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Teachers start fast unto death today

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Teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions join a sit-in in Dhaka on Sunday 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 announced to start their fast unto death from today. The protesters under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation announced the fast on Sunday as they observed work abstention in schools across the country for the second consecutive day.

Federation general secretary Binoy Bhushan Roy said that despite being on the streets under open sky in scorching heat and heavy rains for 15 days they could not see any step from the government. 'So we are taking tougher steps like fast unto death... until our demand is met.'

He expected hundreds of teachers to participate in the protest on the street opposite to the National Press Club.

The protesters also continued their indefinite work abstention in schools for the second day, said federation senior vice-president Shofikul Islam.

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, he said.

Thousands of teachers took to the streets several times in recent years to press their demand for providing the MPO benefits to their institutions and nationalisation of many

schools and colleges.

Aggrieved teachers resumed their protests on June 10 as the finance minister AMA Muhith, in his budget speech, was silent about inclusion of the institutions into the MPO system in line with a commitment made by prime minister Sheikh Hasina in January.

According to federation leaders, almost all the 5,000 non-government schools, colleges and technical institutions which are outside under the purview of the MPO system experienced the work abstention for the second day.

The MPO system for recognised non-government educational institutions was introduced in 1981, under which the government has been contributing 100 per cent basic pay to teachers since 2006.

The last inclusion of 1,624 institutions into the MPO system took place in 2010.



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