Sajek blockade eases for farmers, students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*



Vehicles carrying agricultural produce and transporting teachers and students to educational institutions will be exempt from the ongoing road blockade in Sajek union of Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati from today.

The decision was announced yesterday in a press release issued by the Sajek Gana Adhikar Rakkha Committee following a joint meeting with the Sajek Karbari Association.

Ambulances, fire service vehicles and those carrying media workers will also remain exempt from the blockade, as before.

The organisers said the move was taken in the interests of farmers and agricultural traders from both Pahari and Bengali communities in Sajek.

However, the organisations unanimously decided to continue the indefinite blockade until residents' five-point demands are met, the release said.

The blockade has entered the second day of its fourth phase.

On October 26, a meeting between government representatives and protesters over the demands ended inconclusively. The administration accepted four demands but rejected the call for the immediate removal of members of the JSS (Santu Larma) group from Sajek.

261 women, girls faced violence

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22 people dead and 20 injured. Another 22 incidents of mob violence left one dead and 36 injured.

At least four attacks on minority communities saw seven idols and three homesteads vandalised. Two shrines were also vandalised in Sherpur and Thakurgaon.

At least 46 journalists were attacked or harassed in 28 incidents in October. One was killed, 31 injured, and one sued for defamation.

Meanwhile, 15 incidents of curbing free speech led to 20 arrests and 15 cases. Among them, three were detained and two sued for criticising the prime minister, while five were detained for "hurting religious sentiments". Social media posts also led to one person being beaten to death.

One person was arrested under the Cyber Protection Act.

Meanwhile, 71 incidents of worker abuse left 23 people dead and 134 injured, while 38 workers died in workplace accidents.

Security concerns force postponement of exhibition

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information suggesting a possible security risk. That is why police were deployed," he said.

Denying that police had prevented the exhibition from taking place, the OC said the organisers had decided to postpone it in response to police concerns.

Titled "The Four National Leaders in the Struggle for Independence", the exhibition was scheduled to be inaugurated at 4:00pm yesterday and continue until November 17.

It was organised to commemorate the contributions of Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman to Bangladesh's independence. The four leaders were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Uphold spirit of 1971 war

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Dr Kamal made the remarks as chief guest at a discussion titled, "Human Rights, Democracy, Independent Judiciary and the Fundamental Principles of the 1972 Constitution", organised by the Democratic Lawyers Association (DLAB) to mark Constitution Day at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium on the Supreme Court premises in Dhaka.

Sanjid Rahman Shuvo, the organisation's publicity secretary, read out the written statement on his behalf.

Dr Kamal, who chaired the committee that drafted the country's first constitution in 1972, also paid tribute to the four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Capt M Mansur Ali and AHM Qamaruzzaman.

Presiding over the programme, DLAB President Subrata Chowdhury said Bangladesh must uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, the 1990 mass uprising and the July uprising.

Prof Abu Sayeed, SCBA President AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, and Barrister Sara Hossain also spoke, among others.

Financing barriers

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and development finance among other potential sources, he added.

"We need to repay our depositors' money, so we can't do philanthropy," he said.

Kaida Azam, head of the Structured Finance Department at NCC Bank PLC, said adaptation projects could require 10 to 15-year loans, while banks relied largely on short-term deposits.

Imtiaj Haque, portfolio manager at Water.org, called for greater use of impact bonds and blended finance.

Water.org has signed a social bond agreement with BRAC Bank and is exploring taka-denominated bonds to address hedging difficulties, he said.

Ataus Sopan Malik, managing director of AR Malik Seeds Pvt Ltd, said businesses like his might need "three, four or five million euros" for research, storage and logistics, but foreign financing often targets larger projects. He called for concessional loans and research grants.

Shabbir Karim Rudro, director and chief technology officer of Tetra, said a survey found more than 700 reverse-osmosis water treatment plants in Khulna and Satkhira, of which over 30 percent were inoperative.

Each plant could serve about 300 families, selling water at 50 paisa a litre, he said. "One water plant can serve a community."

Syeda Afzalun Nessa, head of sustainability at HSBC Bangladesh, said the bank's philanthropic climate initiatives include saline-tolerant crops, water-efficient farming in Rajshahi and mangrove conservation in Mirsarai.

HSBC is exploring carbon trading for Rajshahi mango farmers with the Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, she said.

HSBC Group has also provided about US $1 million for disaster preparedness and emergency assistance in Bangladesh with Save the Children, UNICEF and the British Red Cross, she added.

Prof Tania Haque of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University said women are often seen as "passive recipients rather than active agents" in climate programmes.

She called for their involvement in planning, budgeting and implementation.

Ismène RAC Stalpers, country director of SNV Bangladesh, said private capital should complement, not replace, public and international finance, particularly where commercial returns were limited.

She called for stronger partnerships and investment-ready businesses.

Sumaiya T Ahmed, head of sustainability at PRAN-RFL Group, said the company received a $35 million financing facility from Dutch development bank FMO, linked to sustainability targets.

FMO was also co-investing in technical assistance for more than 100,000 farmers in the company's supply chain, she added.

Nuria Lopez, chairperson of the EU Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, called for more agro-processing investment and better access to European markets for smaller businesses.

Debashis Roy, director (advisory and partnerships) at Impact Investment Exchange, called for clearer adaptation categories and lower climate-bond issuance costs.

SNV Chief Executive Simon O'Connell called for cooperation to reduce risks and make better use of limited grants.

Mohammad Ikhtiar Sobhan, lead of the advisory portfolio at iFarmer; Arif Faisal, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development; Muntasir Tahmeed Chowdhury, chief executive of Inspira Advisory & Consulting Limited; and Hridoy Islam, senior manager at Sajida Foundation, also spoke.

Tanjim Ferdous, head of strategic partnerships at The Daily Star, moderated the event.

1,173 constables used fake addresses

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Once the scrutiny is completed, the PHQ will send a report to the home ministry, recommending action against the constables who used fake permanent addresses, the official said.

The findings also point to other alleged irregularities.

Despite being ineligible, more than 100 constables reportedly secured jobs, allegedly through political interference, while around 200 candidates received unusually high marks in viva voce despite poor results in the written examination.

"We have been reviewing these findings. A candidate might have a relative who was an Awami League leader, but that does not necessarily mean the candidate used the relative's influence to secure a job," said an official involved in the probe.

Allegations of political interference and bribery in police constable recruitment have persisted for years, as district police chiefs reportedly favoured candidates backed by political leaders or influential officials. There were also allegations that SPs recruited constables in exchange for bribes.

Under the current recruitment system, the SP of each district makes the final recommendations for trainee recruit constables (TRCs), who then undergo six months of training at police training institutions.

Upon completion of training, they receive appointment letters from the SPs at their respective training institutes.

Several investigators told this correspondent that 946 of the 980 questionable constable appointments in Dhaka district took place during the tenure of then SP Md Habibur Rahman in 2014-15.

Habibur, who was recently sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in two cases over crimes against humanity, is being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission over allegations of money laundering and illegal wealth accumulation through bribery, corruption and recruitment irregularities. He remains absconding.

In September 2021, The Daily Star uncovered irregularities in the recruitment of 18 constables in Narayanganj during the tenure of the then SP Muhammad Harun Or Rashid in 2019.

Among them, five submitted land sale deeds bearing the same registration number, while another three provided deeds with an identical registration number.

The land sale deeds of 11 recruits were linked to the same mouza, daag (plot number) and khatian(record of rights) and carried identical land registration numbers.

Following an internal inquiry, the PHQ dismissed the 18 constables. However, Harun was promoted to deputy inspector general in 2022 and appointed chief of the Detective Branch of DMP later that year.

Harun, who remains absconding, was dismissed from service on October 31 for unauthorised absence from duty and defiance of official orders. He is now facing two corruption cases filed by the ACC and several crimes against humanity cases at the ICT.

On August 27, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmad told parliament that thousands of constables, sub-inspectors and other police personnel had allegedly been recruited by manipulating district quotas during the AL government's tenure.

He cited allegations of irregularities in police recruitment in Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Kishoreganj, where candidates allegedly bought small plots of land and changed their permanent addresses to qualify for district quotas.

"We have identified four to five such districts," he said, adding that the final investigation report would be made public.

Following the March 15 instruction from the IGP, district-level committees headed by SPs were formed to investigate corruption, breaches of recruitment rules and other irregularities in constable recruitment.

The committees were asked to examine allegations of fake addresses, land purchases to establish local residency, preferential treatment in examinations, political influence, discrepancies between written and viva voce marks, and possible question paper leaks.

They were instructed to submit their findings and recommendations by April 15.

Asked whether any action would be taken against the officials who verified, recommended or approved the appointments in question, one of the senior PHQ officers said it would be up to the government to decide.

Referring to the allegations of district quota manipulation, former IGP Baharul Alam said opportunities for such manipulation still exist, as district SPs can facilitate the recruitment of candidates from other districts by allowing them to establish nominal residency through land purchases.

Nominal residency refers to an address where a person is officially registered as a resident but does not actually live there on a regular basis.

Towards the end of the AL government's tenure, the PHQ moved to curb recruitment irregularities, according to an assistant inspector general who previously served in the recruitment and career planning department of the PHQ.

Marks for the written examination were raised from 40 to 45, while those for the viva voce were reduced from 20 to 15 to limit the scope for candidates to secure jobs through disproportionately high viva voce marks, said the official.

The PHQ also took over responsibility for preparing question papers and centrally evaluating answer scripts, replacing the previous system under which district police units handled both, the official added.

LPG price hike aims at 'long-term welfare'

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at $30 per unit. From 2021 to 2025, up until the interim government, the price per unit was $10 to a maximum of $14," he added.

Describing the fuel price hike and crisis as global, the adviser said, "The problem is that a country with a ruined economy like Bangladesh has to choose where to provide concessions and how much. The brunt of this will have to be borne by someone, in some way. That is the reality."

However, if the price hike has a major impact on the public, the government will consider providing relief if it can improve its position in other sectors, he added.

Asked about police action against protesters, Zahed said law enforcement agencies have the legal authority to use force, including lethal weapons where legally justified, but stressed that it must follow due process and the principle of proportionality.

The government does not want to suppress protests like previous administrations, he said.

PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 4

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-55	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-15
JAMAAT	5-30	1-15	4-15	5-34	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

বিনা টিকেটে রেল ভ্রমণ থেকে বিরত থাকুন
দুর্ঘটনা এড়াতে রেলের ক্লিপ ও যন্ত্রাংশ চুরি রোধে এগিয়ে আসুন

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-২ এর দপ্তর,
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০।
ই-মেইলঃ den2ctg@railway.gov.bd.

নথি নং-ডিইএন-২/সিটিজি/২০২৬-২৭/টেন্ডার নোটিশ-০২ তারিখঃ-০১-১১-২০২৬খ্রিঃ।

Tender notice

বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-২, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কর্তৃক **National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (https//www.eprocure.gov.bd/)** এ নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার আইডি, নথি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরণ ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র প্রকাশ, দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
1	1363079 DEN-2/CTG/ 2026-27/ 1363079/03	At CTG (CRB Tulatali): Through repairs to bungalow no. E/71 including guide wall, drain & sanitary works with other allied works.	OTM NCT	01-Nov-2026 20:00:00 19-Nov-2026 12:30:00
2	1363961 DEN-2/CTG/ 2026-27/ 1363961/05	At CTG (Station Colony): Thorough repairs of qtr.no. T/747(A,B) including roof treatment with other allied works.	OTM NCT	02-Nov-2026 20:00:00 22-Nov-2026 12:30:00
3	1363951 DEN-2/CTG/ 2026-27/ 1363951/04	At CTG (Station Colony): Thorough repairs of qtr.no. T/37 including roof treatment and boundary wall with other allied works	OTM NCT	02-Nov-2026 20:00:00 22-Nov-2026 12:30:00

বিঃ দ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত **eligibility** শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন ।
২. নিবন্ধিত ও আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণ বিনা খরচে দরপত্র দলিল দেখতে পারবেন; তবে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।
৩. আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণকে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের পূর্বে দরপত্রের আবশ্যকীয় প্রতিপালনীয় শর্তাবলী যথাযথভাবে প্রতিপালনের বিষয়টি নিশ্চিতে অত্র দপ্তরের নোটিশ বোর্ডে বিজ্ঞাপিত নির্দেশনা সম্বলিত অনুরোধ অবলোকনের জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো।

এস (২৬) (৯২)

(জীষান দত্ত)
বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-২
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-2669

'Confiscate the assets of Hasina

FROM PAGE 3

the order is enforced and called for bringing those under government control without delay.

It urged the ministry to immediately prepare a comprehensive list of all their properties, bring them under state control and arrange for the proceeds to be distributed as compensation to the victims and the families of those killed during the uprising, in accordance with the verdict.

Aminul told journalists that the prosecution had urged the government to sell the assets through lawful procedures and distribute the proceeds through the July Foundation or another legally recognised body.

He added that the convicts who did not appeal within 30 days had no further legal scope to appeal and that their sentences would be executed once they were arrested.

Meanwhile, former ICT prosecutor Saimum Reza Talukder, who resigned amid bribery allegations on March 9 and was under investigation, has left Bangladesh, multiple sources confirmed.

Contacted, Saimum also confirmed his departure over the phone but declined to provide further details.

Saimum had allegedly demanded Tk 1 crore in exchange for securing bail. The allegations surfaced in March after audio recordings of WhatsApp conversations, purportedly involving Saimum and members of the family of former lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, were leaked.

A five-member fact-finding committee formed to investigate the allegations against him has yet to submit its report.

Aminul Islam, who leads the committee, said the inquiry was at its final stage and the allegations had been established primarily.

However, Saimum faced no restriction on travelling abroad, he added.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
Kotbari, Cumilla
www.bard.gov.bd

No. 47.63.0000.000.033.26.0010.26/ 2195 Date: 03.11.2026

e -Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of Work as stated below:

Sl. No.	Nature of Procurement	Description	Tender ID No.	Publication Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Method of Tender
01.	Works	Renovation/Modernization of Washroom at Café-2 (Tiles, RCC, Plumbing-Sanitary & electric works), Cafe-3 column Tiles & related works.	1360539	28-Oct-2026 15:05:00	09-Nov-2026 15:15:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any Branches of registered Bank within closing date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.)

(Salah Uddin Ibne Syed)
Director (Administration)
BARD, Kotbari, Cumilla.

GD-2663