

# Non-MPO teachers protest in city with utensils

*Teachers continue sit-in for 18th day*

**Staff Correspondent**

**PROTESTING** non-MPO teachers carried plates and bowls on Thursday during their sit-in, symbolizing that many of their fellows hardly make both ends meet.

The non-MPO teachers continued their sit-in for the 18th straight day on Thursday demanding that their educational institutions be brought under the monthly pay order system.

About 200 teachers from outlying districts under the banner of non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers and Employees Federation have been passing their days and nights on the sidewalk of the National

Press Club in Dhaka. They had also observed six days of hunger strike till November 4.

The federation general secretary, Taposh Kumar Kundu, said they would continue their programme until their demands, including MPO inclusion, were met.

Teachers have been observing various peaceful and non-violent agitations to press home their demands. They also sought the prime minister's intervention, but the government is yet to respond to their call.

About one lakh teachers, who are not entitled to 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 authorities a month while some schools do not at all pay their teachers for months, the protesting teachers said. With such a low pay, they live meagerly, they said.

On October 26, they had begun their sit-in at 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 November 4 but continued their sit-in at the same place.

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

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

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