



Rain brings fresh dengue concerns

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'French far-right win a lesson for progressives'

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More women in construction sector should be our next goal

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Will BCB's WC' discussions' make any difference?

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Pension protest brings public univs to halt

Faculty, staff strike over new pension scheme; students hold quota demo

STAR REPORT

Teachers went on an indefinite strike over pension benefits yesterday, paralysing public universities across the country.

Also, students at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities took to the streets, demanding quotas for government jobs be abolished.

The teachers' strike began yesterday with the academics demanding abolition of the new Prottoy Universal Pension Scheme.

No classes, exams, or admission-related activities were done, most classrooms and libraries were locked, and barely any university buses left the sheds at the 35 universities where teachers and

and allows encashment of earned leave – provisions that are unclear or missing in the new scheme.

A finance ministry official said pension schemes like these are common across the world, adding that single-handedly paying the pension was a burden for the government.

After the government announced the scheme in May, teachers associations termed it “discriminatory” and called for its abolition.

The teachers have also been demanding a new pay scale and the inclusion of professors in the “super” grade.

There are over 16,000 teachers and 34,382 staff at 50 public universities that



RAINY DAY GAMES! ... Children dabble in a game of football through the puddles that formed in a school playground after rain in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. The photo was taken at Thukra Ramkrishnapur Pashchimpara Government High School yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'PROTTOY' PENSION SCHEME

- Existing employees will not be affected
- Monthly pension, not one-time payment
- Will deduct employees' 10pc basic salary
- The scheme is tax-free

staffers were on strike.

As yesterday was also the first day of a three-day strike by the Inter-University Officers' Federation over pensions, no administrative work was done.

“We will not return to the classrooms until the demands are met,” Prof Zeenat Huda, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, told a rally on campus.

The protests follow a government decision to implement Prottoy pension scheme for recruits joining on or after July 1 the autonomous, self-governing, nationalised, statutory, or such organisations and their subordinate institutions.

Under the scheme, 10 percent of the monthly basic salary of an employee, up to Tk 5,000, will be deducted and given to their pension fund. The organisation will contribute the same amount to the fund, and interest will be added to it. There will be no one-time gratuity for the retiring employee.

At present, no money is deducted from the salary.

The current system includes a 5 percent annual increment in pension

have nearly 300,000 lakh students.

At Dhaka University, the teacher's association shunned the institution's 103rd founding anniversary celebrations yesterday.

DU teacher Nizamul Hoque, secretary general of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association, said the pension scheme robbed them of their sense of jubilation.

Addressing a rally, Prof Chandra Nath Podder said the new scheme was imposed without consulting the teachers.

The situation was similar at BUET, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Jahangirnagar and other universities.

At Rajshahi University, teachers demonstrated in front of the Senate Bhaban and the staff association near the administrative building.

At a rally on an otherwise empty Jagannath University campus, Prof Shaikh Masrick Hasan said there should be no disparity between current and future teachers.

Meanwhile, some DU students marched on campus demonstrating against the reinstatement of quota in

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SCHOOL EXAM MARKS 65pc for written part, 35pc for practical

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The National Curriculum Coordination Committee (NCCC) finalised the evaluation process in summative assessment under the new curriculum at a meeting yesterday.

Summative assessments are used to evaluate a student's learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of an academic year.

Sixty-five percent of the evaluation will now be based on the written part and 35 percent on practical activities.

The NCCC, a high-level committee responsible for the curriculum's final approval, made the decision at the meeting with officials from the secondary, madrasa, and technical education boards. Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury was in the chair.

Confirming the development, Prof Md Moshuazzaman, acting chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), said, “The evaluation method has been finalised with some minor changes to our initial proposals.”

PHASE-WISE IMPLEMENTATION

The phase-wise implementation of the new curriculum started on January 1, 2023. Currently, it is followed in classes one, two, three, six, seven, eight, and nine. It will be adopted in classes four,

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GOVT OFFICIALS HC directive sought for disclosure of assets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In light of media reports about certain government officials amassing property, a Supreme Court lawyer filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday, requesting that the government take steps to disclose the movable and immovable properties owned by public servants serving in civil capacities, as well as their family members.

Advocate Subir Nandi Das submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC, also appealing to the court to direct the authorities concerned with the government to adopt guidelines or policies or to enact proper legislation to prevent the accumulation of illegal wealth (movable or immovable) through corruption by the public servants serving in civil capacities and their family members.

RAJBARI-TUNGIPARA A lone train operating on Tk 2,110cr line!

No feasibility study done for the project; 4 stations non-operational



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway had taken up a project in 2010 to bring Tungipara of Gopalganj under the railway network without carrying out any feasibility study.

The project was completed in 2018, more than five years behind schedule, for Tk 2,110 crore. The cost was almost double the initial estimates. But the BR now operates only one passenger train on Gopalganj-Rajbari-Rajshahi route.

The railway authorities also could not make four

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BUSINESS

Remittance hit about \$24b in FY24

After hovering around the \$21-billion mark for the previous two fiscal years, total remittances sent home by Bangladesh's migrant workers reached nearly \$24 billion in the just concluded fiscal year of 2023-24, providing some breathing space amid the forex crunch.

As per the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank, remittance inflow stood at \$23.91 billion in FY24, rising by 10.66 percent compared to the year prior.

STORY ON B1



The Dhalai river has burst its banks after heavy rains, inundating villages in Telikhal union of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. In 12 hours from 6:00am yesterday, at least 156 millimeters of rainfall was recorded in the district, and vast swathes of land lining different rivers went under water.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sylhet, Sunamganj brace for another spell of flood

STAR REPORT

People of Sylhet and Sunamganj are facing flood for the third time this year due to heavy rainfall in the region and upstream India.

The water of the Surma, Jadukata, Kushiara and Sari rivers are flowing above danger level at different points at the time of filing the report.

Around a hundred villages in the low-lying areas of Sylhet's Kanaighat, Zakiganj and Jaintiapur upazila; and Sunamganj's Tahirpur, Chhatak, Dowarabazar and Sadar upazila are submerged.

In the next 48 hours, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in the North, North-eastern and adjoining upstream parts of the country, said a bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday.

“As a result, the water level of the rivers in North and Northeastern regions may rise rapidly in a particular time,” said the bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday.

Rain and thundershowers are expected over the next five days, said another bulletin from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday.

Earlier on Sunday, the Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) warned of a short-term flood in Sylhet.

The Surma River was flowing 102 centimetres above the danger level in Kanaighat Upazila at 6:00 pm yesterday, while the Kushiara River was flowing 28cm above at Zakiganj's Amolshid and 88 cm above the danger level at Fenchuganj upazila at the same time, according to the WDB in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, the Sari River in Sylhet's Jaintiapur's

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