

Teachers continue rallying for MPO, job nationalisation

Staff Correspondent

TEACHERS and employees of secondary schools continued their strike and fast-unto-death on Monday demanding enlistment of their institutions for the monthly pay order and job nationalisation.

Leaders of the teachers said that no classes were held in most of about 33,000 secondary schools on the day, the eighth day of their strike.

A group of teachers teamed up as the Non-MPO Shikkha Pratishthan Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote has been rallying for nine days demanding enlistment of their institutions for the monthly pay order.

Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad went on strike for an indefinite period on January 12 and Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote went on strike for an indefinite period on January 10 in non-government schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical education institutions, demanding job nationalisation.

Police on Monday for the sixth consecutive day barred activists of Non-MPO Shikkha Pratishthan Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote from holding demonstrations. Teachers and students were barred from staging the hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar. Later, they held the demonstration at

the Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

The platform president, Eshrat-All, told New Age that they would stage hunger strike in front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban today.

Left Democratic Alliance and Gana Sanghati Andolan coordinator Zonayed Saki visited the striking teachers at the Suhrawardy Udyan and expressed solidarity with them.

The teachers said that around 7,000 educational institutions employing about one lakh teachers and employees were yet to be enlisted for the monthly pay order although most of them had fulfilled all the criteria. Shikkhak-Karmachari

Oikya Jote chairman Salim Bhuiyan said that most of the teachers and employees of 26,328 non-government schools, colleges and madrasahs enlisted for the monthly pay order observed strike on the day demanding nationalisation of their institutions. Most of the educational institutions were locked up, Selim claimed.

He said they would hold teachers' rallies at the district and upazila level in January 16-20 to press home their demand. Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad coordinator Ranjit Kumar Saha told New Age that they were on strike to realise the demands, in-

cluding job nationalisation.

He said they would hold teachers' rally in front of the National Press Club in the capital and at district headquarters on January 17.

They began the strike 48 hours after the government had decided to nationalise 26,192 primary schools employing 104,000 teachers in the face of a movement non-government schoolteachers had carried out for two decades.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, on Saturday said in Sylhet that the government had no plans now to enlist any more educational institutions for the monthly pay order because of fund constraints.