

9TH WAGE BOARD  
Info ministry  
announcement  
not new: BFUJ  
BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday said the statement of the information ministry over formation of the 9th Wage Board was not new.

The journalist community cannot accept it, they said. The ministry yesterday said it would form the 9th Wage Board for journalists as soon as it gets name of the newspaper owners' representative.

"The process of forming the 9th Wage Board will be completed and made effective immediately after getting the name of NOAB (Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh) representative," said a ministry release.

But, in a joint statement, BFUJ and DUJ said, "There is nothing new in the information ministry's statement. So the July 30 programme will remain suspended."

BFUJ fraction President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Secretary General Omar Faroque, DUJ fraction President Shaban Mahmud and General Secretary Sohel Haider Chowdhury signed the statement.



An elderly couple struggle to avoid a fall while walking past an uncovered portion of a sewer on the footpath near the entry point of National Mental Health Institute and National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology in the capital. The road nearby also gets muddy even in the slightest bit of rain, forcing patients and their attendants to walk on the unfinished footpath risking their lives. The place might turn into a trap for those who use the walkway especially during night. The vendors in the area said people got injured there before. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## JU students not to appear before probe body today

JU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Jahangirnagar University (JU) students expressed no confidence in the probe committee formed to investigate the incident of vandalising the vice chancellor's residence on May 27.

Forming the six-member probe body biased, the students said even though they were scheduled to appear before it today, they will not do so as three members of the committee are from the JU syndicate, said a press release sent by the accused students.

The probe was formed on May 27 after the syndicate decided to file a case against the agitating students.

The students said they cannot expect a fair probe as three syndicate members are also in the probe body. Moreover, also a syndicate member was seen at a rally on Monday demanding punishment for the accused students.

Under these circumstances, the investigation cannot be fair, they alleged. The stu-

dents demanded reformation of the probe body without any syndicate members.

Asked, JU Pro-VC Prof Abul Hossain said, "We do not have any plan to change the body as it was formed by the JU syndicate. The syndicate formed it by selecting reliable persons."

Accorded, chief of the probe body Prof Asif Banu Paul said, "I have no comment about the matter as the JU authorities formed it. We are just doing our job."

Moreover, two students of Jahangirnagar University from Saturday went on a hunger strike unto death on the campus, demanding the case's withdrawal. They were joined by six more students afterwards.

The students ended their hunger strike on Monday night after Pro-VC Prof Asif Hossain assured them of reaching a solution over the matter.

In reply, the students issued a seven-day ultimatum to the university authorities for starting a process to withdraw the case.

'Robber' killed in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

An alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Pologrund area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

According to Rab-7 press release yesterday, deceased Abul Kalam alias Lengra Kalam was a listed robber in Feni and stood accused in several cases, including murder and robbery.

A team of Rab-7 raided Pologrund area around 3:00am, acting on a tip-off that some arms dealers were trading firearms there said Mintumon Rahaman, assistant director of Rab-7.

He said when the Rab team reached the spot, the criminals opened fire. The Rab members then returned fire, triggering the 'gunfight'.

The intention of the accused Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel was to kill Nazrul, not to arrest him, he said while placing arguments before the HC during a hearing on the death references and appeals in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder case.

The attorney general (AG) said the court

parties of Nazrul and advocate Chandan Sarker and his driver Ibrahim would not be killed if their [Rab personnel] intention was not to kill Nazrul. They were killed as they witnessed that Rab personnel were taking Nazrul into their custody, Mabbahul Alam argued.

The AG is expected to continue placing arguments on July 23, Assistant AG Bashir Ahmed told The Daily Star. He said the bench of Justice

## N'GANJ 7-MURDER It was pre-planned

AG Mahbub Alam tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday told the High Court that the incident of killing seven people including Narayanganj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker was a pre-planned murder.

The intention of the accused Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel was to kill Nazrul, not to arrest him, he said while placing arguments before the HC during a hearing on the death references and appeals in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder case.

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Bhaban, Prasad Singh and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam will resume hearing today.

The judges began the hearing with Deputy Attorney General Abdul Mannan Mohan reading out from the paper book of the case on May 22.

Defence counsels – Advocate Mumunul Hoque Chowdhury, Advocate SM Shahjahan, Advocate SM Abdul Momin and Advocate Ahsan Ullah – earlier placed arguments defending the accused.

Earlier on January 16, a Narayanganj court found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled Awami League man Nur Hossain guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence in April 2010.

The court handed down death penalty to 26 people, including 16 former Rab members and jailed nine others for various terms.

The bodies of seven people including Nazrul and Chandan, were found floating in the Shitalakshya river after they were abducted on April 27, 2014.

## Don't taint fish market

PM asks exporters, traders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked those involved in fish farming, processing and export not to take any unwise step just for their small gains that may ruin their own business as well as the country's image.

Hasina made the request at the inaugural session of the National Fisheries Week 2017 held at Krishibit Institution in the capital.

A section of people tried to mix adulterated items for making extra profits. When asked the reason of it, she said, they may destroy their businesses and the country's image as well. I request all concerned not to do this," she added.

Earlier, Hasina distributed awards among 13 individuals and organisations for their contributions to fish production in the country.

Of the recipients, four individuals and organisations got gold medals and Tk 50,000 while nine individuals and organisations got silver medals and Tk 30,000.

Later, Hasina released fish fry at Gono Bhaban Lake marking the National Fisheries Week 2017.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Muhammed Sayedul Hoque presided over the programme. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Livestock Ministry Narayan Chandra Chanda, among others, spoke on the occasion.

ownership on vast maritime areas in the Bay of Bengal, which is a storage of huge mineral and fisheries resources.

Hasina said Bangladesh can use marine resources extensively for the country's faster economic growth. "We will have to use our maritime resources; there is a vast sanctuary of fish besides other resources. We have got a tremendous opportunity to use that," she added.

Referring to the ban imposed by the European Union on shrimp import from Bangladesh during the BNP government, Hasina said after returning to power in 1996, the Awami League government allocated Tk 100 crore to ensure the quality and demand of shrimp processing.

"Such efforts have made it possible to reintroduce Bangladesh's shrimp market in different countries, including the European Union," she noted.

Around 1.82 crore people of Bangladesh are now involved in fish cultivation and business. Around 24.41 percent of our agricultural production comes from this sector which contributes to about 3.61 percent in the gross domestic product," she mentioned.

Sixty percent of the country's total demand for animal protein come from the fishery sector, said Hasina, adding that additional fish production might help meet the rest of the protein demand of people.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releases fish fry at Gono Bhaban Lake yesterday marking the National Fisheries Week 2017.

## Legacy

FROM PAGE 3

be set up to change the water. "But it was not done and as a result the water became dirty."

MULTIBLA POND

Around 20 years back, there used to be a pond on 170 Bongshah Road. But the around one-bigha water body was filled up by its owner.

Monir, a resident of the area, said people used to swim and bathe in it on a regular basis. The pond was there since the British period.

In her complaint, Shahnara said Jatrabari police arrested her husband about 11:00am on June 21 as her husband submitted three applications to the home ministry seeking to stop narcotics business in his area,

## Court orders probe into 12 policemen

FROM PAGE 4

Iftekhainul Islam of Demra zone, Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station, Anisur Rahman, the OC (investigation) Tofli Ahmed, sub-inspectors Zakkir Hossain, Omar Faroque, Shabir Parvez, Lasmikant Roy, Md Shahidullah, KM Enayet Hossain and Kabir Hossain (Ukl), ASI Atoor Rahman, constable Saiful and police informants Khokon and Md Sulmon.

In her complaint, Shahnara said Jatrabari police arrested her husband about 11:00am on June 21 as her husband submitted three applications to the home ministry seeking to stop narcotics business in his area,

wanting to keep it intact, but portions of it were getting encroached. So, they had to fill it up in the 80s.

Now, there are tin-shed structures instead of the reservoir.

Abul Kasem, a resident of the area, said, "There was a time when we had three ponds in the area. We have so many fond memories of those. Now, one of them is filled up while the other two [Shikkatuli and Alubazar ponds] are not being maintained properly."

"We need to save them as they are not just water bodies. They are an important part of the neighbourhood as well as we," said the 75-year-old.

In the programme, the commissioner also said the charge sheet in the Holey Artisan attack case will be placed before the court very soon.

He said police questioned Sohel Mahfuz and came to know more about his involvement and responsibilities. Sohel allegedly supplied firearms and explosives for the Holey Artisan Café attack in Gulshan. He is also one of the prime accused in a case filed over the 2014 Burdwan blast in India.

## Action if JnU students found guilty

FROM PAGE 4

Meanwhile, a section of JnU students yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus over the filing of the case. They said the JnU students did not assault any police official but locked in an altercation with the sergeant on that day.

They criticised the police authorities for filing

a prima facie case over a "trivial matter".

Chief Sheet in Dhaka Cafe Attack Soon

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UNO gets bail in case over distorting Bangabandhu portrait

OUR CORRESPONDENT, BARI

Tariq Salman, upazila nibrabi officer of Barguna Sadar, was released on bail Wednesday afternoon in a case filed for allegedly distorting the portrait of Bangabandhu.

The case was lodged against him after an invitation card, with the portrait of Bangabandhu painted by a child on the occasion of Independence Day last year at Agailjhara upazila, was published by him.

Obaidullah Saju, religious affairs secretary of Barisal District Awami League and president of Barisal Lawyers Association, filed the Tk 5 crore defamation case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court in June.

After filling of the case, he was transferred to Barguna Sadar from Agailjhara upazila.

The CMM court asked the UNO to appear before it by July 27. He surrendered to the court and applied for bail yesterday but his prayer was initially rejected because he did not have necessary documents, said Sakhatwar Hossain, bench officer of the CMM court.

However, two hours later he was granted bail when he produced the papers, he added. During the period, the officer was in the custody of the court on May 22.

After giving him bail, the court fixed July 23 for hearing the case.

The case triggered a social media outcry with many praising the UNO's move of placing Bangabandhu's portrait on a card by a child on the invitation card.

On different occasions, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina used children's paintings on her formal greeting cards in the past. Last year, she used the artwork of children with autism.



Photo: Md. Golam Ali