

Barisal Reporters Unity demands 9th wage board

Anisur president, Kamrul GS of BRU OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Reporters Unity (BRU) yesterday at its 16th annual general meeting demanded an immediate announcement of the ninth wage board and job security for journalists.

Speakers at the meeting held at BIWTA Chan Banglow in Barisal called upon the media men to practice objective journalism to establish democracy and rule of law for the restoration of basic human rights.

They also demanded a guarantee of freedom of speech and proper implementation of the "Right to Information Act" for the sake of practicing objective journalism at grassroots level.

BRU at the meeting also elected its executive members for the 2016-17 session.

Anisur Rahaman Khan of Dhaka Tribune and Kamrul Ahasan of the Barisal Samoy were elected president and general secretary respectively.

The other post bearers include Bidhan Sarkar (vice president), Masuk Kamal (joint secretary), Mithun Saha (treasurer), and Sushanta Ghosh (executive member).

2 die in road

FROM PAGE 3 Anisur of Arambagh area in the town was first rushed to Netrakona Adhunik Hospital and then to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 4:30pm.

Police seized the auto-rickshaw, but its driver managed to flee.



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding scrapping of all projects, including the Rampal power plant, detrimental to the Sundarbans. It also announced to march towards the Prime Minister's Office on July 28 to press home their demands.

PHOTO: STAR

Hijras legally third gender but yet to get rights

UNB, Dhaka

Though the government has recognised the transgender or hijra as the third gender over two and a half years back, the Election Commission is yet to enroll them as voters and provide them with national identity (NID) cards with their distinct sexual identity.

Currently, the hijra community members have to be enlisted as either male or female since there is no option given in the voter registration form or in the NID card to write third gender as their sex, discouraging many of them to vote.

Right activists and hijra leaders think the EC is not only ignoring the hijra community but also defying the government's order by refraining from implementing the cabinet's decision to identify hijra as third gender in all official documents.

In November 2013, the cabinet approved a "policy decision" to identify hijras as people of a separate gender or the third in order to secure their rights, enabling them to identify their gender as "hijra" in all government documents, including passports and NID cards.

Later on January 16, 2014, the government issued a gazette notification in this connection.

Sachetan Samajseba Hijra Sangha President Ivan Ahmed Katha told the news agency, "We feel embarrassed to identify ourselves as men or women. We also hesitate to stand in queues of either male or female voters to exercise our voting rights. Though there's a separate option (others) for hijras in the passport form, we can not use it as there is no such option in the birth certificate and the NID card," Katha added.

Pinky Shikdar, chief of Badhan Hijra Sangha, said they are facing many problems, as they are still deprived of basic rights since their third gender identity is yet to be implemented. "The government should give us third gender identity through parliament."

Soliman, a hijra of Mirpur who

graduated in tourism and tourism management, said they now face serious problems in renting houses and availing of state facilities.

Solaiman said the government should take steps so that they can get proper share of their paternal property as third gender. "It also can introduce quota in various public jobs for third gender."

ActionAid Bangladesh country director and rights activist Farah Kabir urged the government to take action in this regard and give the Election Commission a deadline to implement its decision. Asked whether the commission will take any plan to recognise hijras as third gender in the voter list, EC Secretary Md Sirazul Islam claimed it has already been included in the new voter registration form following the cabinet decision.

But no option of third gender or hijra or other was found in the form provided in the EC's website on Friday.

According to an official figure, the number of transgender is around 10,000 in Bangladesh, but Badhan Hijra Sangha and some other hijra organisations claim it will be nearly 1 lakh.

Thousands vulnerable to suicide: Expert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On an average, 28 people commit suicide daily in Bangladesh, while around 65 lakh people are vulnerable to suicide, said a keynote paper.

Most of the victims are females aged between 21 and 30, according to the paper. Helal Uddin Ahmed, assistant professor of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), presented the paper at a seminar on "Role of media to prevent suicide" organised by Brighter Tomorrow Foundation at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The data was collected from a study conducted in 2012-13, based on WHO, police records and the National Institute of Mental Health reports, he said.

Depression, dowry, familial feud, stalking, affair and social stigma plays key roles in this regard, he viewed.

Termining the tendency of committing suicide a mental disease, he called upon all to raise awareness to prevent it.

The people more prone to suicide feel isolated from family and society, he said, adding that they have to be provided with proper treatment and counselling.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof

AAMS Arefin Siddique said media should play a sensitive role in presenting suicide related news.

There are some international guidelines for journalists on how to cover suicide incidents, our journalists should follow that, he said.

Family members must play the pioneering role to prevent anyone from committing suicide, he viewed, adding that parents should teach their children to be compassionate and ethical so that they can grow up with self-respect.

Eminent journalist and writer Anisul Hoque said the media should downplay the news of suicide because people may get inspired to take such a drastic step seeing such news.

Media should not exaggerate any information just to increase their popularity or sales, he viewed.

Joyosree Zaman, general secretary of Brighter Tomorrow Foundation, said many times media presents distorted information to gain popularity. But such irresponsible journalism heightens the families' pain, she added.

Dr Farzana Rabin, president of the foundation, chaired the function, where AKMA Hamid, president of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, also spoke.

30 govt staff, institutions

FROM PAGE 3

category in the general field; Upazila Agriculture Officer of Chowhali in Sirajganj Md Shahadat Hossain Siddiqui in individual category in technical field; Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Md Anisur Rahman (group leader), Additional Deputy Commissioner (education and ICT) of Narayanganj Begum Shahin Ara Begum and Assistant Commissioners Begum Joya Maria Perera and Begum Farhana Afsana Chowdhury in group category in technical field and the a2i Programme in institutional category in the technical field.

Those who received award in individual category in general field at the district level are Upazila Cooperatives Officer of Panchagar Sadar Upazila Md Mamun Kabir, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Iswarganj in Mymensingh Razib Kumar Sarkar, UNO of Damurhuda in Chuadanga Md Faridur Rahman.

Joint Secretary of the Road and Highways Division and former deputy commissioner of Feni Md Humayun Kabir Khandakar, Manager of Mass Rapid Transit Development Project and former ADC (general) of Feni Md Enamul Haque, Deputy Director of Family Planning, Feni Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, UNO of Feni Sadar Upazila PKM Enamul Karim, Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer of Lemua Union in Feni Sadar Upazila Dr

Rabindranath Dutta and Family Planning Inspector of Chhanua Union of Feni Sadar Meer Azam Hossain, Director of the Prime Minister's Office and former deputy commissioner of Rangpur Farid Ahammad, ADC (revenue) of Rangpur Mostain Billah, ADC (revenue) of Sherpur and ex-UNO of Peerganj, Rangpur, ATM Ziaul Islam, UNO of Bochaganj in Dinajpur and former assistant commissioner (land) Md Rashedul Islam and Executive Magistrate of Rangpur City Corporation and ex-AC (land) of Peerganj in Rangpur SM Golam Kibria got the awards in individual category in the general field at the district level.

The Tax Zone-2 under the Chittagong Tax Commissioner Office and Deputy Commissioner Office of Joypurhat received the award in institutional category in general field, while UNO of Matiranga in Khagrachhari Hill District BM Moshirur Rahman got it in individual category in technical field at the district level.

Each of the awardees in individual category at national level received a gold medal, a crest, a certificate, and Tk 1 lakh, while gold medal, crest and the highest Tk 5 lakh were given to a group at the national level.

In individual category at the district level one got Tk 50,000 and a certificate, while the highest Tk 1 lakh and a certificate were given to a group.

Speedy trial of

FROM PAGE 3

Lambasting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and the party's prime partner Jamaat-e-Islami in the BNP-led 20-party alliance, the minister alleged that arsonists who were active during the anti-government movement of 2015 had carried out the July 1 Gulshan cafe attack. He bitterly criticised Khaleda for allegedly patronising militancy.

Inu lambasted those who were calling some private universities breeding hubs of militancy, reasoning that several former and current students of North South University had been linked to the Gulshan and July 7 Sholakia attacks.

He claimed that the Gulshan attack had embarrassed the government. "The attack was a big blow for us. But the wheel of development will not be stopped in any way," he said.

Security analyst Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rashid said the government should seriously work to prevent militant suspects from getting bail. He also emphasised preventing the spread of hate speeches in society.

AMJ Publicity in Charge, Bangladesh chapter Abdul Awal said firstly everyone should properly portray religion among children and family members.

He also stressed the need for clamping down on militants' source of funds and arms as well as to keep strong vigilance on militant leaders and activists.

Journalist, writer and a member of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Shahriar Kabir, demanded banning Jamaat and its associate organisations.



Speakers at a seminar titled "Role of media in suicide prevention" organised by Brighter Tomorrow Foundation at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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Cops foil BNP's

FROM PAGE 3 a procession from the BNP office at Nasiman Bhaban around 1:30pm, reports our correspondent. Jubo Dal Chittagong city unit General Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Dipti alleged that police suddenly started charging baton on them while a Jubo Dal procession was heading toward the BNP office.

Contacted, Nur Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said police removed the BNP men who had occupied the road. He, however, denied charging baton on them.

Police also foiled BNP's procession at Gaibandha and Barisal when the BNP men moved for holding those on the road.

In Narayanganj, BNP claimed that five party leaders and activists were injured as police chased a procession of Jubo Dal Narayanganj city at Missionpara, reports our correspondent. BNP men also brought out processions in Tangail, Khulna, Dinajpur and Natore.

Advertisement
CEO Joins Center of Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industries (CEBAI)
Brigadier General Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Ret'd) has joined CEBAI as CEO on 16 July 2016. He has been working as Consultant, TVET for The World Bank, Education and Global Practice. Prior to that he served UCEP Bangladesh as its Executive Director (ED) for 11 years; brings with him long years of experience in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). He transformed UCEP into the largest Skills Training organization in the country expanding its operations from 33 to 63 centers. Brig. Gen. Aftab, a graduate from BUET (Electrical and Electronics) was commissioned in the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) in 1975 and retired in the year 2002.

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