One hospitalised

Pry teachers begin hunger strike

Of the demonstrating teachers of non-government primary schools started fast unto death Tuesday morning to press their four-point demand fell sick in the afternoon, reports UNB.

Abul Kasem, 43, who among some 225 of the teachers on hunger strike in front of the National Press Club, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in serious condition, the organisers of the agitation said. He came from Jamalpur.

Leaders of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Association, the organiser of the sit-in that began Saturday, said three others also felt sick.

Their demands include nationalisation of all registered non-government primary schools in the country along with the teachers.

They are also demanding a monthly allowance of Tk. 1500 each for the teachers of the school until those are nationalised, registration of the unregistered primary schools and appointment of teachers according to the number of students, particularly in the schools in cities and municipal towns.

President of BNGPTA Major (Reted) Asaduzzaman Tuesday told UNB at least 33,000 teachers of about 7,000 unregistered primary schools were getting an allowance of Tk 500 each per month.

"It is not possible for anyone to survive with this awfully meagre salary. So we came down to the street to realise our just right," he said.

Asaduzzaman said the teachers joined the hunger strike spontaneously because they were deprived of their minimum remuneration.

Criticising the lack of initiative from the government he said, "We shall not leave the street..... we'll

Pry teachers

continue our hunger strike until the government meets our demand."

Different political parties, including Awami League, Left Democratic Front, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Islamic Revolutionary Movemenet and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party, expressed their solidarity with the programme of the teachers and urged the government to meet their demands immediately.