

MADRASA TEACHERS' HUNGER STRIKE DAY 2

Two hospitalised, nine fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indefinite hunger strike enforced by the teachers of independent ebtedai madrasas rolled onto the second day yesterday with the teachers vowing not to return to their workplaces until their demand for nationalisation of all such registered madrasa is met.

At least two of them were hospitalised yesterday and nine others fell ill and were being given intravenous saline drip as the teachers stayed on the streets in front of Jatiya Press Club amid piercing cold.

"Two have been hospitalised, many more will be, but we will not budge... Either we will die or there will have to be an announcement of nationalisation from the prime minister," Qazi Ruhul Amin Chowdhury, president of the organisation leading the demonstration, told The Daily Star.

"We have waited for years and now we have no choice but to remain on the street for our demands."

After staging a sit-in for eight consecutive days, several hundred teachers of the ebtedai madrasas – primary level educational institutions under madrasa board – under the banner of "Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedai Madrasa Shikkhak Samity" started the strike on Tuesday.

Ten days have gone since they started their demonstration, but no one from the government had contacted them, said the teachers.

"But we will not go anywhere. We will remain under the open sky to realise our demand," said Ruhul.

Around 18,000 madrasas, regarded as independent ebtedai madrasas for not being affiliated with any Dakhil madrasas, had been registered under the Madrasa Education Board in 1984, according to the teachers.

Over the years, the number came down to around 10,000 as the government did not give any salary to the teachers, they said. Around 48,000 teachers of these madrasas teach students from class-I to class-V.

In 1994, some 6,776 teachers of 1,519 madrasas and registered primary schools started getting Tk 500 as allowances for each teacher through a government circular.

Later in 2013, the government elevated the amount of those teachers to Tk 1,000. In 2016-17 fiscal year, the government increased the allowances of headteachers to Tk 2,500 and assistant headteachers to Tk 2,300 from Tk 1,000, said the teachers.

But the rest of the teachers have not been paid any allowance whatsoever from the government since 1984, they added.

ম্যানুয়েল	
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়	
ক্রমিক নং.....	
তারিখ.....	
জন্ম, পরিচালনা বিভাগ	
চাক. ডি.এল.বি বিভাগ	
সিস্টেম ম্যানেজার	
নিমিত্ত সিস্টেম এনালিস্ট	
প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা	
নি.এ.	
কার্যার্থে/স্বাক্ষর	
স্বাক্ষর	