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Teachers abstain from work for MPO inclusion

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Teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions join a sit-in demonstration in Dhaka on Saturday demanding inclusion of their institutions in MPO system. — New Age photo

Teachers and employees of educational institutions agitating for their inclusion into the Monthly Payment Order system observed work abstention in schools across the country on Saturday.

The teachers and employees, who have been on the streets since June 10, also continued their sit-in for the 14th day under open sky on the street in the capital despite heavy rains. The protesters under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation on Friday announced the fresh indefinite work abstention in schools. According to federation leaders, almost all the 5,000 schools which are outside under the purview of the MPO system experienced the work abstention.

'We expect all the teachers of such schools to join in and stay out of the classes,' said federation senior vice-president Shofikul Islam.

New Age correspondents in Barisal and Bogra, however, reported that regular classroom activities were run as usual in schools of the districts.

The number of students in schools was low on the day due to heavy rain in the morning and also for being the first day after a long Eid vacation, they reported.

Federation's general secretary Binoy Bhushan Roy said that they had to go for the tougher action as the government was yet to respond to their demand.

The teachers are determined to take extra classes to make up for the class hours lost for the movement when they get a gazette notification of their MPO inclusion, said Binoy. According to the federation, about 80,000 teachers of 5,000 non-government schools, colleges and technical institutions are now outside the purview of the MPO system. The MPO system for recognised non-government educational institutions was introduced in 1981 under which the government had been contributing 100 per cent basic pay to a teacher since 2006. The last inclusion of 1,624 institutions into the MPO system took place in 2010.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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