

### Journo leaders issue 10-day ultimatum to form 9th wage board

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Journalist leaders at a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanded formation of the 9th wage board by November 25. They said, otherwise, the media workers will go for a greater movement. The rally was staged, as part of their countrywide programmes, by factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), Dhaka Sub-Editors Council, Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association, and Television Camera Journalists Association. BFUJ faction President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul presided over the meeting, which was addressed, among others, by its Secretary General Omar Faruk, DUJ faction President Shaban Mahmud, General Secretary Shohel Haidar Chowdhury, DRU General Secretary Razu Ahmed, Nari Shangbadik Kendra President Nasimun Ara Haq Minu, journalist leaders Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Qudus Afrad, Shakawat Hossain Badsha and Sazzad Hossain. Bulbul said the 9th wage board should be announced as early as possible for bringing discipline in the media industry as the prices of essentials increased with the increasing of salaries of the government staff. They demanded that the electronic and online media with the print one be brought under the 9th wage board. Faruk said countrywide demonstrations will be held on November 27 next if the demand is not met by November 25. On November 27, after a rally in Dhaka, they would submit memorandums to the authorities concerned across the country. Similar programmes were held in Borga and Khulna, report our correspondents.



Rickshaw-pullers partially block the road in Nilkhet in the capital by parking their vehicles, oblivious to the traffic congestion they are creating. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### IDEAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, MOTIJHEEL

# 1,981 students enrolled in excess

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ideal School and College, Motijheel, a prominent school in the capital, has admitted 1,981 additional students to its different branches this year against the available seats, reveals a probe report. While the admission advertisement declared 4,780 seats available, the authority admitted 6,585 students to different classes, said the report submitted to the education ministry last month. The admission policy does not allow a school to enrol students more than the number of seats it mentions in the advertisement. Based on allegations by some guardians and media reports, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) formed a two-member investigation committee on February 16. The members are Osman Bhuiyan, deputy director of planning and development wing of DSHE, and Mohammad Tazib Uddin, finance and procurement

wing of DSHE. The committee was asked to submit its report within three days, but it turned in the report eight months later. The school has both Bangla and English versions in its main branch in Motijheel. The other branches are in Banasree and Mugda. A total of 20,239 students are currently studying in the institution, which has 608 teachers. The school enjoys government's monthly pay order facilities partially. According to the probe report, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star, the school admitted the additional students following a January 6 resolution of the institution's governing body. The governing body made the decision considering availability of classrooms in the branches, it said. However, DSHE officials said the school enrolled the additional students several weeks after completion of the admission process. The school has been enrolling additional students for the last several years despite criticism. In 2013, the

school admitted around 1,500 additional students, they said. They alleged that the students were admitted through "donations". Of this year's 1981 additional students, 439 and 227 students were admitted in Bangla and English versions to the main branch, the probe report said. Some 1,010 students got admitted to the main branch on the basis of merit against 908 available seats, it said. A total of 563 additional students were admitted to Banasree's Bangla version while the number in English version of the same branch is 257. In Mugda branch, the number of additional students was 495, the report said. It said the institution had experienced and dedicated teachers and the students had consistently been doing very well in all public examinations under their guidance. "Therefore, the school authorities experience heavy pressure for admitting students, which puts the governing body in embarrassing situation," the report added.

Contacted, Shahan Ara Begum, principal of the institution, said she had got nothing to do with the admission. The admission was completely done as per the decision of the governing body, but the ministry did not accept that, she said. "What is the point of having a governing body when the ministry does not listen to their demand?" she said. "How will we run our institution amid this situation when we cannot raise tuition fees or admit students?" The extra students were mainly admitted to class-I, II and III, the principal said. Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of Obhhabok Oikya Forum, a national platform of guardians, demanded that the ministry take action against irregularities of the school. He, however, said the probe committee did not deliberately touch many issues. Despite repeated attempts, the committee members could not be reached for comments.



Vehicles get stuck on the capital's Topkhana Road as people occupy almost half of the road, inset, before Jatiya Press Club for human chains, which became a regular phenomenon caused by such programmes on the spot. The photos were taken on Tuesday.

### Youth sued as SAU female student goes missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

It has been ten days since Oishy Hamom, a student of Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU), went missing. The family claimed the 23-year-old had been abducted by her ex-boyfriend. Her father, Sanatan Hamom of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar, filed a kidnapping case with Shahporan Police Station on November 11 accusing the ex-boyfriend, a student of a private university in Sylhet, and his parents, said Shahjalal Munshi, officer-in-charge of the police station. Oishy, a final-year student, went to take tuition at Subidbazar on the evening of November 7; she had been missing ever since, said her family members. She used to live in the university's female residential hall, said her friends, adding, her mobile phone is also switched off. "The ex-boyfriend and his parents are on the run; we're trying to trace them," said the OC. Police also held one of his friends for questioning, he added. "She broke up with him last year but he continued to threaten her ever since," said Oishy's cousin. "We also informed his parents but to no avail. We suspect they might be involved also," he added.

## NEWS IN brief

### ACC arrests Sylhet Muktiyoddha Sangsad commander

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested Subrata Chakraborty Jewel, Sylhet district unit commander of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, yesterday in a case filed for embezzling over Tk 3 crore, and not submitting any document to the ACC regarding the funds given by Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Foundation and other authorities. A case was filed against him in September with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, said Reva Halder, deputy director of ACC Sylhet.

### Another Gulshan burn victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another woman, who was injured in a gas explosion at an apartment in Dhaka's Gulshan area two days ago, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning. The deceased Bedena, 20, was undergoing treatment at the hospital with 90 percent burns, said Sub-inspector Bacchu Miah, in-charge of DMCH police camp. Bedena and two other domestic helps were injured in the explosion on Monday morning. Of them, Sharifa, 18, died on that night. Another injured Parvin, 36, with 20 percent burns, is undergoing treatment at DMCH.

### Galleri Kaya opens watercolour exhibition tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Galleri Kaya will open a watercolour art exhibition tomorrow at its Uttara premises showcasing works of 10 trending artists of the country. Titled Water Rhymes-4, the exhibition will put up works of Hamiduzzaman Khan, Jamal Ahmed, Ranjit Das, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Aloptogin Tushar, Mohammad Iqbal, Anisuzzaman, Azmeer Hossain, Kamaluddin and Shahanoor Mamun. Eminent artist Prof Samarjit Roy Choudhury will inaugurate the exhibition at 5:30pm. It will remain open from 11:00am to 7:30pm daily till December 2.

### Fire breaks out at Dhamrai factory

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A fire broke out at a medicine manufacturing factory in Dhulivita area of Dhamrai on Tuesday night. DEPZ Fire Service Senior Station Officer Abdul Hamid said the fire broke out at Acme Laboratories Ltd, housed on the second floor of a four-storey building, around 10:15pm. On information, fire fighters rushed there and doused the blaze around 12:00am. The reason behind the fire and the extent of damage could not be known immediately, he added.

### Woman's body found in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged around 25, from a canal near Rupsha Bridge in Khulna city yesterday. Office-in-Charge of Labanachora Police Station Mosharaf Hossain Sardar said after being informed by locals they recovered the body. There was a scarf tied around its neck. The woman might have been raped before being killed, he said, adding, they sent the body to Khulna Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

### Worker goes missing in Ctg river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker went missing after he fell into the Karnaphuli river from a boat in Chittagong yesterday. The victim -- Sanjoy Dey, 30, of Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong -- is a worker of Super Petrochemical (Pvt) Ltd in Julda Dangar Char. Sanjoy suddenly fell into the river when he, with others, was going to his workplace by a boat -- provided by the company he worked for -- from Patenga No-9 Ghat of the river, said Fire Service officials. But how he fell into the river could not be known immediately, the officials added.

### Book lovers throng Sylhet book fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Book lovers are thronging the six-day book fair that started on Tuesday at Mohammad Ali Gymnasium in Rikabibazar in Sylhet city. Prothoma and Bengal publications with the assistance of Prothoma Alo's Sylhet Bondhushava has organised the fair. The fair will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm every day.

### ARSON, CONSTABLE'S DEATH CASE 18 including Mirza Abbas relieved

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved 18 leaders and activists of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, including Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Barkatullah Bulu and Amanullah Aman, of charges in a case under the explosive substances act. However, the court took into cognisance charges against Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and seven others. Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed January 31 for the next hearing. The case was filed over the killing of a traffic constable, Ferdous Khalil, 42, following torching of a police bus in the capital's Bangla Motor on December 24, 2013 during the alliance's anti-government demonstration. Two policemen were also

injured. In the first information report, 34 people, including Fakhrul, Abbas, Gayeshwar, Aman, Bulu and Salauddin Ahmed, were accused of committing the offences. Fakhrul and several others were shown arrested and remanded for quizzing. On May 4, Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Ali Akkas, the case's investigation officer (IO), submitted two charge sheets, one over the killing and another under the act. In murder case, seven, including BNP leader Habibunnabi Khan Sohel, were charged while Fakhrul and seven others were accused over the arson. Names of Aabbas, Gayeshwar and 16 others were dropped from the charge sheet as the charges were not proved. The IO also appealed relieving Abbas and 17 others of the charges.

### CU golden jubilee celebrations start tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) will begin its two-day golden jubilee celebrations from tomorrow with 29,901 former and current students registering to take part. A procession will be brought out from the fine arts institute and a discussion organised later at Chittagong city's GEC Convention Centre followed by a cultural programme where Runa Laila is to appear. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate over telephone the second day's programmes at the CU central playground while Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury will be present as the chief guest. Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, a former faculty member, will deliver a memorial speech and another discussion will be held. Performances by incumbent students, eminent singers Dinat Jahan Munnir and Tapan Chowdhury and bands Artcell, Warfaze and Lalon will mark the end of programmes.

### Bangladesh will be number one

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But his concern is "many of the SDG indicators are not clear". New data need to be generated to measure over 100 indicators, and it is a big task for the government, he said. Prof Alam suggested that the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) increase the frequency of surveys like the household income and expenditure survey and labour force survey. BBS should use multidimensional poverty index method that includes peoples' food consumption, housing, health and education status in measuring poverty level, instead of consumption-based measure of poverty, he said. UNFPA's Bangladesh Country Representative Argentina Matavel Piccin said data would play a critical role in understanding who actually were now left behind and their needs. Data for men and women, rural and urban or different age groups need to be disaggregated for the authorities to understand and take development interventions, she said. While utilising data is important, its analysis and generation is even more important, she added. Swedish Ambassador Johan Frissel said each country would have to generate data

based on its needs, but could surely align its plan based on SDGs. For example, he said, Bangladesh had five-year plans and the visions of 2021 and 2041, but no plan for 2030. Having perspectives of SDGs and including national policies accordingly will be helpful as much of the global funding will be based on SDGs, he said. Rushidan Islam Rahman, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, suggested that BBS partner with other research organisations to improve quality of its data and analysis. UNDP official Fakhrul Hasan recommended the same. UNFPA official Mahbub E Alam and General Economics Division Deputy Chief Monirul Islam made presentations, while Members of Parliament Selina Begum and Nurjahan Begum, UN Women Country Representative Christine Hunter, BBS Director General MA Wazed, Dhaka University's Prof Mahbuba Nasreen, Population Council Country Director Ubaidur Rob, CPD Research Fellow Towfiqul Islam Khan, and The Daily Star Special Supplement Editor Shahnoor Wahid also spoke at the discussion moderated by public health expert Shamim Ahmed.

### Accused fleeing from Rajshahi court surrenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An accused in a drug case, who fled from a court on Sunday, surrendered before a Rajshahi court yesterday. The court sent Mokhlesur Rahman, 22, to jail after rejecting his bail prayer. Mokhlesur had managed to escape while he was being taken to jail. After the incident, four policemen -- assistant town sub-inspectors Momin Azad and Tajul Islam, and constables Abdul Momin and Mansur Ali -- were suspended. The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Mokhlesur, son of Shariful Islam of Jangalpara village in Poba upazila, on Sunday with 100 Yaba pills.