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700 teachers on hunger strike

Staff Correspondent

Some 700 demonstrating teachers of non-government schools and colleges of the country began a hunger strike unto death from Wednesday noon to press for their four-point charter of demands.

The decision for hunger strike unto death was taken in an emergency meeting of the central teachers action liaison committee late Tuesday night.

Earlier, about two lakh teachers of non-government schools and colleges, started demonstration in support of their four-point demand on April 18.

They also boycotted Secondary

School Certificate examinations as a part of their demonstration.

A large number of teachers from different parts of the country have been staging a sit-in demonstration in front of the National Press Club and the Bangladesh Secretariat since Saturday last.

The hunger strike would go parallel to the on going sit-in demonstration, the leaders said. "We shall not go back home empty handed and remain on the street until total realisation of our demands" they asserted.

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700 teachers

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Leaders of different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and student organisations visited the striking teachers and expressed their solidarity. They included Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Advocate Nurul Alam of National Awami Party (NAP), Khalequzzaman of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party of Bangladesh, President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Sazzad Zahir Chandan, President of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Belal Chowdhury, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, and Cultural personalities.

A total of 700 teachers including six central leaders of the action liaison committee have been taking part in the hunger strike. They include Principal Asadul Haque, Professor Hosne Ara, Professor A.M. Rasheda, Professor Humayun Kabir, Abdus Samad and Majed Talukdar.

Forty striking teachers became seriously ill following the day-long fasting. They were immediately admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them two are identified as Mohammad Raisuddin, a teacher of the Mohonganj Public High School at Netrakona and Amir Ali, a teacher of Kazir Hat High School of Satkhira.

A meeting of the central teachers action liaison committee to discuss the latest situation of the movement has been adjourned till 11 a.m. on the Thursday.