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Police foil non-govt teachers' demo

Staff Correspondent | Published at 12:05am on June 14, 2018



Non-government teachers hold demonstration, which was foiled by police, in front of the National Press Club in the capital on Wednesday, demanding inclusion of their educational institutions in the monthly pay order system. — New Age photo

Police charged batons and dispersed non-government teachers' sit-in programme on Wednesday as they were staging demonstration for fourth consecutive day demanding inclusion of their educational institutions in the monthly pay order system in front of the National Press Club in the capital.

The teachers took to the streets and held demonstration following finance minister AMA Muhith's budget proposal for the next fiscal which did not make any specific declaration about their enlistment for the subvention.

Earlier in January this year, prime minister Sheikh Hasina assured them to include their educational institutions in MPO system.

A group of teachers under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation started the demo of the day around 10:30am in front of the press club.

The federation has begun the latest round of demonstrations on June 10.

Earlier, they called off their last round of the movement in January on prime minister's assurance.

Over 200 police dispersed the hundreds of teachers, mostly came from outside districts of Dhaka, at about 12:00pm, said the federation senior vice-president Shafiqul Islam.

He also said some of the teachers were injured as police charged batons to disperse them.

Following the move, the frightened teachers scattered and took position in several groups in different places in Topkhana road area.

Later, the teachers called off their programme for the day following the police move at about 2:30pm and vowed to continue their protest.

'Though today is the last working day before Eid, we would continue our demonstration and we hope that prime minister Sheikh Hasina would resolve the issue,' said the federation general secretary Binoy Bhushan Roy.

Under MPO system, the government pays salaries and benefits to the teachers of non-government schools, colleges and technical institutions.

The federation leaders said around 80,000 teachers of 5,000 non-government schools, colleges and technical institutions are now outside the purview of the monthly pay order.

Last time the government provided MPO benefit to some 1,624 institutions in 2010.

Shahbagh police station officer in-charge Abul Hasan, however, said that police did not charge baton on teachers.

'We just told them to evacuate the road to normalise the traffic,' he said.



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