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Barishal Univ teachers begin hunger strike

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A Barishal University teacher continues hunger strike for second day, demanding the upgradation of ranks and an end to the longstanding teachers' shortage, in front of the vice-chancellor's office of the university on Monday. | New Age photo

The teachers of Barishal University started an agitation programme, including a fast unto death, demanding the upgradation of ranks and an end to the long-standing teachers' shortage, aiming to continue normal educational activities in the institution.

Dr. Md. Jamal Uddin, a teacher of the department of soil, water and environment, started hunger strike from 7:00pm on Sunday in front of the vice-chancellor's office.



Teachers supporting the demands announced that if their demands are not met, tougher programmes would start from Tuesday.

At least 150 teachers from 25 departments of Barishal University have expressed solidarity with the demands.

Dr. Md. Jamal Uddin, was given first aid at about 12 noon Monday after he became sick by the BU medical centre.

The protesting teachers said that more than 12,000 students are studying in 25 departments at Barishal University. But there are not enough teachers for the number of students.

About 60 teachers have been deprived of promotion for the last two years, despite completing the selection board, because the syndicate has not yet promoted them.

Barishal University teacher Rahat Hossain Faisal said that 60 of the 211 teachers are currently on leave, leaving only about 150 to manage classes across 25 departments. Consequently, these teachers are forced to teach from morning to afternoon.

New teachers have not been appointed and have not been upgraded for the last two years, he added.

Barishal University Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Mohammad Toufiq Alam, said that the issue was discussed with the UGC.

He said that there would be an academic council meeting on April 28, and the next syndicate would be held soon and requested the protesting teachers to attend the council meeting before announcing