

MPO teachers' protest enters 7th day, black flag procession blocks road

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Photo: Palash Khan

MPO-listed teachers and employees of private educational institutions continued their sit-in protest at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for the seventh consecutive day today, pressing for a three-point demand.

As part of the programme, they held a black flag procession from the Shaheed Minar and blocked the Kadam Foara intersection near the Jatiya Press Club after 12:00pm for half an hour.

The demands include a 20 percent house rent allowance on basic pay, a medical allowance of Tk 1,500, and an increase in festival allowances for employees to 75 percent.

Rashed Khan, general secretary of Gono Odhikar Parishad, joined the demonstration in solidarity.

Addressing the gathering around 12:45pm, Rashed Khan urged the Education Adviser Professor C R Abrar to accept all the teachers' demands by the end of the day.

He said Gono Odhikar Parishad would stand with the teachers until their demands were met.

Meanwhile, Principal Delawar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the MPO-bhukto Shikkha Jatiyokoron Prottashi Jote (alliance seeking nationalisation of MPO education), demanded the removal of the education adviser.

"We suspect he is trying to create unrest by pushing teachers into a standoff with the government, with the intention of delaying the election and clinging to power," Azizi told The Daily Star.

He claimed that teachers are responsible for 80 percent of the duties during a national election. Calling on other political parties to show solidarity, he said, "Help us realise our demands, and we will stand with you in holding a fair election."

The teachers launched their indefinite protest in front of the Jatiya Press Club on October 12. However, after being stopped by police, they relocated to the Central Shaheed Minar that afternoon.

Several of the demonstrators have been on a hunger strike until death.