

Ebtedai madrasa teachers want PM's assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ebtedai madrasa teachers, who are on a hunger strike unto death, rejected education minister's call to end their demonstration yesterday and said they would go on until the prime minister assured them of meeting their demand.

The teachers met Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid twice. Nahid asked them to return to their homes calling off the strike and assured them that their demand would be placed before the prime minister and the finance minister.

"He [Nahid] told us to withdraw our strike but did not make any promise. It was nothing but a farce," said Qazi Ruhul Amin Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedai Madrasa Shikhiak Samity, the organisation leading the movement.

"We don't expect such words from him. We want a specific announcement from the prime minister," he told The Daily Star.

Ruhul Amin said they did not get any salary from the government for decades.

"We don't have any other option but to continue our agitation," he said.

Yesterday, the education ministry had a meeting around 12:30pm at its technical and madrasa division's office room to discuss the issue. State Minister Quazi Keramat Ali was also present.

The meeting decided that the matter would soon be moved to the prime minister and the finance minister.

The president and general secretary of the samity were called in and informed of the meeting decision.

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IV drips stand in the foreground, providing saline to the teachers and some members of the central committee of ebtedai madrasa, who have been on an indefinite hunger strike since January 9. Many of the protesters have become sick in the last few days. Their demands for nationalisation of the madrasas have not been met. The photo was taken in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

teachers. government since 1984, said the

But the rest of the teachers have not assistant headteachers to Tk 2,300. the government increased the allow- the amount to Tk 1,000. In 2016-17, as allowances. In 2013, the government elevated 1,519 madrasas started getting Tk 500 In 1994, some 6,776 teachers of Education Board in 1984. got registered under the Madrasa getting any pay, since the institutions about 10,000 madrasas who are not There are around 48,000 teachers in yesterday, said the president. teachers had been hospitalised until given intravenous saline drips. Six became sick and eight of them were Meanwhile, at least 166 teachers said. ter did not agree with that," Ruhul nationalised in phases. But the minis- assurance that our madrasas will be requested the minister to give us an "We will not go home. We have even to go home. ministry where the minister requested the 20 teachers were invited to the Around 3:00pm, the two along with

Ebtedai madrasa

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