has been formed to look into it, he said.

In the absence of specific bilateral or multilateral cooperation treaties, states can use the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol directly as a basis for cross-border cooperation, said UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Sweeping out the evil spirit of corruption

Protests against 'illegal enrolment', 'recruitment business' continue at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several organisations student of Dhaka University yesterday demonstrated on the campus, protesting "illegal enrolment" of 34 former and incumbent Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders into an evening programme of the Faculty of Business Studies and "recruitment business" over appointment of some administrative posts in Ruqayyah hall. Under the banner, "Dhaka 🖰

Corruption # University against and Fraudulence", the protesters ₹ demanded resignation of Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, dean of the business studies faculty, and Prof Zeenat Huda, E provost of the hall.

Shouting slogans such as "drive out prevailing evil spirit of corruption", they brought out a procession from Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), which ended in front of the Ducsu building. They also held a rally there.

During the rally, some students were dressed up as "shamans" with brooms in their hands while others as "evil spirits". With fumes billowing



Dressed up as "ojha" (shaman), students perform an "exorcism" in front of Ducsu building yesterday, to get rid of corruption from Dhaka University.

out of clay pots, shamans sat on the the vice chancellor, dean of business ground and performed their rituals of studies faculty and Ruqayyah hall's "sweeping the evil spirit of corruption provost." out of the university".

Mamun, convener of the quota reformists' platform, said, "We [DU students] demand resignation of

Ragib Naeem, general secretary of Speaking at the rally, Hasan Al DU unit Chhatra Union, echoed him. Students also placed a three-point demand -- expelling those who got

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Access to Information

Women unable to exercise right as easily as men: report



जाय विकश् श्व

কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস/শপিং কমপ্লেক্স নির্মাণের জন্য

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প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন:

09499-990465, 09499-098968

Dr Gowher Rizvi speaks at the seminar in a Dhaka hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exam registration fees inflicted quite a financial burden on the family of Jhumur Rine when she sat for Secondary School Certificate exams in 2015. Her father, a barber, had to pay Tk 5,700 more than what the government charges -- TK 2,300. During a training on the Right to Information Act two years later, she realised that she could ask the school authority why she had to pay exorbitant

Her initial requests went unanswered but her third attempt to get information -- filing an appeal to the information commission -- coerced the head teacher to reach out to her to give an answer. And Jhumur noticed that the school has since reduced the exam fees.

Her ability to hold her school

accountable is what brought about the change and the training was part of a threeyear project implemented by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) with help from US-based NGO, The Carter Center.

Jhumur shared her success story yesterday at a programme organised in a city hotel to disseminate what had been learnt and accomplished during the project titled "Advancing women's right of access to information in Bangladesh".

Three other organisations -- Trinomul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS), Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA) and Management and Resource Development Initiatives (MRDI) -- worked at the field-level to raise awareness among women, spread knowledge on access to information and how it can help improve lives and services.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DHAKA TODAY

WORKSHOP

Resonance 3.1 Organisers: Youth School for Social Entrepreneurs Venue: EMK Center Time: 3pm

IDEA SHARING EVENT

On Green Technology and Innovation Venue: World University Bangladesh, Dhanmondi Time: 10am

SEMINAR

Java SE Programming Organiser: Rosetta Technologies Venue: Karim Tower, Dhanmondi Time: 6pm

WORKSHOP

3D Animation and Film Making Organiser: MARS Solution Limited Venue: BDBL Building, Karwan

SEMINAR

Time: 6pm

On UI and UX Design Venue: Independent University of Bangladesh, Basundhara Time: 1pm

EXHIBITION

Secretive Works of an Outsider Venue: Kalakendra, Mohammadpur Time: 4:30pm

Universal Health Coverage

Expansion of health insurance imperative: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health insurance coverage needs a massive expansion to grassroots level, to reach the goal of universal health coverage (UHC) by 2032, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They also said out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditures for Bangladeshis now stands at 67 percent, highest among all South Asian countries, from 64 percent in 2012.

The government plans to bring the number down to 32 percent by 2032.

OOP is the expense that a patient or their family pays directly to a healthcare provider, instead of a third-party (insurer or state).

Under the circumstances, a step-by-step approach should be taken in parallel to adopting new policy as well as supply side Islam, secretary to the ministry of health, readiness (well-behaved doctors, medicine and good governance), they said at the

programme held at Cirdap in the capital.

Health Economics UNIT (HEU) of the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) organised the seminar titled "Future of Health Insurance in Bangladesh", in association Institute of Health Economics (IHE) of Dhaka University.

"The mandate of the government is to provide healthcare facilities for all; there no scope to provide it to a special class. So we have to expand it step by step," Shahadt Hossain Mahmud, director general (additional secretary) of HEU, said, explaining the economic reality of the country where "31 percent of the population is still below the poverty line".

Speaking as chief guest, Md Ashadul said, "We all know about the problems.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Senior officers will listen to complaints at police stations

Says new DMP commissioner on improving service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Shafiqul Islam, the newly-appointed commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), yesterday said that he would take over the duties of officer-in-charge (OC) if service at police stations did not improve.

"Senior police officials will start sitting in police stations if desired change does not happen at the stations. I myself will work as an OC," said the commissioner.

"I will send my DCs (deputy commissioner) to police stations. Senior officers will listen to the complaints of people at the stations at least once a week," he said, while addressing reporters at a meet the press programme in the Media and Community Centre of DMP.

Shafiqul said he wants to give top priority to police stations.

"I want to ensure that people can lodge general diaries or file cases without any harassment and leave police stations with a belief that police will take apt actions corresponding to their filed complaints," said the new DMP boss.

He said that he is also working to make sure that no one needs to provide any "pay-off" to receive police service and people are not victims of extortion or police harassment. Traffic management would be his next priority after

police stations, said the DMP chief. "I have already instructed senior traffic officers to

remain on the street with traffic sergeants. They will remain on streets for three hours -- before and after peak hours," he said. "If the instruction is not followed, I would make roster

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