

Non-MPO teachers continue their sit-in

Staff Correspondent

NON-MPO teachers on Friday continued their sit-in programme for 12 days in demand of inclusion of their educational institutions under the monthly pay order.

About 200 teachers from outlying districts under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Federation are passing their days and nights on the sidewalk of National Press Club in Dhaka. They had also observed six days of hunger strikes till Wednesday.

The federation general sec-

retary Taposh Kumar Kundu, said that they would continue their programme until their demands, including MPO inclusion, were met.

About one lakh teachers, who are not enrolled into the MPO, get no salary, house rent and medical allowance from the government. A teacher generally gets Tk 5,000 to Tk 7,000 from their school authority a month while some schools do not at all pay their teachers for months, the agitating teachers said. With such a low pay, they can barely make their ends meet.

Low pay and benefits force these teachers to try to find

out other means to earn extra money so that their expenses are met, said their leaders.

On October 26, they had begun their sit-in agitation at the Central Shaheed Minar and after holding sit-in for four days, they embarked on their fast-unto-death strike on October 30 in front of National Press Club.

They called off their fast-unto-death agitation on Wednesday but, continued their sit-in programme at the same place.

Teachers and employees under monthly pay order enjoy 100 per cent basic salary from the national exchequer.

An instructor is also entitled to a house rent allowance of Tk 500 and medical allowance of Tk 300, a month.

Federation president Esharat Ali said, 'We have been observing various peaceful and non-violent programmes to press home our demands. We also sought the prime minister's intervention, but the government did not respond to our call.'

There are more than 8,000 educational institutions, including schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical institutions which are waiting for the MPO privileges, statistics show.