

Journalists stage hunger strike for new wage board

BSS, Dhaka

Journalists yesterday staged a day-long hunger strike as part of their protests against the delay in constituting the proposed 9th Wage Board for increasing the pay package.

A large number of journalists representing mainstream media took part in the strike in latia Press Club auditorium where leaders of journalist associations and unions accepted the information ministry of delaying the process.

Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani, former president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Abul Kalam Azad, managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), and Kazi Rafique, former president of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), made them break the fast by offering fruit juices.

"The 8th wage board was declared on September 22, 2013. . . the journalists became victims of discrimination when the national

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BRAC UNIVERSITY Ghazi Shamsur Rahman Scholarship Fund created

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University and its English and humanities department signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on establishing Ghazi Shamsur Rahman Scholarship Fund in the latter's seminar room in the capital yesterday.

Prof Samina Sultana, director of History Academy and a visiting professor at the department, and Shah Narayan Karmy, treasurer and acting registrar, signed the documents on behalf of the two sides, said a release.

Renowned jurist Ghazi Shamsur Rahman was the father-in-law of Prof Samina and father of

Nishat Emarituz Ainun Professor of the university's

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This incomplete structure of the museum in memory of Asad, a martyr of the 1969 mass uprising, outside the DMCH emergency gate has turned into a rickshaw garage. Construction of the two-storey building started in 2009, and was supposed to be completed in June of 2013. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

REMARK ON PM

Imran faces arrest for skipping court hearing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against the leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for skipping a court hearing on a defamation case filed for making "derogatory remarks" about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sheikh Chhaidul Islam passed the order as their lawyers did not take any step for their non-appearance before the court yesterday.

Yesterday was the first scheduled date in the court where they were supposed to secure bail. But they did not comply with the order. Later their bail was cancelled and the warrant was issued.

The court set October 26 to submit report on execution of the arrest warrant.

BCL leader Golam Rabbani filed the case

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Women major driver of transformation

PM tells UN roundtable on their economic empowerment

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for recognising women's unaccounted works, building more support facilities for female workers and eliminating social stereotypes against them.

She was speaking at a roundtable of UN Secretary General's "High-Level Panel (HLP) on Women's Economic Empowerment for Leaving No One Behind" at the UN Headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

Hasina said women are the most important drivers of transformation. "Through empowerment of women, the world can most effectively succeed in the realisation of sustainable development for all."

"We believe, women should be supported with education, proper training, right tools and access to equal opportunities," she said.

In the political spectrum, she said, Bangladesh has ensured the representation of women at all levels.

Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh has given priority to women's economic engagement to attain SDG on women empowerment in the seventh Five Year Plan. "Twenty-seven percent of our budget is allocated for women's social and economic empowerment activities."

She said 10 percent of posts for women are reserved in judicial, administrative, civil service, armed forces and law enforcing agencies while 60 posts of primary school teachers are set aside for them.

Hasina also said the government has introduced six months' paid maternity leave for working women as well, while the central bank is providing collateral-free loan up

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ROHINGYA CRISIS

Army to help distribute relief

Says Quader

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the army would be deployed at Rohingya camps for proper distribution of relief materials and rehabilitation of the refugees who have fled to Bangladesh amid persecution in Myanmar.

"The government has decided to deploy the army at Rohingya camps...they'll help the refugees build makeshift shelters and distribute aid among them," he told a press conference at a hotel in Cox's Bazar.

Food aid reaching all

Govt official tells Ctg meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

No Rohingyas, who took refuge in Bangladesh fleeing Myanmar military crackdown, have been suffering from any shortage of food and water, said additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner of disaster management and relief ministry at a meeting in Chittagong yesterday.

"Apart from that, vaccination programme for Rohingyas children has already commenced," said Mohammed Shamsud Douza, also a deputy secretary. He however, said they were facing problems in reaching out to remote areas of Teknaf for distributing relief due to a poor road communication.

Along with the government, international organisations are also distributing relief among the Rohingyas, he informed the meeting of a 14-member committee at the office of Chittagong divisional commissioner in the port city with Divisional Commissioner Md Abdul Mannan in the chair. To identify Myanmar citizens who took refuge in Bangladesh, the committee was formed on January 26 this year making the divisional

commissioner and additional divisional commissioner (development) president and member secretary respectively. Though the committee met on a few occasions beforehand, this is its first meeting after the recent Rohingya influx to Bangladesh following Myanmar military crackdown starting on August 25.

At yesterday's meeting, Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan said a letter was sent to six deputy commissioners (DCs) on September 16, asking them to ensure cordial atmosphere while distributing relief materials.

Moreover, on Tuesday, a letter was also sent to the Ministry of Public Administration seeking 10 officials with the status of deputy secretary to assist and monitor the relief distribution among the Rohingyas, he told the meeting.

At the meeting, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Iqbal Bahar proposed forming a refugee camp management committee. He said, "Administration can put fence around the 2,000 acres of land which has

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With Durga Puja around the corner, the port city markets are abuzz with shoppers. The photo was taken in Teri Bazar area on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Int'l community needs to make united effort

Eminent citizens in II-point recommendation urge countries to bring an end to Rohingya persecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens of the country yesterday called upon the international community to make a concerted effort immediately to bring an end to the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar, meet their basic human needs and repatriate them through diplomacy.

Following this year's fresh exodus, the number of Rohingyas refugees - including ones that started fleeing into Bangladesh since 1978 - now stands at over eight lakhs, which is creating an enormous economic, political, social and environmental pressure on the country.

And in order to make the international community aware of such a volatile situation the country now faces, Bangladesh has to initiate strong diplomatic efforts, they said. The noted citizens voiced their concern at a press conference organised by civil society platform Nagorik Samaj in the capital's

Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Welcoming the efforts being taken to tackle the present situation, they looked forward to a heightened cooperation in repatriating the refugees as advised by the report of the Kofi Annan Commission.

To overcome the crisis, the platform placed an 11-point recommendation before Bangladesh and other countries.

According to the United Nations, around 4.15 million Rohingyas have so far taken refuge in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar to flee the latest military persecution in Rakhine State of Myanmar.

The speakers said it is now imperative that Bangladesh ratify the UN Refugee Convention, considering the situation facing the country at present.

They demanded severe punishment to the perpetrators, especially the Myanmar army and police personnel, after trying them at international courts for committing

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AL-led alliance bins Suu Kyi's speech

Nasim warns of stern action if anyone tries to destroy communal peace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday rejected Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi's first address to the nation after military crackdown in Rakhine State since August 25 that forced thousands of Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh.

In a speech on Tuesday, Suu Kyi condemned rights abuses but did not blame the army or address the allegations of ethnic cleansing.

"Aung San Suu Kyi had not pronounced a word about Rohingyas in her address. Rather she termed the Rohingyas Bangladeshis. It is not acceptable at any cost, therefore, we are rejecting

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