

A new law is not the answer

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

In Bangladesh it is easy to pass a law and then forget about its implementation and making any real effort to correct the system.

This is exactly how the government now is trying to pacify the students who have for the last five days ruled the streets in protest against a rotten transport system, checking for unlicensed drivers and vehicles.

The road transport and bridges minister's announcement that a new transport law will be passed in the next parliament session to fix the crisis is not only a mockery of the situation prevailing in our

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Holding placards, students demonstrate in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday, the fifth consecutive day of wide-spread protests for safer roads.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Students chased, beaten up in Mirpur, Ctg

STAR REPORT

Police and alleged ruling party men attacked student protesters in the capital and elsewhere, injuring a number of them yesterday.

In the capital's Mirpur, as students were stopping vehicles to check licence and registration in the afternoon, some policemen came blowing whistles and asked them to clear the road in front of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) office. A group of young men, many of whom had their faces covered or wore helmets, showed up at the scene and attacked the students with wooden logs and sticks in front of SOS Hermann Gmeiner College. They, along with police, then chased the students away from the road. The protest-



ers retaliated with bricksbats and at one point there was a scuffle between several protesters and police.

A chase and counter-chase took place. Finally, the attackers retreated as the agitators continued hurling brick chips at them, witnesses said.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY (SEE PAGE 2)

- 1 Protesters stop another minister's car
- 2 Police SUV runs without proper documents!
- 3 Mother offers snacks to students on streets
- 4 2 students hurt as a police vehicle hits them

Protesters resolute

Defying rain, closure of educational institutions they return to streets in thousands demanding road safety; control traffic at intersections to bring discipline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In efforts to keep the students off the streets, the government kept all educational institutions across the country shut yesterday.

But the students responded by pour-

ing onto the roads in greater numbers in a show of defiance and determination, turning yesterday's demonstration the largest one yet. Many guardians and cultural activists also took part in the agitation in solidarity.

Since the protest began on Sunday,

three ministers – Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Law Minister Anisul Huq and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader – tried to calm the protesters, assuring them of addressing the

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Today is the 5th Death Anniversary of Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Jowher (Shahinshah), Yasser, Nasser, Zain, Fatema, Zarah & Zameer

3 ministers slam BNP over protest

Rab DG asks parents, teachers to take children back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three ministers yesterday blasted the BNP over the ongoing student protest across the country.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan made the criticism at different programmes.

Talking to journalists at the Rab Headquarters, Rab DG Benazir Ahmed said the students might not be safe on the streets as criminals could do harm to anyone.

He called upon the guardians, teachers and managing committees of schools and colleges to take back the students from the streets to ensure their safety.

Students in the capital and elsewhere in the country staged protests for the

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