Workers chant slogans in front of the Minimum Wage Board Office in the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday, pressing home their demand for Tk 23,000 as minimum wage while a meeting of the wage board was underway. Meanwhile, the government yesterday announced Tk 12,500 as minimum wage for apparel workers.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No Rajuk approval for 7 housing projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha yesterday said seven out of 16 housing projects in Dhaka's Dakshinkhan and neighbouring areas have not been given final approval.

Rajuk submitted a list of the housing projects to the Appellate Division of Supreme Court through Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed in compliance with the court's November 2 directive.

The seven projects are -- Purbachal Housing Project, Judicial Officers Housing Society, Civil Aviation Residential Zone, Jamuna Builders, Nassa Group, Pink City, and Haji Camp.

Meanwhile, process for

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End violence, repression

Urge rights orgasnisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh authorities must immediately cease resorting to violence and excessive use of force to suppress protests, said Robert F Kennedy Human Rights and six other organisations in a statement that also called for the release of those arbitrarily detained.

They criticised the fact that "reportedly over 1,200 political activists and leaders were arrested in different parts of the city, including their homes".

The signatories also include the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, Capital Punishment Justice Project, International Federation for Human

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30 journos attacked on Oct 28: IFJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 30 journalists were assaulted while covering BNP activists' clashes with police and supporters of Awami League on October 28, said International Federation of Journalists in a statement.

"The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) condemns the attacks and urges local authorities to investigate all harassment and violence towards Bangladeshi journalists and media workers," it said.

"Among those assaulted during the political rally was Mohammad Ali Mazed, a video journalist with Agence France-Presse (AFP) and a member of the Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) executive committee. Mazed was ambushed and beaten on the head and back by BNP protestors, with his safety gear saving him from severe injuries. His journalistic equipment was broken during the assault," the statement added.

Risk lives or skip recruitment tests?

2 lakh govt job seekers concerned over exams amid blockade

MD ABBAS *and* BAHARAM KHAN

The BNP-Jamaat led blockade has caused uncertainty for over 2 lakh government job seekers, affecting recruitment tests at 10 state-owned banks and financial institutions, along with the Power Development Board.

The absence of inter-district buses during blockade raises concerns about transportation, with additional fears of vehicles being targeted by arsonists.

The blockade beginning today is set to continue till 6:00am on November 10.

Job seekers used to arrive in Dhaka one or two days before the test, but they now face uncertainty on how to make the journey before November 10, amid the blockade.

Monirul Islam Bhuiyan, a job seeker from Rangamati, said, "How would I go to Dhaka if buses don't run on roads?"

He said he would have to travel to Dhaka to attend the test, even at the risk of his life. "My age is close to the limit set by the government to apply for government jobs. So time's running out for me," he said.

Yasin Sarkar Refat, a job seeker from Mymensingh, is apprehensive about traveling to Dhaka due to the risk of buses being set on fire during the blockade.

"If authorities take the test during blockade, we would be forced to travel to Dhaka risking our lives," he said.

He urged the relevant authorities to either postpone the test or to arrange special trains for job seekers so they could travel to Dhaka without any problems.

Like Monirul and Yasin, at least 20 job seekers across the country expressed their fear of traveling to Dhaka while talking to The Daily Star.

Contacted, Mezbaul Haque, Bangladesh Bank's executive director and spokesperson, said the recruitment test would be held as scheduled.

When asked how job seekers would come to Dhaka on exam day as there will be a blockade on the previous day, Mezbaul said there was no significant political instability in the country which warrants a postponement of tests.

He further informed the newspaper that job seekers would not face any issues because there would be no blockade on the day of the recruitment test.

As many as 1,69,879 candidates applied against 922 vacancies for posts of senior officers in 10 banks/financial institutions under the Bankers' Selection Committee.

The banks include state-owned institutions such as Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited, Krishi Bank, Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, Prabashi Kallyan Bank, Karmasangsthan Bank, and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh.

The examination will take place from 10:00am to 11:00am at various centres in the capital.

Meanwhile, on November 2, Bangladesh Power Development Board issued a notification stating that the recruitment test for the posts of lower division accounts assistant will be held on November 10.

The exam will be held from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

As many as 1,69,879 candidates applied against 922 vacancies for posts of senior officers in 10 banks/financial institutions under the Bankers' Selection Committee. The examination will take place from 10:00am to 11:00am at various centres in the capital.

Beware of fake profiles

Warns US embassy

UNB, *Dhaka*

The US embassy in Dhaka yesterday alerted its Facebook followers to remain aware of fake profiles.

"Stay aware of these deceptive profiles on social media! They may seem official, but they're faker than a sunflower in the Arctic," a post from the US embassy's verified Facebook page reads.

The embassy also encouraged netizens not to share personal information and not to engage with requests for money if they encounter any such profile.

The US embassy also encouraged reporting such profiles on social media platforms.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 8

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-00	12-45	3-45	5-25	7-00
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-00	5-30	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

JCD leader held over Oct 28 constable murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the prime suspect in the murder of constable Amirul Islam Parvez during a clash between BNP men and law enforcers on October 28.

Amanullah Aman, joint secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, was arrested from Mohakhali area, said Md Asaduzzaman, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit.

Amanullah Aman

Speaking at a press conference at DMP media centre, he said Aman is the prime suspect in the murder case.

He led the attack on police in Fakirerpool area, leaving Amirul dead.

Describing the attack, Asaduzzaman said a group led by Aman attacked police and threw brickbats at them.

At one stage, police entered a nearby building where Aman and others attacked the law enforcers. After going back outside, constable Amirul suffered head injuries when being hit by brickbats and he fell on the road, he said.

The attackers then beat up the injured constable and also hit him with sharp weapons, Asaduzzaman said.

Police are trying to arrest Aman's accomplices, he said.

Meanwhile, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit officials said there was a directive upon the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activist to break the morale of police by creating an unstable environment on October 28.

In line with that directive, Aman along with a large group took up position with an intention to create chaos, they said.

He also received instructions to attack police and kill them, the officials said.

That's why Amirul was brutally killed, they said.

The arrestee sent the picture to the high command after implementing the instructions, they said.

He also posted a picture on his Facebook with a stick after the murder, a Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit official said.