

## Doctors to abstain from private practice today

**Staff Correspondent**

DOCTORS would abstain from private practice across the country for 24 hours from this morning protesting at attacks on doctors and health service establishments and demanding safe workplaces for doctors.

Bangladesh Medical Association in a release on Saturday called on the doctors to observe the work abstention between 6:00am today and 6:00am on Monday as part of its prescheduled programme.

Bangladesh Medical Association office secretary Sheikh Shahid Ullah told New Age on Saturday that the programme would be observed at all private hospitals, clinics and chambers of physicians across the country.

He, however, said that emergency medical services and indoor services for the patients admitted earlier would remain outside the

purview of the programme.

He said that 73 doctors were attacked by patients or their relatives in the past five years across the country on allegation of medical negligence.

Earlier on May 23, doctors abstained from private practice across the country, protesting against attack on doctors at Central Hospital in Dhaka following death of a Dhaka University student on allegation of wrong treatment on May 18.

A recent draft bill on health service said that any negligence in providing treatment would constitute a criminal offence to be investigated and tried under the Code of Criminal Procedure, but did not elaborate what would constitute negligence.

It, however, said that actions taken by doctors, other healthcare providers, hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres in good faith would not constitute offence.