

NEWS

# Govt agrees to meet major demands of non-govt teachers

Staff Correspondent

The government is going to accept three major demands of the agitating non-government teachers who want increased medical allowance, house rent allowance and festival support and festival allowance. Officials said Tuesday.

These teachers are already covered by government's monthly payment order, they said.

The officials said that a demonstration in front of the National Press Club to press the demands.

Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters after the meeting that the teachers should end their agitations and go back home. They (teachers) are our crown. Why should they face hardship, he said.

Nahid said he had discussions throughout the day to address the problems and finally became successful in preparing a package that would benefit the non-government teachers covered by MPO as well as the non-MPO teachers.

Officials said that the financial allowance would be raised to Tk 300 from Tk 100, house allowance to Tk 500 from Tk 150 and 50 per cent of basic salary as festival allowance.

Meeting the demands the government ministry officials said that out of Tk 11,000 crore allotted to the education ministry in the current fiscal year Tk 6,000 would be spent for providing the benefits teachers covered by MPO.

There are allegations that irregularities took place in the selection of educational institutions for providing the MPO benefits.

There are also allegations that in many cases political consideration got the priority. Besides, the education ministry faces the allegation that it does not inspect or monitor the schools, colleges and madrasahs enjoying MPO benefits.

The Awami League-led government included 16,024 schools and colleges in the MPO programme, pushing up the total number to 26,646 institutions across the country.

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