

# Polytechnic students continue protests



Photo: Anisur Rahman/Star

Students of polytechnic institutes demonstrated in various parts of the country yesterday to press home their six-point demand.

Draped in white shrouds, the demonstrators carried banners and placards while chanting slogans, calling for urgent government intervention.



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The students warned that if their demands are not met promptly, they will intensify their movement in the coming days.

In Dhaka, several hundred students under the banner of "Technical Student Movement" began their protest from Dhaka Polytechnic Institute around 2:15pm. The procession marched through different roads and concluded with a rally in front of the institute.

At the rally, Mashfiq Islam, a central representative of the platform, said, "It is a matter of our existence. We will remain united to meet our demands through a tougher movement."



Another central representative, Zubayer Patowari, said, "We do not want to cause suffering to people through our protest. We want to contribute to developing our country. But the government should address our problems."

The protesters said they would hold a meeting with senior students in Gazipur today to decide the next course of action.

Apart from the capital, polytechnic students brought out similar protests in Jhenidah, Lakshmipur, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and other parts of the country.

The students organised the protest rallies expressing dissatisfaction over the outcome of a meeting with the education ministry officials held at the Secretariat on Thursday.



Photo: Anisur Rahman/Star

Following the meeting, student representatives said they did not receive any official documents or see any concrete initiatives from the ministry, prompting them to announce fresh programmes.

Their six-point demand includes the removal of "controversial craft instructors" appointed after 2021, conversion of the diploma engineering programme into a full four-year course with six-month-long semesters, and ensuring that only diploma holders can apply for the post of deputy assistant engineer (Grade 10) and equivalent positions.