

MPO INCLUSION

Teachers refuse treatment

Staff Correspondent

THE teachers and employees, who are on fast unto death for the 12th day demanding inclusion of their educational institutions in the government's monthly payment order system, said they are ready to die on streets and stopped taking treatment.

The teachers also vowed that they would not return with any commitment and want proper gazette notifications on their demands.

At least 217 teachers of non-governmental educational institutions fell sick as they continued their 'fast unto death', following their new spell of demonstrations including sit-ins, work abstentions and others, started on June 10.

Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation senior vice-president Shofikul Islam said the sick teachers stopped taking treatments which put the fasting teachers in danger.

Shofikul Islam said the comments of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament was giving them some hopes but they want a proper gazette notification that includes their inclusion in MPO.

Hasina while replying a



A teacher breaks into tears as Krishak Shramik Janata League leader Abdul Kader Siddique expressed his solidarity with the teachers and employees on demo over MPO inclusion in Dhaka on Friday.
— New Age photo

lawmaker's query at the parliament on Wednesday said that a quick move under a policy guideline would be taken up to enlist remaining non-government educational institutions under MPO facilities.

The government would take a programme soon in this regard following a recently formulated policy, she added.

Another agitating teacher Rabeya Basri from Khulna said they were ready to die on streets for their demands.

'I am ready to die on streets for my demands

for which I left home, my sons and husband,' she said.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a teacher from Bogra said this time they would not want to return with any commitments rather want a formal declaration or gazette notification.

Teachers have been on the streets since June 10 and started the hunger strike on June 25 to expedite the movement.

Thousands of teachers took to the streets several times in recent years to press the demand for pro-

viding MPO benefits to their institutions and nationalisation of schools and colleges.

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

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