

Non-MPO teachers to hold candlelight vigil today

Staff Correspondent

PROTESTING non-MPO teachers will hold a candlelight vigil today coinciding with their sit-in to press home their demand for inclusion of their educational institutions in the monthly pay order system.

The non-MPO teachers continued their sit-in for the 19th straight day on Friday.

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. He said that they would hold a candle light vigil at in front of National Press Club today.

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 protest-

ing 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.