

Teachers' work abstention suspends classes at over 65,000 govt primary schools

Sun Nov 9, 2025 01:22 PM

Last update on: Sun Nov 9, 2025 02:06 PM

Continue sit-in at Shaheed Minar protesting yesterday's police action



Photo: Star

Academic activities at more than 65,000 government primary schools across the country came to a halt as teachers launched a countrywide work abstention protesting police action during their demonstration yesterday.

As part of their protest, the teachers are continuing their sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

The teachers have been demonstrating to press home their three-point demand includes upgrading their pay scale to the 10th grade, ending discrimination in promotion, and ensuring equal status with secondary-level teachers.

During today's sit-in at the Shaheed Minar, the teachers also demanded the resignation of advisers to the home ministry and the primary and mass education ministry over the police action on teachers at Shahbagh.

Abdul Bari, a teacher at Juktigacha Government Primary School in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj, said, "We are observing work abstention to press home our demands and to protest the police action on teachers. Three of our colleagues have stayed back at the school while I came to join the sit-in at Shaheed Minar."

"Students came to school and were playing on the premises, but no classes were held," he said, adding, "We, the teachers, actually do not want to observe work abstention as the exams are knocking at the door. But we are forced to take to the street. We will continue our movement until our demands are met."

More than 100 people were injured yesterday as police charged batons, fired sound grenades, and used water cannons to disperse a group of government primary school teachers demonstrating in Dhaka's Shahbagh area.

The incident occurred around 4:00pm when several hundred teachers attempted to march towards Shahbagh intersection after staging a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Following the incident, the protesting teachers, under the banner of Prathomik Shikkhok Dabi Bastobayon Parishad (Primary Teachers' Demand Implementation Council), a coalition of four teachers' organisations announced a nationwide indefinite work stoppage starting today.

They also vowed to continue their sit-in at the Shaheed Minar to protest what they called a "police attack" and to push for their demands.

Earlier yesterday, the demonstration began around 9:00am. The teachers had previously announced a symbolic "pen drop" programme at Shahbagh as part of their movement.