



RMG workers took to the streets for a second consecutive day yesterday, demanding pay hike amid rising prices of daily essentials. Inset, protesters try to stop a police vehicle in Mirpur-10 intersection.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Demand for pay hike rings louder

RMG workers take to streets again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RMG workers blocked Mirpur and its surrounding areas for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding a hike in wages.

They took to the streets around 8:00am.

Vehicular movement was completely suspended from 10:00am at Mirpur-10 intersection, Kazipara, Shewrapara, Mirpur-11, 14 and 6, creating gridlock throughout the city.

Witnesses said workers didn't even allow motorbikes to pass the areas. Many were seen going to their offices on foot.

Md Jewel, a private job holder, said he started for work from Mirpur-10 intersection around 8:45am but did not find any bus. He then walked for a kilometre and finally got a rickshaw to reach his destination.

The workers left the road around 1:30pm after police charged baton and lobbed teargas shells, said witnesses.

Ariful Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Mirpur division of DMP, said the workers vandalised shops, vehicles and establishments during the protest.

Police managed to bring the situation



under control around 3:30pm as the workers withdrew, he said.

"We have detained eight workers for their involvement in the vandalism," he added.

Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said, "The situation's under control now and additional police force have been deployed in the area to avert any untoward situation."

The clash between the police and garment workers of several factories started the day before yesterday after workers blocked different roads in Mirpur, demanding a pay hike as the prices of daily essentials have shot up.

"Living like this is nearly impossible,

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The worst of nightmares

CMCH struggling to cope with increasing number of Sitakunda blast patients

SIFAYET ULLAH

Patients with burn marks all over their bodies, screaming in pain, wrapped in bandages.

Then there were patients with severed limbs. Staring with blank eyes into the abyss that they find themselves faced with. No words in their mouths.

Many were going around -- with pictures of their loved ones who went missing -- asking everyone they came across for information.

Such was the scene at Chattogram Medical College Hospital's (CMCH) Burn and Plastic Surgery unit yesterday, after the explosion that occurred in Sitakunda's BM Depot.

As doctors and nurses were struggling to accommodate and treat so many patients, the cries of the injured and the families of the deceased made the environment unbearably painful to endure for any humane heart.

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Due to the space crisis for increasing number of injured people at CMCH, patients occupying the available beds left their spots and took to the floors to accommodate them.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Together in crisis

People in Chattogram extend helping hands after Sitakunda blast



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

At the wake of the deadly explosion at Sitakunda BM Depot, 200 students of Chattogram University along with youth bodies of different voluntary organisations rushed to CMCH to offer their help. Top, volunteers carry body of a victim to CMCH. Bottom, a pharmacy staffer holds a placard, offering free medicines to the injured.

MD NAZRUL ISLAM and ARUN BIKASH DEY

Right after the news of the deadly explosion at Sitakunda BM Depot broke, around 200 students of Chattogram University head out in two buses, in the middle of the night.

Their destination: Chattogram Medical College Hospital, 25km away from CU campus, where severely injured firefighters and depot workers were being taken for treatment.

Their purpose: blood donation and any other possible help they can offer.

Not only students, but youth bodies of different social, political and voluntary organisations also rushed to CMCH to offer their help.

Members and volunteers of Red Crescent Society were active at the hospital the whole night, receiving patients who came at regular intervals, taking them to emergency rooms and shifting them to different wards.

Sujit Rudra, a member of the organisation, said as soon as they heard about the incident, they were asked by their leaders to rush to the hospital.

"Over 200 of our members have been volunteering in the hospital, carrying the patients to different wards and collecting blood and medicines for them," he said.

Md Ismail, a member of Gausia Committee Bangladesh, said, "Hundreds from our organisation have been working here on CMCH premises and the explosion spot. They have been carrying the injured and collecting blood and medicine. We are also carrying the dead to complete the last rites."

Mosaheb Uddin Bokhtair, member secretary of the committee, said their volunteers rushed to the spot and hospitals immediately after hearing the news. "We also supplied food to the attendants of the patients in the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, pharmacies in front of CMCH delivered free medicine for injured patients, while ambulance services came forward to work the entire night for free, carrying injured patients and dead bodies.

A staffer from Hasan Pharmacy in front of CMCH was seen holding a placard, urging the attendants of injured

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'And the screen went dark'

First to cover blast, Nayan goes silent forever while on Facebook live

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN and MINTU DESHWARA

"The last time I talked to my son was around 2:00pm on Saturday," said Hasina Begum.

Hasina's son, Oliur Rahman Nayan, was a 20-year-old working at Sitakunda BM Depot. Nayan was the first to inform the entire country about the fire at the depot, followed by the deadly explosion, through a Facebook live.

Minutes after he went live on Facebook, streaming the fire at the depot, the explosion took his life.

"We were inside the depot when the fire broke out around 9:00pm. We were thinking about our course of action. Around after 17 minutes, Nayan went live on Facebook to spread the

word," said Ariful Islam, who works at the depot as a covered-van driver, and is a close friend of Nayan's.

"When we saw the severity of the fire, we asked Nayan to come out of the depot with us. But he continued with the live."

"After about 40 minutes, we heard a deafening noise, and everything went dark in the live stream. We tried calling him [Nayan] but found his phone switched off," Ariful said.

Ariful and his coworkers tried to enter the depot after the explosion but failed due to the heavy smoke and blazing fire. After a few hours, they went to CMCH to search for Nayan.

They finally found Nayan around noon yesterday. But it was all too late. Nayan had already perished in the explosion, said Ariful while sharing about the loss of his friend.

Nayan hailed from Fatiguli village of

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PRAYER
TIMING
JUNE 6



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-45	8-15
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Save green, be seen'

UNDP, Star award mobile photography contest winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating World Environment Day, UNDP Bangladesh and The Daily Star jointly awarded the winners of "Save Green & Be Seen" mobile photography contest at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The campaign invited people to capture eco-friendly activities around them and to showcase them to the rest of the world. The call for submission began on May 23, and ended on June 1.

Within the span of a week, the campaign received nearly 900 entries, out of which 30 were displayed during an exhibition at The Daily Star Centre.

The best eight exhibited photographs were awarded. The winners are Abdullah Al Junaid, Md Mehedi Hasan Patowary, Saqeeb Niloy, Sohel Rana, Tariqul Islam, Maisha Hoque, Mahmuda Hoque and Nasrifa Tun Naim.

The winning pictures featured various attempts towards conserving nature. The photographs featured unique concepts of plantation, cleanliness drives in the port city, reusing plastic bottles, and the specks of green present with a grey city landscape.

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PHOTO: STAR

Nature-based solutions for sustainable dev

Emphasises PM

BSS, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to go for nature-based solutions to achieve sustainable development keeping the environment protected.

"The development would never be sustainable unless we do it coordinating with environment. So, we have to go for nature-based solution keeping it in

mind," she said.

The premier said this while addressing an event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on World Environment Day and Environment Fair-2022 coinciding with "National Tree Plantation Campaign" and "Tree Fair 2022". The premier joined the "National Tree Plantation Campaign" and "Tree Fair 2022" virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the country should go for development but, it will have to be done following nature-based

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