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SSC exams won't be boycotted

Talks with teachers assoc's fruitful

A meeting was held Monday with the leaders of various non-Govt Teachers Associations at the Conference room of the Ministry of Education with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair, says an official announcement.

The meeting discussed various demands of the non-Govt Teachers Associations. The leaders of the Associations were assured that the government has undertaken a good number of pragmatic measures to mitigate the demands of the non-Govt Teachers. It was informed that the present government has been making all out efforts for improving the status and skill of the teachers and quality of Education. It was also informed that the Government has constituted 10 Committees consisting of representatives of teachers associations, and senior Education Officers which have since formulated the draft recommendations to bring about qualitative improvements in the status service condition and competence of the teachers.

The meeting was told that Government allowed non-Govt teachers revised pay scale and other benefits beginning July 1992 which have resulted in an increase of about 30 per cent in the emoluments and also raised the governments annual contribution for teachers benefit by Tk 143 crore from Tk. 369 crores to 522 crores. It was added that the Government has given teachers benefit to as many as 2562 non-government educational institutions during the first 8 months of the current fiscal year.

It was also added that the Government has introduced a stipend programme for all female students from class six to ten of rural secondary educational institutions and the female students of class six and nine are being paid monthly stipend beginning January 1994. It was also informed that as many as 11 non-Government educational institutions including 8 high schools, 1 girls high school, 1 madrasa and 1 college in each thana are being developed during the current and next fiscal under a development programme.

It was added that the Government has revived the non-government teachers and employees Welfare Trust and introduced index number for non-teaching staff for smooth payment of salary-subsidion.

The leaders of association were informed that the Government has also taken steps to

revise the service rules for ensuring security of service of non-Government Teachers and Employees and also made arrangements for payment of months teachers benefit by the 15th of the following month.

The Government has ordered the non-government educational institutions to introduce Provident Fund and accordingly a large number of educational institutions have introduced this fund.

The leaders of the teachers association were assured that the other demands of the non-government teachers are under active consideration of the Government. The Government very strongly feels that these can be amicably settled through mutual discussions and negoti-

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Talks with teachers

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ations. It may be mentioned that the Government, meanwhile formally invited the non-govt teachers associations 3 times since they launched the movement. Unfortunately some of the associations under the banner of a liaison committee did not attend this meetings—one held on 16th April under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary and another held on 17th April under the chairmanship of Education Minister and even Monday held under the chairmanship of Education Minister and attended by three other ministers.

The Government hopes that these associations will soon attend the discussion to resolve their demands. The Government also firmly believes that the teachers demand can be settled through mutual discussion and hopes that the teachers Associations which are on strike and specially those who have threatened to boycott the ensu-

ing SSC Examination will soon call off their strike and join the discussion currently being held with the Government.

The Government also hopes that these Associations will actively participate in conducting the ensuing SSC Examination in the greater national interest and in particular in the interest of the SSC examinees who are going to appear at the first public examination in their lives. The Teachers' Associations attending Monday's meeting reiterated their earlier stand on not to boycott the SSC Examination. They however informed the Government that they will continue to press for their demands until resolved.

In this connection the Government wants to clearly assure the examinees, the guardians and the people in general that the ensuing SSC Examination scheduled for May 2 to May 28, 1994 shall be held as per schedule and all preparations for holding the Examination

have already been completed. The Government sincerely hopes that teachers will participate in conducting the SSC Examination.

The meeting was attended by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mr Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Science and Technology Professor M A Mannan, State Minister for Education Principal Md. Eunus Khan, Education Secretary Mr Md Irshadul Haq, D.G. of Secondary and Higher Education Prof. Eunus Mia and participated by the leaders of Bangladesh Teachers Association (Ashraf Nazrul), Bangladesh College Teachers Association, Bangladesh Madrasa Teachers Association, National Federation for Teachers Association, Bangladesh Principals Councils, Bangladesh Jamiatul Mu-daressin, Bangladesh Educational Institutions Employees Federation (Montu-Hasan).