NEW AGE

5 OCT 2012

50 injured as police attack non-MPO teachers

Staff Correspondent

THE police on Thursday charged batons and fired teargas shells to disperse hundreds of teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions when they tried to lay siege to the Secretariat demanding inclusion of their institutions in the monthly pay order.

Continued on page 4 Col. 5

The police fire teargas shells to disperse teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions at Purana Paltan as they tried to lay siege to the secretariat on Thursday, demanding their enlistment for the monthly pay order. — Sourav Lasker

50 injured as police attack

Continued from page 1

At least 50 agitating teachers and employees were injured in the police action near the National Press Club about 12:30pm.

Witnesses said several hundred teachers and employees wearing shrouds, under the banner of Non-MPO Shikkha Paratishthan Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, gathered in front of the press club about 10:00am with a plan to besiege the Secretariat on the fourth consecutive day of their agitation to press for their demands for salary support and other benefits under the MPO.

Hundreds of police in full riot gear put barbed wire barricades on the Topkhana Road to stop the agitating teachers and employees from proceeding towards the Secretariat.

As the agitators tried to remove the barricades there were scuffles with the riot police. At one stage, police fired tear gas canisters to disperse them.

Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote leaders claimed that at least 50 people were injured in the police attack on their peaceful demonstration.

The Oikya Jote strongly condemned the police baton charge and teargas on them and sought the prime minister's intervention to meet their demands.

The injured who took treatment from Dhaka Medical College are Sunizzaman, 32, Subrata Kumer, 36, Rasheduzzaman, 35, Faruk Ahmed, 35, Harun-or Rashid, 35, Bulbul Alok, 36, Moniruzzaman, 42, Kamruzzaman, 38, Raihan, 30 and Abul Hussain, 40.

Deputy commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Syed Nurul Islam told New Age that police had to fire some tear gas shells when the teachers tried to break the police barricade in front of Kadam Foara, western side of the press club.

Meanwhile, the Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote at a meeting in the evening decided to postpone their movement till October 8 following an assurance of the prime minister's office of meeting their demands.

Oikya Jote general secretary Tapos Kumer Kundu said the prime minister's office requested them over telephone to postpone their movement with an assurance that the prime minister would sit with them on Sunday or Monday.

Assistant private secretary to the prime minister Saifuzzaman Shekhar told New Age that they were trying to arrange the teachers' meeting with the prime minister as early as possible.

The Oikya Jote leaders said they would re-launch the movement if the demands were not met by this time.

About one lakh teachers of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas do not get benefits of MPO.

On Wednesday, the teachers submitted a memorandum to prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Tuesday said that process was underway to meet the teachers' demands after a meeting with finance minister AMA Muhith.