

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

NEWAGE

Over 250 teachers fall sick on 16th day

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 12:00am on July 11, 2018



Teachers and employees observe fast unto death in Dhaka on Tuesday in demand of inclusion of their educational institutions in MPO system. — New Age photo

At least 250 teachers and employees of non-governmental schools and madrassahs fell sick on Tuesday, the 16th day of their 'fast unto death' to press the demand of providing the government's monthly payment order, MPO, benefits.

Under the MPO programme the government pays salaries and other benefits of teachers and employees of non-government institutions.

The fasting teachers handed a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office that if there was funding shortage they would take half the monthly salary over a year if their institutions were provided the MPO benefits.

Later, Shofiquel Islam senior vice president of the Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees Federation told New Age that they requested the government to provide MPO benefits to all the non-government schools and madrassahs.

'If there is fund shortage, we will take half the monthly pay for one year if government extends the MPO benefits, we said in our proposal, he said.

He said, 'We gave the same proposal to the education ministry on July 8.'

Federation general secretary Binoy Bhusan Roy said that more than 250 teachers fell sick during 16 days of their fast under the open sky until Tuesday.

He said that the fasting teachers skipped taking medical treatment or even saline.

The teachers took to the streets since June 10, initially half-day sit ins followed by full day sit ins and on June 25 began the fast unto death to press their demands.

Thousands of teachers took to the streets time and again for years to press their demands.

On June 10, the teachers aggrieved over finance minister AMA Muhith keeping mum about the MPO issue in his budget speech, resumed their demonstrations.

Muhith omitting the issue in his budget presentation shocked the teachers as prime minister Sheikh Hasina assured them in January that their institutions would get the MPO benefits from the next fiscal.

In 2010, the government provided MPO benefits to 1,624 institutions.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

© 2018 Media New Age Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.