

Non-MPO teachers vow to continue demos

Staff Correspondent

NON-MPO teachers continued for the 16th straight day on Tuesday their sit-in demanding that their educational institutions be brought under the monthly pay order system.

The teachers vowed to keep up their protest until their demands were met. They would hold a silent protest programme tying their mouth with black strip of cloths today.

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.

Taposh said that no one from the education ministry and the Prime Minister's

Office had come forward to meet their demands.

Education ministry officials said they saw no possibility of bringing more educational institutions under MPO facilities. They said education minister Nurul Islam Nahid had made the ministry's stance clear on October 29.

Nurul Islam Nahid on October 29 had said that inclusion of new schools in MPO system would be possible only after an increase in the education budget.

'Solution to the problem [MPO inclusion] is not in our hand as financial issues are involved,' he said.

About one lakh teachers, who are not under the MPO

system, 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 agitating teachers said. With such a low pay, they can barely make their ends meet.

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 engaged in 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.