



## The Bangladesh Observer

### Student Nurses Strike

This is the second time within a month that the nurses have gone on strike. Earlier this month striking nurses had called off their strike after they had a dialogue with the Government regarding some of their demands. One of their demands is that as soon as a student nurse finishes her training after a four-year course she would be absorbed in a hospital. The government had promised to absorb them on completion of their four-year course. But recently the government advertised for the recruitment of nurses. In protest to this decision student nurses of the eight medical colleges of the country have gone on indefinite strike.

Nursing is an essential service. Any disruption in it causes untold suffering to the public. The plight of the patients in the hospitals is one that must cause great concern. Both the authorities and the nurses must think in terms of the suffering public. More co-operation is needed by both the parties.

Nursing is a humanitarian service. Nurses must think of the suffering public before they resort to strikes. Also the authorities concerned have to be more realistic and try to mitigate and give a sympathetic hearing to the problems of the nurses.

The authorities must think on a long term basis whenever making any decisions.

After the students nurses went on strike for an indefinite period for a second time there is a new press note regarding the recruitment of nurses. According to the latest government directive the decision to recruit nurses through advertisement has been suspended temporarily. This kind of indecision on the part of the authorities creates deadlocks and unrest.

Considering the suffering of the patients in the hospitals as well as the need for running them efficiently the deadlock cannot be allowed to continue. In fairness to the nurses a decision is more than due, that will meet the legitimate demands of the nurses. For a settlement fresh talks between the parties are essential.