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Retirement at age 70 demanded

Teachers' hartal call evokes little response

By A Staff Reporter

An eight-hour hartal, called by the striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges with a strong backing from the main opposition political parties passed off peacefully in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The striking teachers enforced the shut down from 6 am in the morning till 2 pm in support of their 4-point charter of demands including higher pay, nationalisation of their services and retirement at the age of seventy.

The half-day hartal was partially observed in the city as baby taxis, auto-tempoes and passenger buses gradually wheeled onto city roads after 12 noon defying the hartal call upto 2 pm on the day.

A large number of rickshaws were seen plying on roads throughout the hartal hours at various parts of the city.

Attendance in government offices was normal on Tuesday as office-goers walked down to their respective places of work

during the hartal hours.

Meanwhile Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh Biman and BfWTA sources informed that all modes of transportation in these sectors operated as usual during the hartal hours.

Only shops, private commercial establishments and educational institutions in the city remained closed during the hartal hours and transactions in commercial banks were thin on Tuesday.

Meanwhile a good number of striking teachers were seen picketing at different points in support of their demands and they brought out several small processions in the city streets chanting various slogans. Different student organisations also brought out processions in support of the teachers' demands.

The Teachers Central Action Liaison Committee held a post-hartal rally in the afternoon in front of the National Press Club.