

Revise 9th wage board: journo leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday demanded publishing of a revised wage board, as the newly-announced ninth wage board curtailed some benefits they were enjoying for decades.

The leaders, a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club announced to continue their movement until the government revises the ninth wage board.

In the new wage board, several benefits -- which journalists were enjoying for the last four decades, were cut down, said BFUJ president Ruhul Amin Gazi. He said gratuity has been reduced to one from two. Also, it introduced income tax payment by journalists, which was earlier paid by owners.

He said this wage board has been prepared to protect interests of owners, and not journalists.

Among others, M Abdullah, secretary general of BFUJ; Kader Gani Chowdhury, president of DUJ; Md Shahidul Islam, its general secretary; and Elias Khan of Jatiya Press Club spoke in the rally.

Duja gives BCL

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assured to take organisational steps against them, they have not yet taken any measures. Moreover, they tried to hide what really happened by giving a haphazard statement, posing a threat to the freedom of the press," reads the statement.

"If they [BCL] do not take action within the given time-frame, we will go for tougher protest to ensure a [safe] environment for journalists on campus," it added.

Meanwhile, students of DU's mass communication and journalism department yesterday formed a human chain in front of university central library, demanding punishment of the BCL men who carried out the attack.

The students demanded that the authorities suspend the BCL men from the university.

JMB man among four jailed in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday sentenced a JMB man to life imprisonment and three others to different jail terms in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The lifer -- Abu Sayeed from Bagra Colony area in Sherpur of Bogura -- was also fined Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to spend one more year in jail, court sources said.

Shawkat Ali Chowdhuri, district and sessions judge, passed the order in the afternoon, said Tanvir Ahmed, court inspector.

Three other convicts are Jewel Miah from Brammanbari in Madhupur upazila, Moslem Uddin from Shakharia in Gopalpur upazila, and Aatur Rahman Khan from Ballavbari in Kalihati, Tangail.

Jewel and Moslem were sentenced to four and half years' imprisonment and the others two years'. They were also fined Tk 2,000 each in default they will serve three more months.

They were arrested at a house in Ballavbari on August 24, 2016 with bomb making materials.

Admirable but underappreciated

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proctor seeking justice.

Contacted, JU Proctor (acting) ASM Firoz-Ul-Hasan said, "We got a written complaint regarding the incident. A disciplinary board will be called soon to investigate."

When asked about remuneration, Rokhsana and Khalil said they are hardly valued by university authorities. They normally get Tk 300 for working the whole day. Volunteers in other public universities, however, get Tk 500, and they have to work for only an hour.

It should be raised to at least Tk 1,000 per day, they added. "Since the last couple of years, we have urged authorities to increase this amount, but they did not pay heed to our demands," said Junaid.

Acknowledging contribution of volunteers, Firoz-Ul-Hasan said, "When I was the teacher-in-charge of BNCC, I requested university authorities to increase their remuneration from Tk 200 to Tk 300. I will again request for an increase this year."

JU Assistant Professor Md Kamruzzaman, also teacher-in-charge of JU Rover Scout, said, "Their [cadets' and rover mates'] assistance and cordiality impressed us. It's impossible to continue the admission tests if they don't help us."

Echoing the same, JU Assistant Professor Taslin Jahan Mou, also teacher-in-charge of JU BNCC, said, "The value of their work cannot be measured. The university authorities try their best to take care of them. Every day, we take them for an outing after tests, and they also get free lunch. We repeatedly asked university authorities to increase their remuneration."

When asked about the reception from examinees and guardians, Rokhsana said volunteers feel appreciated when guardians compliment them for helping their children. Admission seekers also eagerly take pictures with the volunteers, and that makes it all worth it.

Still no permission

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appealed to the administration and police for three alternative spots -- Mymensingh Circuit House, Railway Krishnachura Chatter, and Town Hall premises in the city on September 9, but to no avail.

We met with the administration and police multiple times but the venue is yet to be confirmed, he said yesterday.

"We are hopeful about the permission but if we receive it at the eleventh hour, we will face a tough situation as we have to set up a stage and make other arrangements at the venue," said AKM Mahbulul Alam, organising secretary of BNP Mymensingh city unit.

Alongside the demand for Khaleda's release, at the rally, the party will reiterate its demand for restoration of democracy in the country, said the party leaders.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, some standing committee members, presidents and secretaries of the party's different wings will be present at the rally, party sources said.

Prof Md Shafiqul Islam, acting president of BNP Mymensingh district (south) unit will be in the chair.

Among others, BNP's divisional assistant organising secretary Wares Ali Mamun, Mymensingh BNP (south) secretary Abu Wahab Akanda, its joint-secretary Kazi Rana, organising secretary Alamgir Mahmud Alam and office secretary MA Hannan Khan were present at the press conference.

Contacted, Md Mizanur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh said the matter of granting permission is under process.

BNP not AL's opponent

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he said, "The corruption surfacing in last seven days are nothing but a tiny drop of water in a vast ocean."

"Without the government's help, such casinos and corruption cannot run for long. We want to know the names of those behind these", he said.

Moudud Ahmed, another standing committee member of BNP, said, "If Khaleda Zia is jailed for five years for only a falsified blame of Tk 2 crore, how long should Jubo League leaders be jailed for around Tk 200 crore of FDR?"

Presided by Sylhet district BNP president Abul Kahar Chowdhury Shamim, others who spoke at the rally were BNP chairperson's adviser Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar, vice chairman AZM Zahid, Shahjahan Omar and other central and local leaders.

Construction

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pool of blood, he added.

Maruf Sheikh, a friend and business partner of Mohidul, told The Daily Star that all three who were in the showroom during the attack were victim's friends.

But he was reluctant to reveal their identity. "Mohidul was often seen with the three," he added.

A salesman at the showroom said they were busy with clients and did not see the attack taking place.

Locals claim that Mohidul's cousin, SM Hafizur Rahman, is an influential leader of Khulna Jubo league who dominates Sonadanga and Gallamary area, and both were involved in land-grabbing and extortion.

Sheikh Moniruzzaman Mithu, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), told The Daily Star that Mohidul was stabbed in the abdomen and neck with a sharp knife.

"The body was sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for autopsy," said Moniruzzaman Mithu.

Road accidents kill four, injure 20

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and 20 injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Dhaka, Zahangir Alam, 25, a factory worker, was killed on the spot when a bus of Thikana Paribahan ran him over. At least 20 passengers of the same bus were injured when it overturned after running over Zahangir in Kalampur area of Dhamrai upazila around 6am, said police.

On information, fire service and police rushed to the spot and took the injured to different local hospitals.

Police seized the bus and Zahangir's body was handed over to his family as they did not want to file any complaint, they added.

Moksedul Islam, an injured passenger who is undergoing treatment, said

passengers requested the driver to drive carefully many times but he did not listen.

In Jashore, two people, including a child, were killed when a bus hit the motorbike they were on in Mollickpur area of Jhikargacha upazila around 8:30am.

The deceased are Efat Ara Tayeba, 9, a third-grader and daughter of Ismail Hossain, and Tariqul Islam, 32, Tayeba's neighbour who was taking her back home from school.

Police and locals said the accident took place as the bus driver lost control of the vehicle.

Police seized the bus but its driver and helper fled. A case was filed.

In Bogura, Abdur Rahim, 45, a day labourer, was killed on the spot when a speeding truck hit him in Muroil Bus Stand area of Khablu upazila around 6am, said police.

Police seized the truck and a case was filed in this connection.

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Nothing can

FROM PAGE 3

tourist zones, the minister said casino involves gambling which is illegal in the country.

"I don't think anything illegal will be legalised," Kamal said.

Praising the ongoing drives, Kamal said prime minister has taken a decision and it is very clear. "I don't think she will backtrack... No matter how powerful, criminals will be punished within the legal framework."

Terming the ongoing crackdown a "cleansing operation", the finance minister said, "We should all support it."

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