

# SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: Police disperse teachers marching towards Jamuna

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*A section of teachers of schools for children with disabilities brings a rally, demanding monthly pay order for them, towards the chief adviser's residence in Dhaka on Wednesday. | New Age photo*

The police dispersed a section of teachers of non-government schools for the children with disabilities in the Kadam Fountain area in the capital on Wednesday after the teachers blocked the road on their way to the chief adviser's official residence Jamuna.

The teachers continued their sit-in programme in Dhaka for the 18th straight day on Wednesday demanding Monthly Payment Order facilities.

They were scheduled to submit a memorandum to the chief adviser with their demands.

Following road blockade vehicular movement in the the area had been disrupted for about half an hour causing sufferings to passengers.

Under the banner of the 'Bangladesh coordination council of schools for children with disabilities', teachers from different districts have been continuing their sit-in programme in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka city since February 23, pressing for a five-point charter of demands.

The demands are immediate recognition and MPO facilities for all special schools for the students with disabilities; equipping all special schools with disability-friendly infrastructure; ensuring minimum education allocation of Tk 3,000 for each special student; providing special students with midday meals, learning tools and sports items and implementing of therapy centres, and providing employment and rehabilitation to the special students under the vocational education curriculum.

The council's president Md Elias Raz told New Age that after 12 noon they had started marching from the press club area to Jamuna to submit a memorandum with their demands.

When they reached the Kadam Fountain area, police stopped them, he said.

Some of the teachers lay down on the road and vehicular movement stopped immediately at around 12:30pm.

The teachers were seen chanting slogans for immediate MPO facilities for their schools.

Vehicles were seen stranded on different sides of the crossing and traffic congestion spread at Segun Bagicha, Dhaka University, Bangladesh Secretariat, Paltan, Gulistan, Kakrail and Shahbagh areas.

At around 1:00pm the police dispersed them by forcibly removing them from the road.

Later, vehicular movement became normal in the the area.

'We will continue our movement,' Elias Raz added.

Shahbagh thana officer-in-charge Khalid Mansoor said that they had dispersed the teachers to clear the road as it caused huge traffic gridlock.

According to the council, in December 2019 the social welfare ministry started accepting online applications from the special schools for providing MPO facilities.

At that time 2,741 schools across the country applied from which the ministry accepted 1,772 applications.

But the government has yet to provide the facilities to the schools from which it had accepted applications, forcing around 63,000 teachers and other staff of these schools to pass days in immense suffering, the council leaders added.