

Teachers' rally on

Staff Correspondent

NON-GOVERNMENT

teachers and employees of secondary schools continued with their strike while another group on Sunday announced fresh programmes demanding the nationalisation of education.

The BNP backed Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Jote, rallying for more than a fortnight demanding job nationalisation, meanwhile postponed their strike and sit-in till February 17 in view of the SSC and equivalent programmes scheduled to begin on February 3.

The Awami League backed Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, on strike since January 12, in non-government schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical education institutions, held their protest for the 16th day on Sunday.

The organisation's coordinator Kanjit Kumar Saha said that most of the teachers and employees of 26,328 non-government schools, colleges and madrasahs enlisted for the monthly pay order observed strike on the day demanding the nationalisation of education.

Ranjit said that they would hold a press briefing today to announce their next course of action.

The Awami League backed National Front of Teachers and Employees at a press conference at the National Press Club on Sunday said that they would hold rallies in upazila headquarters on January 30 and February 1 to push for the nationalisation of education.

The Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Jote chairman, Selim Bhuiyan, said that they had suspended their agitation programme till February 17. Although the government has yet to meet our demand for job nationalisation, we are calling off our programmes till February 17 in view of SSC and equivalent examinations.

Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Jote will bring out processions in upazila headquarters on February 18, district headquarters on March 12 and hold a rally on March 31.

Teacher's movement that intensified after the announcement of the nationalisation of primary schools and a farcical increase in house rent and medical allowance, has left students and guardians concerned as they hold a press briefing today to announce their classes are not being held in many such institutions.

The government on January 22 increased from Tk 100 to Tk 500 the house rent and from Tk 150 to Tk 300 the medical allowance for the teachers.

Leaders of teachers rejected the decision saying that it was nothing but a farce in view of their demand for job nationalisation.

On January 9, the government decided to nationalise 26,192 primary schools employing 104,000 teachers in the face of a movement non-government schoolteachers had carried out for two decades.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, on January 23 termed teachers demand impractical. There is a political motive behind the demonstration.

The demand for job nationalisation when teachers are happy about the increase in their house rent and medical allowance, is creating confusion, he added.

The teachers are pushing for the demand now because the government recently nationalised non-government primary schools, Nahid said.

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