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Teachers continue fast unto death

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Teachers and employees. — New Age file photo

Teachers and employees of private educational institutions on Tuesday continued their fast unto death for the second consecutive day demanding inclusion of their workplaces in monthly payment order system of the government.

At least 13 hunger strikers fell sick and seven among them were being treated with intravenous saline at the protest ground in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka.

Protesters under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation had been observing demonstrations for 18 days to press for their demands.

'The agitated protesters who were on fast unto death for last two days fell sick in the scorching heat on the day,' said the federation's senior vice-president Shofikul Islam.

Protesters also continued their work abstention, which they started on June 23, on Tuesday.

The teachers started their fresh demonstration on June 10 with sit in protest for half-days. Later they started their round the clock sit-in and later started fast unto death in parallel with the work abstention to press home their demand of inclusion of their institutions under MPO system, under which the government has been contributing 100 per cent basic pay to teachers since 2006.

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 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.

Several hundred teachers, many of whom were working without pay for as long as 20 years, had been on the streets for their payment from the government since December 26, 2017.

The teachers held nonstop sit-ins for the first five days and then took recourse to hunger strike since January 1.

The teachers called off their hunger strike five days later, when prime minister Sheikh Hasina assured them of their inclusion into the MPO system.

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



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