

Non-govt primary teachers start strike today

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Teachers of around 23,000 non-government primary schools across the country are going on a seven-day strike from today demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Around one thousand teachers from 55 districts had been staying at the Central Shaheed Minar for the last four days. They observed a 24-hour hunger strike yesterday and today to press home their demand.

Teachers organised a press conference at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday and announced a series of agitation programmes including a grand rally at Dhukhtangan at 12:00 noon on October 10 and hunger strike until death from 2:00 pm the same day.

"Six male and six female teachers from six divisions will immolate themselves by setting fire on

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themselves if the government does not fulfil our demand. The immolation date will be fixed after commencement of the indefinite hunger strike on October 10," said Musul Alam, president of the teachers' association while addressing the conference.

Earlier yesterday, teachers brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar at 12:00 noon and marched toward the Singabhaban to submit a memorandum to President Iajuddin Ahmed. Police intercepted the procession at Doyel Chattar where teachers sat down and held a rally. One stage police clubbed the teachers leaving four injured.

Police later allowed a six-member delegation to the Singabhaban for submitting the memorandum.

Previously, the teachers submitted memorandums to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Sunday and also to Speaker Jamiruddin Khan on Monday.