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Polytechnic students block Shahbagh intersection

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Students of different diploma polytechnic institutions block Shahbagh crossing in Dhaka to press their four-point demand, including steps to begin online classes to reduce session jam and to waive tuition fees during the COVID-19 situation. — New Age photo

Students of polytechnic institutes on Sunday held a demonstration blocking the capital's Shahbagh intersection for their four-point charter of demands.

Several hundred students of different polytechnic institutes from across the country took part in the demonstration under the banner of 'General Students of Polytechnic' around 11:00am chanting various slogans.

As a result, traffic halted there for about two hours.

Police charged batons to disperse the protesters at around 1:00pm as they declined to leave the busy crossing. At least five polytechnic students were detained from the spot.

The detained students Himel Uddin, 20, Mehedi Hasan Rimon, 20, Nahid Alam, 21, Md Sohail, 20, and Jannatun Ferdous, 20, were not released till filing of the report at 9:00pm.

Shahbagh Police Station officer-in-charge Mamun-ur-Rashid confirmed that five students were detained.

‘They obstructed police from performing their duties and behaved in an arrogant manner. A case is being filed against them,’ the OC said.

The demands of the students include reduction of one-year session jam at polytechnic institutes, holding examinations of the first, third, fifth and seventh parts, withdrawal of all additional fees and waiver of 50 per cent of the semester fees at all private polytechnic institutes, and increasing seats for diploma students in technical universities within 2021.



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