Bangladesh rocked by workers' protests, police fire tear gas

Collected photo.

Bangladesh has witnessed renewed unrest as garment workers took to the streets demanding an increase in the minimum monthly wage from Tk 12,500 to Tk 30,000. The protests have led to clashes between workers and police, along with incidents of vandalism and arson.

Videos circulating on social media show police using tear gas and sound grenades to disperse protesters. Clashes and vandalism have been reported in several areas of Dhaka and Gazipur. According to Bangladeshi media reports, the government deployed the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after protesters vandalised police outposts and set police vehicles on fire.

The workers' protests began on Sunday (November 1) and later spread to several areas, including Mirpur in the capital and Konabari in Gazipur. The workers are demanding that their minimum monthly wage be raised to Tk 30,000. The current minimum monthly wage for garment workers in Bangladesh is Tk 12,500.

The protests are also taking place against the backdrop of the government's announcement of a new pay scale for public employees. Under the proposed structure, the government has announced plans to nearly double the salaries and benefits of government employees.