

NON-GOVT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

More teachers may get MPO

Education ministry now waits for finance's nod

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is likely to bring more private educational institutions under the Monthly Pay Order scheme amid growing demands from teachers for their inclusion in the scheme.

The education ministry has already sent a draft of the revised MPO policy to the finance ministry which is now reviewing it, said sources in the two ministries.

Though the revised policy is focused on giving the MPO facilities to more teachers from institutions already on the MPO list, it will open up scope for bringing new institutions under the MPO scheme once the finance ministry approves it, they said.

The education ministry has also provided the finance ministry with a list of 1.7 lakh teachers of MPO-listed institutions for providing them with the facilities, added the sources.

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Teachers call off hunger strike on PM's assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six days into their hunger strike demanding MPO facilities, non-MPO teachers called off the programme yesterday following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's assurance that the demand would be fulfilled.

With the assurance, PM's Personal Secretary Sazzadul Hassan went to the demonstrating teachers in front of the Jatiya Press Club around 4:30pm. After that, the teachers withdrew their strike.

"We are calling off our programme, keeping trust in the PM's assurance," said Binoy Bhusan Roy, general secretary of Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees

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At present 4 lakh teachers of 26,340 schools, colleges, madrasas receive MPO

Around 80,000 teachers of 5,242 institutions are not listed for MPO scheme

Govt to require 2,400 crore a year if 5,000 more institutions come under the scheme

In the last 7 years, AL-led govt included 1,624 institutions in the MPO list

OBSERVING JANUARY 5



PHOTO: STAR

Police foil a black flag procession brought out by BNP leaders and activists in Mymensingh's Gauripur yesterday. On Monday, the party had announced such processions across the country to observe "Democracy Killing Day" yesterday.

Election will not wait for anyone

Says Quader, asserts next polls will be held under Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next parliamentary election will be held in line with the constitution and with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in office, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

"BNP leader [Chairperson] Begum Zia said election will not be allowed to be held without the participation of her party. Just wait and see ... Election will be held as per the constitution. If you have the

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Police obstruct BNP processions in dists

Denied permission to hold rally in Dhaka; demo in capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP could not hold its planned rally in the city as the government did not give permission, while police foiled the party's processions in at least 25 districts and upazilas across the country yesterday.

The party brought out processions in different districts to mark what it calls the "democracy killing day," but law enforcers either obstructed those or beat up the party men, injuring dozens, party leaders alleged.

In protest, the BNP will stage demonstrations in all the Dhaka city corporation ward areas today.

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In search of her roots

Shama visits the Missionaries of Charity in Old Dhaka where she was born as a war baby in 1972

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Her expression began to change as soon as she stepped into the Missionaries of Charity at Islampur in Old Dhaka on Christmas morning. The colourful Christmas decor of the premises could hardly draw her attention. She seemed visibly moved by a very special feeling, perhaps the most touching one of her life, as she came to the place she was born as a war child 45 years ago.

Was she looking for the room where her mother gave birth to her on May 4 in 1972? Was she trying to paint a picture of the brave woman for bringing her to this world, although not brave enough to raise the newborn? Or was she thinking about her life in Bangladesh had she not been abandoned as a reminder of trauma? It was not the time to disturb her thought by asking questions; she was better left alone.

Now, sitting at the welcome room, Shama Jameela Mollie Hartt was listening to Sister Superior Javier, who was telling her how unwanted babies are taken care of at the charity and how many expecting mothers are given counselling against abortion. Shama, who now lives and works as a schoolteacher in Canada, speaks little. Her face betrays mixed emotions.

Her mother was among the many women left with unwanted pregnancies, bearing what served as an agonising reminder of their ordeal even months after the country was liberated.

Hundreds of the nearly 300,000 women who were raped by the Pakistan army members and their local collaborators during the war became pregnant. To get away from the physical incarnation of the pain and social stigma, many opted for abortions while many others could not -- for various reasons -- and had to

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PHOTO: M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Shama Jameela Mollie Hartt affectionately holds a baby in her arms at Islampur's Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity, where she was born as a war child 45 years ago. The photo was taken on this Christmas morning.

Rohingyas keep coming

Intimidation, food crisis still forcing them to leave home

PINAKI ROY and MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAT from Cox's Bazar

Rohingya refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine State are still crossing into Bangladesh though the two countries are expected to start the repatriation of the Rohingyas, who have already taken shelter here, in weeks.

On an average, four to five Rohingya families are entering Bangladesh through different border points every day, said aid workers.

The refugees said they had to leave home as they had been facing a severe food crisis. Locals loyal to the Myanmar army did not allow them to work or harvest their standing crops or even go to markets to buy essentials, they alleged.

Four such Rohingya families that crossed the border on Thursday, are now living in a transit camp set up by the UNHCR -- the UN refugee agency -- in the reserve forest area near Balukhali in Cox's Bazar.

"Now, they [the army] are not torching our homes or killing our people. They [the locals] just don't let us collect our crops from the field," one of the Rohingyas, Nur Fatema of Kuaichhang village in Rakhine State's Bhutidawng, told this newspaper at the camp yesterday.

"They also don't allow us to go the market. If the locals find any valuables from us, they take it away," said, Rehana Begum, another new arrival.

She said her fisherman husband, Abdul Zailil, was also not allowed to go to the sea to fish.

Nur Fatima said she and her brother Ali Zoha came to Bangladesh along with 13 others as they were facing food crisis in their village in Bhutidawng's Wamagna.

All the Rohingyas, who are coming to Bangladesh, are being brought to the transit camp for medical checkup and biometric registration, said an aid worker there.

"If they do not have any diseases, we send

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Three injured in Rohingya insurgent attack

Says Myanmar army

REUTERS, Myanmar

Rohingya Muslim insurgents ambushed a vehicle in western Myanmar's Rakhine State yesterday, wounding three people, including two members of the security forces, the military said.

A wave of attacks by Rohingya Muslim insurgents on the security posts on August 25 sparked sweeping army counter-insurgency operations in the Muslim-majority north of the state that led to widespread violence and

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closeup

কাছে আসার গল্প

কাছে আসা মানে শিহরন, বাধা পেরিয়ে সাহসী হয়ে ওঠা।

কাছে আসলেই তৈরি হয় দুর্দান্ত সব গল্প

শুরু হলো 'ক্লোজআপ কাছে আসার গল্প'। ২৯ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৮-এর মধ্যে গল্প পাঠাও।

সেরা তিন গল্প নিয়ে তৈরি হবে ভালোবাসা দিবসের তিন নাটক।

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