

Sircar talks teachers' liaison body today

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar has invited leaders of different teachers' associations to a meeting today (Sunday) in a bid to refrain non-government teachers from going on strike from Monday (April 18).

Officials told UNB that the meeting was called at the secretariat to discuss about their demands and redress the grievances.

The Teachers Central Action Liaison Committee which had called for the indefinite strike to press home their four-point demand, however, refused to attend the meeting called by the Education Minister.

A meeting of the Liaison Committee on Saturday decided to go ahead with its planned strike in all non-government schools and colleges from Monday.

Liaison Committee claimed about 1.75 lakh teachers of some 11,000 non-government secondary schools and 640 colleges will go on strike as announced earlier.

Their strike is likely to affect the SSC examinations scheduled to begin May 2. About 7 lakh students under the country's four education boards are expected to sit for the examination.

Kazi Frooq Ahmed, a leader of the Liaison Committee said teachers

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associations, numbering many, have nothing to do with their programmes. The demands were raised by the Liaison Committee and the strike was called by it to realise the demands.

Secondly, he said the Liaison Committee would like to discuss with the government on specific agenda, say their four-point demand. It may turn into a futile exercise to discuss without any fixed agenda.

The demands include similar benefits for non-government teachers as enjoyed by government teachers, 85 per cent allocation for non-government schools and colleges, job security and equal teaching facilities.

Kazi Farooq accused the Education Minister of keeping alive the problems by refusing to implement the recommendations of a high powered committee set up by the Prime Minister.

He thought the problem can be easily overcome by intervention of the Prime Minister.

Jamiruddin Sircar was not available till late Saturday night to comment on the demands of the Liaison Committee.