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School teachers continue fast unto death

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Teachers and employees of non-government secondary educational institutions chant slogans during a sit-in and hunger strike in Dhaka on Tuesday in demand of inclusion of their workplaces in MOP system.

— New Age photo

On the ninth consecutive day of fast unto death to press the demand of inclusion of their schools in the government's monthly payment order programme 193 teachers and employees of private educational institutions fell sick on Tuesday.

At least five sick were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while many others were administered intravenous saline at their protest venue on the Topkhana Road in front of the National Press Club.

Almost incessant rains increased the sufferings of the protesters passing their days under the open sky.

The school teachers and the employees began the fast unto death under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees' Federation.

Shofikul Islam, senior vice president of the federation told New Age that 193 teachers and employees fell sick since they began the fast on June 10.

On Tuesday, Jahangirnagar University economics professor Anu Muhammad, former DUCSU vice president Mahfuza Khanom and Workers Party MP Md Yeasin Ali visited the

teachers to express their solidarity.

Hundreds of teachers took to the streets since December 26, 2017 to press the demand of providing the monthly pay order, in short MPO benefits under which their salaries and other benefits are paid by the government.

They held nonstop sit-in demonstrations on the 1st five days after which they began the fast unto death since January 1.

The fast unto death was called off on January 6 following assurance from prime minister Sheikh Hasina that their schools would be provided the MPO benefits.

In 2010, the government included 1,624 schools under its MPO programme.

Since then the benefits were not extended to any other school despite repeated demands from the left out teachers and employees.



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