

Fate of 1.5 cr students uncertain Striking teachers vow not to back home empty handed

Staff Correspondent

Leaving non-government high school, college and madrasa education in a helpless condition it's teachers and employees indefinite strike is being prolonged.

Terming their ten point demand as a question of existence the agitating teachers and their

leaders vowed not to go back home empty handed.

Meanwhile finding no positive gesture from the Government part agitators suspecting whether the situation might take a complicated turn. Teacher leaders in this confection made Finance Minis-

ter and State Minister for Education liable and also threatened that the government would have to bear the liability of the happening would be created ultimately.

Chief Coordinator of Shikkha
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Striking teachers

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Karmachari Oikka Jote' Md Selim Bhuiyan in this connection informed this Correspondent that providing 100% basic salary to non-government high school, college and madrasa teachers from government exchequer was the hon'ble Prime Minister's election pledge.

Bhuiyan also informed that the Government has so far given us some facilities like retirement facility, activating welfare trust, giving partly festival allowance and 10% dearness allowance for what we had not to stage any agitation. Our earnest believe was that the demand of our 100% basic salary will also be met accordingly; but coming at around the end of the present tenure of the Government we did not find any step in meeting the demand.

Last 19 January, 2006, we arranged a teachers grand rally at Palton Maidan where we invited the Prime Minister as the chief guest and she accepted our invitation. More than five lakh teachers across the country had to attend the rally who believed wholeheartedly that the Prime Minister would announce 100% basic salary of non-government teachers from revenue head. But finally because of conspiracy hatched by some interested quarters we as well as Government took decision to stop the rally. Through a blue print of local and international agents the teachers became deprived once again from the demand of their existence.

He further mentioned that with the collaboration of some sources close to Government some non-teacher leaders played a game with the fate of almost all real teachers. He however expressed optimism that the hon'ble Prime Minister would consider the vital demand of the non-government

Otherwise, you know earlier teacher movements never been failed, this time it also wouldn't be so. We must bring our demand home through tougher movement, he threatened.

As per their program on 11 July, Tuesday a procession will be brought out from Central Shahid Minar and will be gathered in a rally before Shikha Bhaban, on 13 July, human chain at District and Thana level, 14 July Divisional Rally and on 23 July grand strike will be observed in Dhaka along with many other programs.

Some five lakh teachers of private schools, madras, colleges and technical institutions are on strike for financial benefits that will cost the government an additional about Tk 1,100 crore annually.

Academic career of more than 1.5 crore students is rendered uncertain by the strike for indefinite period.

National Front of Teachers and Employees on Monday threatened to lock the offices of all the Deputy Commissioners to press home the demand that include 100 percent government grant, payment of their arrears from 2001 and 65 percent dearness allowance (DA).

Convenor of NITE Kazi Faruq Ahmad said on Monday said that letter was sent to all MPs seeking their support in realizing the demands.

Teachers-Employees United Front (TEUF), another alliance of 11 associations of non-government teachers and employees, reiterated that the non-government teachers should get equal fringe and other benefits as enjoyed by the government teachers.

TEUF leaders alleged that Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and State Minister for Education Ehsamul Hoque Milan were conspiring to foil their movement.