



Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions continue their fast-unto-death programme in Dhaka on Friday, demanding their MPO enrollment. —New Age photo

## Non-MPO teachers want entitlement, begin fast-unto-death

Staff Correspondent

SEVERAL hundred non-MPO teachers began their fast-unto-death programme on Friday in front of the National Press Club demanding their educational institutions' entitlement to the monthly pay order facilities. Teachers and employees under monthly pay order enjoy 100 per cent basic salary from the exchequer.

After holding sit-in for the 4th consecutive day, the non-MPO teachers under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Federation on Thursday declared their fast-unto-death programme to press home their demands.

'We will fast-unto-death until our demands are met,' said general secretary of the federation, Taposh Kumar Kundu. He said non-MPO teachers and employees were living in miserable conditions in absence of such entitlements.

In the evening, he told New Age that they would stay overnight in front of the National Press Club.

The teachers started fasting around 10:00am.

Federation president Es-harat Ali said, 'We have been observing various peaceful and non-violent programmes to press home our demands. We also sought prime min-

ister's intervention but the government did not respond to our call.' Non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Federation observed their sit-in from 10:00am through 5:00pm.

They had held their sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar on October 26 and 27 and in front of the National Press Club on October 28 and 29 respectively.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid on October 29 said such entitlement was possible only after increasing of educational budget.

'Resolving such problem is not in our hands as financial aspect was involved here.' He had told a press conference on that day. There are more than 8,000 educational institutions, including schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical institutions which are waiting for such a privilege, statistics show.

The teachers also demanded the prime minister's intervention in to the matter so that the teachers and employees can have a decent living.

Nearly five lakh teachers and employees engaged in about 28,000 non-government post-primary educational institutions have been realising 100 per cent basic salary from the exchequer, in the form of monthly pay order, since July 2006.