

## Police use pepper spray

Non-MPO teachers begin fast unto death today

Staff Correspondent

THE police on Wednesday fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells and used pepper spray to disperse the non-government teachers and employees, who tried to besiege the secretariat demanding enlistment of their institutions for the monthly pay order facility.

The police action for the second consecutive day on the teachers and employees left 30 people injured.

Several hundred teachers and employees non-government schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical education institutions continued with their indefinite sit-in under the banner of Non-MPO Shikkha Pratishthan Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote for the third day defying a chilly weather.

The Oikyo Jote leaders declared that they would begin fast unto death in front of

press club today at 11:00am today to press home their demands.

They also blocked roads, brought out processions and burnt effigies of finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith and education minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

They brought out a procession heading towards the Secretariat in a bid to besiege the education and finance ministries at around 1:00pm.

Witnesses said several hundred police in full riot gear put barbed wire barricades on Topkhana Road to stop the demonstrators.

The teachers and employees tried to remove the barricades and scuffled with the police.

At one stage, the police fired rubber bullet and tear gas shells and used pepper spray to disperse demonstrators.

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Chase and counter chase also took place between the police and the teachers which went on for about one hour and a half.

The Oikyo Jote held a press conference at its office on the Topkhana Road, where they declared

the fast unto death programme.

Oikyo Jote president Es-harat Ali said that the teachers would continue their movement until their demands were met.

He also demanded resignation of the education and finance ministers for not

including their institutes in the MPO list.

Earlier on Tuesday, the police charged baton and fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the teachers and employees as they had tried to besiege the Shikkha Bhaban.

The Oikyo Jote, began

this round of indefinite sit-in on Monday.

They said around 7,000 educational institutions across the country with around one lakh teachers and employees were yet to be enlisted under the MPO facilities, although most of them fulfilled all the criteria.