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## No progress in one month, 240 teachers fall sick

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Non-MPO teachers and employees observe fast unto death in front of National Press Club in the capital on Monday, demanding inclusion of their educational institutions into Monthly Payment Order system. — New Age photo

The latest demonstrations of non-government teachers and employees demanding inclusion of their educational institutions into Monthly Payment Order system mark one month today with no progress from the government end.

At least 240 teachers fell sick till Monday as the teachers had been observing hunger strike for last 15 days.

The aggrieved teachers took to the streets on June 10 as finance minister AMA Muhith in the proposed budget for the next fiscal did not make any specific declaration about the inclusion of the institutions into the MPO system in line with a commitment made by prime minister Sheikh Hasina in January.

The teachers under the banner of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation since then observed sit-in programmes.

Later, they started fast unto death on June 25 in parallel with work abstention.

Later on July 1, the teachers took half-yearly examinations at their schools considering the students' study loss and after the examinations, the teachers and employees again

started work abstention, said teachers' leaders.

The federation vice-president Shofiquel Islam said that the teachers and employees, who fell sick, were affected with dehydration, breathing complications and fever as they were on demonstration for one month on the streets under the open sky.

On Sunday, the teachers and employees put forward a proposal that they would accept half-salary throughout a year following the MPO inclusion considering the fund crunch, Shofiquel said.

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

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



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