

DEMAND FOR STIPEND HIKE
Postgrad doctors
observe nationwide
work stoppage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding that their monthly stipend be raised to Tk 50,000 from Tk 25,000, around 3,000 postgraduate private trainee doctors yesterday observed a seven-hour work abstention nationwide.

In Shahbagh, protesters gathered at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University around 10:00am under the banner of “Doctors’ Movement for Justice Society (DMJS).”

They later blockaded the Shahbagh intersection, halting traffic and causing commuters to suffer.

Doctors also protested in various healthcare institutions, including at Rangpur Medical College, continuing till 5:15pm.

Five hours after the protest, at 3:00pm, demonstrators announced that senior officials from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Directorate General of Health Services had assured them of addressing their demands.

However, they stated they would continue their movement until a written notification is issued.

Dr Jabir Hossain, president of DMJS, said, “During

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Two children lean out of the window of a moving bus as another bus inches dangerously close. In Dhaka, reckless bus driving is a major cause of accidents, and the lack of awareness or supervision by guardians puts these children at even greater risk. The photo was taken near Science Lab on Mirpur Road yesterday.

BUET STUDENT’S DEATH
Three on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday placed the three accused on two-day remands each in connection with the death of Buet student Mohtassim Masud in a road crash in Purbachal upazila of Narayanganj.

The accused are Mubin Al Mamun, 20, Mirajul Karim, 22, and Asif Chowdhury, 19.

Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Kazi Nur Mohsin passed the order in response to a five-day remand prayer for each.

Mohtassim, 22, was killed and two of his classmates were injured when a car hit them and their stationary motorcycle early Friday at a police check post on Purbachal Expressway, better known as 300 feet road.

Mohtassim was a 2nd-year student of computer science. He lived with his parents in the capital’s Green Road area.

Police said he died at the scene near Neela Market in Rupganj, Narayanganj.

Mehedi Hasan Khan, 22, and Amit Saha, 22, also students of computer science at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), were admitted to hospitals with injuries.

Meanwhile, Mehedi Hasan, assistant sub-inspector of Rupganj Police Station, filed another case against the three accused under the Narcotics Control Act.

Partisanship, merit
devaluation cripple univs

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Universities in Bangladesh are on the brink of paralysis due to partisan faculty politics, irregularities in teacher recruitment, and power struggles disguised as student politics, said Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday.

“Due to partisanship and criminalisation, there is no conducive environment for higher education in public universities. We are actively working to address these challenges,” he said.

“That is why we are appointing qualified individuals to key positions, including vice-chancellors. Additionally, efforts are underway to bring back talented

Higher education suffers from inadequate infrastructure and a lack of conducive research environments. The country’s partisan and violent politics have harmed institutions, particularly higher education ones.

DU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan

teachers and researchers who have left the country,” said the adviser at the “Bangladesh Higher Education Conference 2024”, held at a hotel in the capital.

The conference was organised by Daily Bonik Barta with the theme “Global Standards in Higher Education: What Bangladesh Needs to Do”.

Attending as chief guest, Wahiduddin Mahmud highlighted the disparity in quality between public and private universities.

“One major concern is that many students opt to study abroad for higher education if they can afford it. Even after completing higher education locally, graduates remain unemployed, and this number is growing alarmingly,” he said.

To align higher education with global standards, collaborations with internationally renowned

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HASSAN ARIFF’S DEATH
One-day state
mourning today
Advisers’ council adopts
condolence motion

UNB, Dhaka

In honour of the memory of the late Civil Aviation and Tourism Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, the government has declared a one-day state mourning, which will be observed today.



Adviser Hassan Ariff passed away at a hospital in the capital on Friday. He was 85.

On the day of mourning, the national flag will be hoisted at half-mast at all government, semi-government, and autonomous institutions, educational institutions, all government and private buildings, and Bangladesh missions abroad, a Cabinet Division notification said yesterday.

Additionally, special prayers will be held in all

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IJTEMA GROUND MURDER
Leader of Saad
faction remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday placed Muaz bin Nur, a leader of the Tabligh Jamaat faction loyal to Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, on a three-day remand, in connection with a case filed over the killing of three devotees at the Biswa Ijtema ground in Tongi.

The court of chief metropolitan magistrate issued the order, said Habibullah Raihan, media coordinator of Shuraye Nezam (Zubair faction).

Tongi West Police Station Officer-in-Charge Iskandar Habibur Rahman also confirmed it.

Police arrested Muaz at Uttara in Dhaka in the early hours of Friday.

Muaz, 40, known as a spokesperson for the Saad faction, was accused in the murder case filed by SM Alam Hossain, a follower of rival Tabligh leader Maulana Zubair Ahmed.

Alam of Kishoreganj filed the case on Thursday, naming 29 Saad supporters and hundreds of unidentified others.

A clash, which broke out early Wednesday over control of the Ijtema Maidan, left four dead and 50 injured. Both factions later blamed each other during separate press conferences in Dhaka.



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