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Pry teachers urged to call off hunger strike

By A Staff Reporter

A meeting of the leaders of the subdivision and thana committees of the Dacca District unit of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (Amiri) urged primary teachers who are on hunger strike to call off their action and to participate in movement for realisation of "correct demands".

Presided over by Mr Mohiuddin Mahal, member, Central Presideum, the meeting was addressed by Messrs Asrafuddin Khan, Member, Presideum, Fazlur Rahman, Secretary-General, Zulfiqer Ali, Joint Secretary-General, and Abu Saleh Mohammad Abdus Sattar, Organising Secretary of the association among others.

They alleged that Prof Azad, President of their rival association had been opposing the "universal demand" for making primary teachers government employees since 1972.

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Pry teachers

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They also alleged that "controversial politician and non-primary teacher Prof Azad" by his "deceptive statements" had misled some simple-minded primary teachers.

Meanwhile Mr Altaf Hossain, Acting President, and Kazi Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, General Secretary, Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (Azad) in a joint statement to the Press on Sunday, alleged that the authorities concerned were active to undo their 'just movement'.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (Amiri) on the day urged the hunger-striking primary teachers to call off their strike.

The leaders of the association headed by Prof Azad contradicted the contention of the government. Press Note that Prof Azad was being held on specific charges alleging that it was "a false and fabricated incident".

They said that although two circulars have been issued by the government for implementation of the March 6 agreement, these circulars were concerned only with pension, gra-

tuity and did not mention about other facilities enjoyed by government employees—like three advance increments for service prior to nationalisation, house-building loan etc. The teachers would be deprived of some financial benefits with respect to pension and gratuity due to non-payment of advance increment, they said.

They called upon teachers to organise countrywide movement, and called for immediate fulfilment of their demands by the government.