

NATIONAL TEA COMPANY

11,286 tea workers strike for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 11,286 workers of the 12 tea gardens under National Tea Company Ltd across the country have continued their strike demanding payment of their six weeks' arrears.

The workers launched the indefinite strike on last Tuesday with numerous programmes, including nationwide work abstentions, human chains and protests within the tea gardens.

On Friday afternoon, thousands of workers in Chandichhara Tea Garden in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj district agitated in support of the strike by blocking the highway through the area.

Workers of tea gardens of NTC also held protest rallies within the gardens on Friday.

"Around 40,000 people depend on the earnings of these more than 11,000 workers of NTC's tea gardens. The strike reflects growing frustration over delayed payments and the impact it has on the workers and their families," said Nipen

Paul, general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union.

Ranjit Karmakar, president of the Chandichhara Tea Garden's Panchayat Committee, criticised the garden authorities for failing to deliver on their repeated promises regarding wages and rations for past six weeks.

Tea workers Rita Ganju and Dilip Bhar said they are struggling to make ends meet as they remain unpaid for more than a month.

"The workers get a meagre pay of Tk 170 daily. Even this wage has remained suspended for past six weeks. This has led to a precarious situation. As such, the workers of NTC's tea gardens have not been reporting to work since Monday. The work abstentions will continue unless the workers are paid their wages," said Rambhajan Kairi, former general secretary of the tea workers' union.

Selimur Rahman, manager of Chandichhara Tea Garden, said efforts are being made to settle the workers' dues. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A farmer and his son return on boat after having their paddy processed at a nearby rice mill. Since the number of rice mills have declined over the years, local farmers often have to make such trips, whether by boat or on foot. The photo was taken in the Mogla Bazar area of South Sunamganj yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

BNP leader accused of attacking minority home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A family from a minority community in Gazipur yesterday alleged that a group of people, reportedly led by a local BNP leader, vandalised their home on Friday.

Following the incident that took place in the city's Bhadun Maizgaon area under ward-41, one Nirmal Mallick filed a complaint with Pubail Police Station yesterday.

Mallick said some armed individuals, led by BNP leader Shahjalal Miah, stormed into their house, and vandalised it.

They also took Tk 2 lakh and four voris of gold.

Contacted, Shahjalal denied the allegations.

Anwar Hussain, president of BNP's ward-41 unit, said while Shahjalal is active in BNP politics, no party leader was involved in the incident, calling it a personal dispute.

Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Amirul Islam said necessary actions will be taken following an investigation.

KOYRA HEALTH COMPLEX NEW BUILDING

Work stalled over contractors' fraudulence



DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The construction works of a new four-storey building of Koyra Upazila Health Complex in Khulna have come to a standstill due to negligence and fraudulence by the contractor.

The Tk 10 crore project was initiated by Department of Health Engineering on August 16, 2022 with a nine-month duration to improve the services of the 31-bed health complex.

Contractor firms Ziaul Traders and Shamim Ahsan Traders were given the work order.

However, it came to light that Aktaruzzaman Babu, former lawmaker from Khulna-6 constituency, was implementing the construction work through renting the main contractor's licence.

Later, after failing to secure nomination from Awami League in the 12th national election, followed by the ouster of the AL government, Babu reportedly fled the country, leaving the construction work of the health complex in utter disarray.

So far Tk 1.73 crore of the allocated funds has been withdrawn, but the progress remains stalled at only 18 percent, with supervision compromised and allegations of mismanagement surfacing.

After the construction work began, the old building was demolished. The entire hospital, including administrative activities, was relocated to a smaller building which was originally meant for outpatient services with 19 beds.

At present, the hospital's activities are being conducted in this building amid many limitations.

Many patients were seen being treated on the balcony and stairs. Also, both diagnostic services and surgeries were being conducted amid an acute space constraint on the second floor of the old building.

Hasina Banu of Bedkashi area who got admitted to the health complex recently said, "It was a suffocating atmosphere in the ward with more than 50 patients. I left the hospital and got treatment from a clinic later."

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6 of a family burnt in N'ganj fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Six members of a family were burnt as a fire broke out at a house in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj on Friday night.

The injured -- Md Babul, 40, his wife Sheli, 35, their four children Sohel, 20, Munni, 18, Ismail, 11, and Taslima, 9 -- are undergoing treatment at the burn institute in Dhaka.

Babul, Sohel, Ismail and Taslima suffered 55 percent burns while two others 20 to 30 percent burn injuries, said resident surgeon Toriqul Islam.

The incident took place around 11:00pm when the family was asleep. Police suspect the fire started from a mosquito coil.

PSTU forms committee to probe graft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Science and Technology University has formed a special commission to investigate the financial, administrative, and academic irregularities and corruption at the institution during the Awami League regime.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kazi Rafiqul Islam formed the 49-member committee and a letter in this regard was issued by Registrar Prof SM Hemayet Jahan on Friday night.

NTRCA EXAMS 2022

76 job seekers still await approval

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Around 76 job seekers qualified under the Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) were deprived of final recommendations despite meeting government qualifications, according to the applicants.

The applicants, who hold honours and master's degrees in Islamic Studies from recognised universities, claimed they passed the NTRCA exam and qualified for both assistant maulvi and assistant teacher (religion) positions in the 4th public notice in 2022.

However, these candidates alleged that the NTRCA unjustly did not issue a final recommendation to them, which was published in 2023. They also alleged that a total of 55 of their fellow candidates, with the same qualifications as them, were given recommendations.

As a result, these 76 individuals have not been able to join any workplace.

The applicants even submitted

applications to the NTRCA chairman and secretary to the Technical and Madrasa Education division in August and September, detailing the matter, but even that did not bring them any results.

We did not find any solution for the 76 candidates despite multiple applications. We have been experiencing discrimination and frustration for over a year. It has already affected most of our families.

MOHIDUL ISLAM, a job seeker

In the letter, they said they passed from recognised universities. When they applied for the circular, the Madrasa MPO policy 2018 mentioned that candidates must be graduates from "recognised universities". However, in a later amendment in

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PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:32	7:15
JAMAAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:35	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Abdul Karim, alongside his brothers and nephews harvesting red amaranth (laal shakh) in their field. Due to favourable weather and minimal flooding in their area, red amaranth has flourished, allowing farmers to earn a profit of up to Tk 1 lakh per bigha of land. The photo was taken in the Anantapur area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

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Record Number: 37.01.4101.103.61.423.19.535 Date: 24 October 2024

Admission Circular
(Full-time/ Part-time M.Phil and Ph.D Program)

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time/part-time MPhil and PhD programs** for the following departments: **1)** Accounting and Information Systems(AIS), **2)** Finance and Banking(FB), **3)** Management(MGT) and **4)** Marketing(MKT). Applications are invited for admission in **full-time MPhil and PhD programs** for the following departments: **1)** Environmental Science and Technology (EST), **2)** Microbiology (MB), **3)** Fisheries and Marine Bioscience (FMB), **4)** Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (GEBT), **5)** Nutrition and Food Technology (NFT), **6)** Pharmacy (Pharm), **7)** Physics (Phy), **8)** Chemistry (Chem), **9)** Mathematics (Math), **10)** English (Eng), **11)** Agro Product Processing Technology (APPT) and **12)** Climate and Disaster Management (CDM).

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time/part-time PhD program** for the following departments: **1)** Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), **2)** Chemical Engineering (ChE), **3)** Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE), **4)** Petroleum and Mining Engineering (PME), **5)** Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), **6)** Biomedical Engineering (BME) and **7)** Textile Engineering (TE).

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time MPhil program** for the following departments: **1)** Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), **2)** Chemical Engineering (ChE), **3)** Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE), **4)** Petroleum and Mining Engineering (PME), **5)** Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), **6)** Biomedical Engineering (BME) and **7)** Textile Engineering (TE).

This invitation for admission is applicable for January-2025 semester of 2024-2025 academic year.

- General qualifications, conditions and the process of admission form collection and submission of the M.Phil and the PhD program are available in the university website (<https://just.edu.bd>) or in the respective departments.
- The application form has to be filled-up properly and submitted to the respective department by **20/11/2024** (excluding holidays).

GD-800

Engg. Md. Ahsan Habib
Registrar