

Primary teachers resume work abstention over unmet demands

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They have been demonstrating to realise three demands



Photo: Collected

A section of primary school assistant teachers has resumed work abstention today to press home their three-point demand.

The teachers said they will not go to the classroom until their demands are met.

Khayrun Nahar Lipi, general secretary of the Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association, said, "One of our colleagues died and many others were injured in police action (earlier this month)."

"We will not go to classes anymore and take part in the examination until the government issued a notification, meeting our demands," she told The Daily Star.

Lipi, a teacher at Mohammadpur Government Primary School, noted that students are coming to school but only playing in the playground. She added that teachers across the country are spontaneously observing work abstention.

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

Earlier on November 9, the teachers started work abstention a day after more than 100 people were injured 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.

Two days later, the teachers postponed the work abstention programme following assurances after meeting with officials from the finance and primary, and mass education ministries.