

DHAKA-TANGAIL HIGHWAY RMG workers block road for pay hike

UNB, Gazipur

Workers from various garment factories in Gazipur's Konabari area blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway for the fifth day yesterday, demanding a minimum basic salary of Tk 23,000.

They took position on one side of the highway, which resulted in severe gridlock in the area.



Workers in Mouchak and Telichala areas of Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur have been holding protest marches demanding a hike in their salaries since October 23.

Assistant Commissioner of Konabari Zone of Gazipur Metropolitan Police Md Asaduzzaman said despite less number of vehicles on the road yesterday, there was some traffic congestion due to the demonstrations.

The workers left the road after some time, he added.

WFP, dept of women affairs sign MoU

STAR REPORT

The World Food Programme (WFP), and the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on October 26 signed a memorandum of understanding for more inclusive, nutrition-sensitive, and shock-responsive social protection programmes by 2026.

The MoU was signed at the DWA Headquarters in Dhaka by Farida Parveen, director general of DWA; and Dom Scalpelli, resident representative and country director of WFP, said a press release.

The MoU was signed to support the national institutions to strengthen their capacity to design and implement inclusive nutrition- and gender-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection programmes, said a press release.



While school authorities are struggling to find enough students in Chandanbaisa union after four schools from the shoals were shifted there, children in erosion-hit areas are left with no schooling facilities to continue their education. *Inset*, the only school in Dighapara lays abandoned after the Jamuna devoured it. Now only a handful of students attend classes at its new building constructed adjacent to another primary school.

PHOTO: STAR

Not a single school in 14 Bogura shoals

Lack of planning deprives children in erosion-hit areas

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bagura

Poverty and river erosion pose significant challenges for children in shoal areas under Bogura's Sariakandi upazila to pursue education. In addition, the decision-makers' lack of foresight in constructing new school buildings has created further difficulties in their return to school.

Recently, over 10 government primary schools in shoal areas were severely impacted by the relentless erosion of the Jamuna river. As a result, these schools had to be relocated to the mainland.

However, these schools were placed in close proximity to the existing ones, resulting in a cluster of schools within a short radius. This situation has left approximately 14 remote shoal areas without access to education, depriving their children of much-needed schooling opportunities.

For example, five schools are located within one kilometre on a river protection dam in Chandanbaisa union.

Of these, Ghughumari Govt Primary School was already there while the rest four schools were shifted there from shoal areas.

The paradox lies in the fact that while the schools in close proximity to each other suffer from low student enrollments due to numerous choices, the children

in remote shoal areas long for a single accessible school to continue their education.

There are only 50 students in Dighapara Govt Primary School where five teachers are working, said its headteacher Md Hasanuzzaman.



In Benipur Govt School, only 16 students are attending at present out of 63 enrolled ones.

Besides, the concentration of multiple schools within a small area has exacerbated the challenge of finding an adequate number of qualified teachers.

In the country's context, there is one teacher for 37 students, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics.

But in Dighapara and Chandanbaisha areas, there are only around 10-15 students for one teacher, said locals and teachers.

Currently, out of 60 shoal areas under the upazila, there is no school in 14,

according to local education office.

"There are some 1,500 people living in this char. But there is no school here. The nearest primary school is located around four kilometres away. As a result, our children are deprived of education," said Abdur Rahman, 45, a farmer of Taltala



Milanpur Char of Kurnibari union.

Confirming the matter, Golam Kabir, Sariakandi upazila primary education officer, admitted schools were shifted without proper planning.

"Not only the schools, but also a large number of houses were also eroded in the shoal areas, and the people shifted to mainland and took shelter. We set up the schools in the areas where the people took shelters," he said.

"We have already sent proposals to higher authorities concerned for setting up new schools in these shoal areas. We will act as per directives from the higher authorities," Golam Kabir added.

Want to beat China? Bring baskets of money Momen tells foreign countries

STAR REPORT



If countries want to beat China, they should come up with baskets of money and affordable proposals instead of intimidation and giving advice, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

"If you want to beat China, you should come with baskets of money and affordable proposals like the Chinese. Only advice does not satisfy us," he said while talking to reporters after attending a seminar as chief guest.

Diplomats World, a diplomatic magazine, organised the seminar titled "Navigating Challenges: Bangladesh's Response to the Current Global Situation" at the Foreign Service Academy.

Describing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Europe visit as "very successful", Momen said the European countries listened to Bangladesh and they are now coming up with funds.

He said the European leaders highly appreciated Bangladesh's leadership and development.

"This is a great achievement for Bangladesh," he said.

Without mentioning any name, he said it is "shameful" that certain quarters utilise democracy and human rights as their preferred tool to keep pressure on countries, reports UNB.

"By selectively picking countries to achieve their own narrow national interest, a few powerful countries have been using issues like human rights, democracy, good governance, free and fair elections, enforced disappearance as their tool of exploitation," he said.

This has contributed to the eroding of trust and solidarity among nations, which is the worst of all crises, he added.

"Selectivity and politicisation are key barriers to promote human rights and democracy. This is a creeping challenge faced by so called third world countries," the foreign minister observed.

DCAB condemns attacks on journos

UNB, Dhaka

Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) yesterday expressed deep concern over the attacks on journalists in Dhaka.

In a statement, DCAB President Rezaul Karim Lotus and General Secretary Emrul Kayesh condemned the attacks on journalists.

According to media reports, some journalists were injured and their vehicles were burnt while performing professional duties at the political rallies. Some of the journalists are critically injured and hospitalised.

The DCAB leaders wished for the speedy recovery of those injured journalists.

DCAB demanded a neutral and full investigation into the incidents and legal action against those involved in the attacks. DCAB called upon all sides to refrain from attacking journalists.

Arrests throughout Dev projects threaten

FROM PAGE 3

he was a hurt, innocent bystander while the cops loaded him into the van, while police claimed he was here for the BNP rally.

Meanwhile, at court, relatives waited to meet those who had been arrested the night before.

According to court records, around 844 people, mostly BNP men, were produced before the CMM court and sent to jail yesterday in some 62 regular cases and 19 GDs filed on different dates last year and this year. They were arrested just before the BNP's rally in the capital.

HOSPITAL TURNED INTO MAKESHIFT PRISON

While visiting the checkpoint set up in front of Aminbazar 20-bed hospital on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in the morning, this newspaper

observed the facility has been turned into a makeshift detention centre as over 100 people, who police said failed to give satisfactory answers, were held there.

Dhaka district's additional police superintendent said they were doing this to prevent any kind of violence inside the city.

"They are not necessarily being arrested, just detained. Only those with cases against them are being arrested," he claimed.

FROM PAGE 5

due to waterlogging," said Abbas, a local farmer.

Chowdhury M Sarwar Jahan, professor at Department of Geology and Mining at Rajshahi University, said, "Development works are going on in an unplanned way in Chalan Beel, causing serious damages to environment and ecology."

"The government officials and engineers involved with such unplanned works should face legal action," he said.

Roads and Highways Department executive engineer in Natore Md Kamrul Hasan Sarkar said the Natore-Bogura highway may face the risk of getting damaged as the waterflow may change its course due to construction of the concrete structures.

Contacted, the hi-tech park project director AKAM Fazlul Haque said

I planted paddy saplings in around 28 bighas of land in Sherkol and Teligram area. But I had to spend over Tk 1 lakh to clean moss and weeds from the land which grew due to waterlogging.

ABBAS, a local farmer

they would take measures so that the waterflow does not face obstruction due to the construction work.

Md Asaduzzaman, executive engineer of Natore Education Engineering Department, said they have conducted a feasibility study before initiating the TSC project.

"Our establishment would not make any obstruction to the water flow," he claimed.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public

Works is responsible for construction works of the TTC project.

Contacted, Amit Kumar Dev, executive engineer of PWD Natore office, said, "We will set up a culvert spending around Tk 2 crore to ensure natural flow of water. So, our establishment will cause no problem to the Chalan Beel."

Mizanur Rahman, deputy director of the Sheikh Kamal IT Training and Incubation Center project, declined to comment in this regard.

Contacted, Natore Deputy Commissioner Abu Nasser Bhuiyan claimed the development activities would not obstruct water flow of Chalan Beel.

"Nevertheless, we will take necessary measures following discussion with experts if any problem arises centring water flow and environmental issues," he said.

That's my father in the van

FROM PAGE 3

to find her son Sentu, 35. He was handed over to Hazaribagh police last night by AL men, as he was a BNP supporter.

Hena said, "My son has three children aged three to 10 and works at a boutique factory in Kamrangirchar. He was not involved in BNP's politics for the last decade."

Kamal Hossain, 25, a degree student at Tularam Government College in Narayanganj, was arrested from Demra on Friday

evening.

His mother Maksuda Begum said, "I pleaded with Demra police so many times to release my only son, saying he has his third-year final examinations coming up. But they didn't listen to my plea."

Bahauddin Bepary, 35, was arrested on the same evening while returning from Munshiganj after meeting his family.

"When my brother reached the Postogola area, police stopped him and

checked his cell phone. As they found various photos regarding BNP, they took him to Kadamtoli Police Station," Nesar Uddin, 26, told The Daily Star at the court premises.

According to court records, around 844 people, mostly BNP activists, were produced before the CMM court yesterday in some 62 regular cases and 19 GDs filed on different dates last year and this year. They were arrested just before the BNP's rally in the capital.

Save the Children

Date: October 29, 2023

Invitation for Tender

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for Providing **Media Coverage Services under Framework Agreement** for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh. For details, please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule and Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Media Coverage Service under Framework Agreement	IFT/SCI/BDCO/F Y-23/0012 (Manual)	Pre-bid Meeting: November 02, 2023 at 3:00 PM https://zoom.us/j/98481750128?pwd=Y3cyStMbnU4dE9ISVZQNXE1aUJvdz09 Meeting ID: 984 8175 0128 Passcode: 414602	November 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Special Instruction: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place. **(c)** If the Tenderer(s) submit any false/incorrect or fake documents then the provided bid by tenderer will be considered as disqualified. **(d)** The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Head of Supply Chain

USAID | BANGLADESH

Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: **Human Resources Assistant (Training & Awards), FSN – 09**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Human Resources Assistant (Training & Awards), FSN – 09** in the Executive Office (EXO).

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: November 12, 2023.

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers and www.bdjobs.com

website: www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers

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NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Hiring of Security Services

Tender No. NSU/23-24/T-06

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organisations/ business partners/ agents for Hiring of Security Services at the NSU Campus.

Interested Bidders may collect a schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229, within the banking hours on all working days till **Monday, November 20, 2023**, by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) in cash for each schedule. The bidder has to bid for all works mentioned in the Tender schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the monthly quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Tuesday, November 21, 2023**, by 2:15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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