



"No mask, no service" seems to be a foreign concept at this kitchen market under Babubazar Bridge. With Covid cases rising every day, following health guidelines is paramount when going into such big crowds. But for some reason, people aren't that worried about the pandemic by the looks of it. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Separate division key demand

Officials prepare list of demands ahead of Police Week

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Like every year, police officials are likely to come up with a list of demands for the upcoming Police Week, scheduled to be held from January 23 to 27.

Due to Covid-19, many programmes have already been curtailed from the schedule this year, which means the officials will not get the chance to sit or place any demands before the prime minister.

According to Police Headquarters

(PHQ), the police welfare parade and meeting between high officials and the PM will not be held.

However, several sources of PHQ confirmed that police officials plan to place their demands before the PM through write-ups and before the home minister through a meeting slated for January 25. The officials are also scheduled to meet other ministers on January 27.

This year, their primary demand will be the formation of a separate police division

in the home ministry.

As per the demand, the inspector general of police (IGP) will play the role of senior secretary of the division, said PHQ sources.

They said police will use the example of Internal Resource Division (IRD) in the finance ministry, where the National Board of Revenue (NBR) chair sits as senior secretary.

"If the NBR chair can play two roles at a time, then why can't the IGP?" a PHQ high

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DEMANDS

- Formation of medical core
- A post in foreign mission
- Special training institute
- Increase manpower for APBN

RECOGNITION

115 officials to get award for outstanding work in 2021



Whereas overloaded vehicles themselves are banned by regulation, five people sitting atop goods flowing out of the edges of a vehicle is an even bigger violation. This is exactly what this pick-up truck did, as two of the passengers' legs stick out of the vehicle's back. This photo was taken yesterday from Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Tongi area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

JU students blast Sust VC

STAR REPORT

More than 500 former and present female students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday demanded resignation of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Vice-Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed over his "misogynist" remarks involving JU's female students.

In a joint statement, the students also demanded that Prof Farid apologise in public for his derogatory remarks and urged JU authorities to ban him from taking part in JU academic activities in the future. Referring to a recently leaked phone call record, the JU students said Prof Farid made "disrespectful and insulting" remarks about women on top of the misogynist comments regarding JU female students.

"Such misogynist remarks of a university vice-chancellor are undoubtedly reprehensible and disgusting," they said in the statement, adding that Prof Farid's remarks are not only disrespectful to JU female students but to every woman.

The JU students also extended their support and solidarity to the ongoing movement of Sust students, who have been demanding Prof Farid's resignation over various allegations.

Meanwhile, teachers and students of Chittagong University demonstrated in demand of the Sust VC's resignation in the port city's Cheragi Pahar Intersection around 4:00pm yesterday.

Maidul Islam, a protestor and teacher of CU, said the VC should resign immediately, adding, "Otherwise we will continue the movement."

Greens urge govt to ramp up anti-polythene steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded the government take effective steps in stopping the use of polythene and plastic-made products by properly implementing relevant laws to save the environment.

They also demanded the government immediately take legal action to stop production of polythene-made shopping bags in factories across the country.

Besides, they urged the government to strengthen its awareness campaign to increase the use of environment-friendly shopping bags, such as those made out of paper, jute or cloth as alternative to polythene.

The call was made during an awareness-building campaign in Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh, Kamrangirchar and Sadarghat areas.

The event was jointly organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Bachao Andolon and Green Voice.

ROAD SAFETY

Students take to streets again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After nearly one and a half months, students took to the streets again, demanding safe roads.

The protest took place hours after four people -- including three members of a family -- were killed, after a bus hit an auto rickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Matuail area.

At around 11:00am, students of various schools, colleges and universities staged a protest at the capital's Rampura Bridge area, as their 11-point demand for safe roads, was not implemented yet.

Khilgaon Model College student Shohagi Samia, who led the protest, said, "We have not seen any initiative from the government even after we gave it more than 20 days. Journalists are also dying on the roads. The victims of road crashes are students and children, the future generation of this country. The workers are also dying."

Samia said that considering the shutdown of schools and colleges due to the pandemic, they would soon announce protest programmes for the coming days.

Mohammad Ali Tusher, a student of Daffodil International University, said, "Deaths on roads continue one after another. Everything is out of control. The government is not being able to bring order on the roads. So, we decided to take to the streets again."

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'Work together to save tigers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 13 tiger range countries in the world should work together to save tigers, said Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin yesterday.

He said the Bangladesh government is working with determination to conserve tigers by achieving zero poaching target, with active participation of local communities.

The minister was virtually addressing the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation. He said the government is implementing the National Tiger Recovery

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