

USAID pledges \$121m for Rohingya crisis relief

STAR REPORT

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has secured a substantial \$121 million grant from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance to reinforce its efforts in addressing the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh.

This latest US contribution includes both financial and in-kind support aimed at assisting Rohingya refugees and local host communities, according to a press release issued by WFP.

The funds will be directed towards essential food and nutrition aid, resilience-building initiatives, and disaster risk reduction efforts in the refugee camps. Additionally, assistance will be provided to children and pregnant or breastfeeding women in host communities to help prevent and treat malnutrition.

RMG workers block highway for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The workers of TNZ Apparels Limited, a ready-made garments factory in Gazipur, blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday morning, demanding their unpaid salaries for September.

More than 500 workers of the factory blocked the highway around 8:30am in Bason area and continued till noon.

"The 3,300 employees in our factory have not received salaries for September yet," said a protesting worker wishing anonymity.

Al Mamun, inspector of Gazipur Traffic Police, said the Dhaka-bound end of the highway remained blocked since 11:00am, causing severe traffic congestion that stretched for around 6 kilometres from Tongi to Joydebpur.

Industrial Police personnel were in negotiations with the protesting workers, and efforts were being made to resolve the situation by coordinating between factory owners, workers, and the police.

Factory Director Shahadat Hossain could not be reached over phone.



Satyajit Ray's ancestral house in ruins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The ancestral house of eminent filmmaker and author Satyajit Ray in Mymensingh city, which came under the then government's possession after partition in 1947, is now on the verge of collapse due to negligence of the authorities concerned.

Satyajit Ray's grandfather Upendra Kishore Ray Chowdhury, a prominent zaminder of Masua under Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila and also an accomplished

never set foot in the house, as his family relocated to India before he was born. Satyajit was born in Kolkata in 1921.

After 1947, the house was used by Mymensingh Zilla Shishu Academy till 1989, before it relocated to a rented house on KB Ismail Hossain Road in the city, said Md Mehedi Zaman, district children's affairs officer.

For the past 10 years or so, Ray's ancestral house has been abandoned and uncared for and gradually fallen into a

resident of the neighbouring Panditpara area.

Locals also alleged the house turns into a den of drug addicts after nightfall.

"In our childhood, we saw the house in its grand state. Many people used to come from different areas to visit the Shashi Lodge, Satyajit Ray's house, and other historic buildings in the area," said Ram Lal Das, 75, of the neighbouring Aamlapara area.

Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener of a



author, publisher, artist, and music composer, built the house as part of the "Purnalaxmi Bhaban" in Mymensingh city's Harikishore Ray Chowdhury Road around a century ago, according to sources at the Department of Archaeology.

The house, located just behind Shashi Lodge (now Mymensingh Museum), is one of the prominent landmarks in the Mymensingh region.

However, Satyajit Ray himself had

state of ruin.

Its boundary wall has collapsed in places, while the doors and windows have been stolen amid a lack of security. The rooms inside are also in a shambles, said local people.

The house has also developed cracks on the roof and walls over the years.

Weeds and creepers have overgrown to claim the house in many places. During rains, water seeps into the house, accelerating its decay, said Hanif Uddin, a



local civil society platform Jonoudyog-Mymensingh, called upon the authorities to take prompt steps to preserve this historic building and other archaeological sites in the district.

Contacted, Sabina Yeasmin, field officer of the DoA (Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions) who is attached to the Shashi Lodge, said Satyajit Ray's ancestral house has not been enlisted with the department yet.

She said she will look into the issue.

SANCTUARIES, NAT'L PARKS

Train speed limited to 20km per hour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Railway yesterday set a speed limit for trains at 20 kilometres per hour while crossing wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the country.

According to railway officials, trains usually run at 60-100 kilometres per hour, depending on track conditions and locations.

A letter, signed by Mohammed Monir Hossain, deputy secretary of railway ministry, was released in this regard.

"We got an order from the ministry in this regard. We have already put it into effect," said ABM Kamruzzaman, Chattogram divisional railway manager.

BR has also suspended a loco master over negligence of duty which led to an accident that killed a female elephant on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar track inside Chunar Wildlife Sanctuary in Lohagara upazila on October 13. Loco master Jamal Uddin operated the special train that day.

The letter also said a probe body was formed to investigate the matter with several divisional officers of the BR.

Travel ban against five including two former MPs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued travel bans against five persons, including former lawmakers Mrinal Kanti Das and Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, in connection with allegations of corruption.

The three others are Mrinal's wife Nilima Das, and Shubid's wife Mahmuda Akhter and son Mohammad Ali.

Judge (in charge) Mohammed Ibrahim Mia of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the orders after officials of Anti-Corruption Commission submitted two separate petitions seeking their travel bans, said an ACC official working in the court.

Ex-senior home ministry secretary Mustafa Kamal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested Mustafa Kamal Uddin, former senior secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, yesterday morning in Chattogram.

He was being transported to Dhaka, said Rezaul Karim Mallick, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, confirming the matter.

Mustafa Kamal has been accused in several cases filed with different police stations, though it was yet to be decided in which case he will be formally shown arrested, the DB official added.

Mustafa Kamal was appointed as secretary to the Public Security Department under the home ministry on August 25, 2017. He retired from service on January 12 last year.

On January 16 this year, the government reconstituted the board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, making Mustafa Kamal the new chairman.

BELTA CANAL

People suffer for lack of a bridge



MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Around 30,000 residents of Jashore's Sharsha and Jhikargachha upazilas have long been suffering with their commute due to the lack of a concrete bridge over the Belta canal in Dihi union under Sharsha.

As the government has yet to respond to the longstanding demand of the locals to this end, they resorted to constructing a makeshift bamboo bridge on the canal connecting Sabaratla-Belta road several years ago with their own initiative to ease their sufferings.

However, the persistent rains during this monsoon caused the canal to swell, which in turn damaged the bamboo bridge significantly, leaving it risky and

vulnerable for use.

As such, the route involving the canal to communicate between the two upazilas has become largely impassable, thereby compelling the residents to either use an alternative route – which requires them to travel an extra five-kilometre distance – or use banana-stem rafts to cross the canal amid risk.

Amid the situation, residents of 15 villages under the two upazilas, including Belta, Gokarna, Durgapur, Chandrapur, Khalisakhali, Pakshia, Kashipur, Panditpur, Sabaratla, and Boundary, have been suffering.

Farmers in the area have been facing a lot of difficulty in transporting their agricultural produce from the field to local markets.

"We now have to walk two to

three miles to carry our harvest from crop fields to home or market," said Ahmad Ali, a farmer of Belta village.

Abul Hasan, a college student, said, "When the bamboo bridge was usable, it took only 25 minutes from my home to college. Now it takes at least 45 minutes since I now have to walk five kilometres more on the alternative route."

Dihi Union Parishad Chairman Asaduzzaman Mukul said the upazila engineer had previously said a bridge would be constructed on the canal soon, but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

Contacted, Sanaul Haque, upazila engineer of Sharsha, said a proposal made in 2020 for the construction of a 100-metre bridge on the Belta canal is now awaiting the tender process.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Kapasia, Gazipur

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Memo No. UHC/kapa/MSR/2024-25/1440

Date: 24/10/2024

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md Mamunur Rahman, UH&FPO, Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur for the Procurement of:

Tender Id	Name of goods	Tender/proposal publication date & time	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
1028119	Procurement of Medicine (Non EDCL) for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00
1028724	Procurement of Surgical Instrument for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00
1028726	Procurement of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00
1028728	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00
1028729	Procurement of Chemical Reagent for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00
1028730	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y 2024-25 at Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur.	24-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Nov-2024 16:00	07-Nov-2024 10:00:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer. e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Dr. Md Mamunur Rahman
UH&FPO
Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, Gazipur

GD-785