

298

064

Primary teachers call off hunger strike

By A Staff Reporter

Primary teachers who began a mass hunger strike on December 24 to realise their three point demands have called off their strike at 7.30 p.m. on Monday at the Central Shaheed Minar.

In all, 306 teachers of them two ladies, fasted long 101 hours and 35 minutes while two students who started later fasted for 53 hours in support of the teachers' demands.

The three-point demands were release of Prof. Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Association, fixation of their pay-scales and implementation of the agreement with the government signed on March 6.

A meeting was arranged by the Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association on the fifth day of the hunger strike on Monday at the Central Shaheed Minar and was attended by leaders from almost all the political parties in the country.

Presided over by Mr Sham-sur Rahman, Vice-President of the Association, the meeting was addressed by Mr Abdur Razzak of Bangladesh Awami League, Kazi Zafar Ahmed of United People's Party, Mr Oli Ahad of Democratic League, Maulana Abdul Matin of Bangladesh Labour Party, Mr Nurul Huda Mirza of Ganotantrik Party, Mr Shahul Alam Pro-dhan of Ganotantrik Party, Mr Nazrul Islam of Workers Party, Maulana Abdus Sobhan of Islamic Democratic League, Mr Mohfuz Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Janamukti Party, Mr Matur Rahman of Progotisil Ganotan-trik Sakti, Mr Noor Moham-med Kazi of People's League.

Contd. on page 8 col. 5

Pry teachers

Contd. from page 1

Mr Nurul Huq Chowdhury of Ganotantrik Karmi Shibir, Mr Saiful Islam of Ekota Party, Mr Nurul Islam of Bangladesh Communist Party, Mr Shafiqur Rahman Majumder of Bangla-desh Majdur Party, Babu Pan-koj Bhattacharya of NAP, Mr Abdus Sobhan of NAP, Bha-shani, Mr Gorib Newaz, Chair-man of People's League, Mr Abdullah Sarkar of BSD, Mr Sultan Raza of JSD, Mr Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui of AL and Mr Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, Sec-retary, Bangladesh Primary Tea-chers' Association.

The Association members read out the allegations made by the government against their President, described them as 'silly' grounds and asked if there was any valid reason they would not keep him in detention.

They criticised the Press Note as misleading because, in-crements, house rents and other benefits were never given as per accord. Mr Azad was ar-rested because of initiating tea-chers' movements for their right and not corruption as stated by the government.

At the end of the meeting at the request of the political lea-ders the hunger strikers agreed to call off their fast. The tea-chers first said they would do so, if their leader Mr Altafur Rahman, a Vice-President, who was also fasting agreed to do so. When the leaders of Poli-tical Parties went to Mr Rahman he wanted assurances of co-operation for their three-point programme before he was ready to break his fast.

Finally as a result of the as-surances by leaders he and all others broke the hunger strike

3 POINTS PROGRAMME

The Bangladesh Primary Tea-chers' Association and the Na-tional opposition political lea-ders jointly announced the three-point programme to rea-lise the teachers demands.

The programmes are (a) they will arrange a protest meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square on December 30, (b) if demands are not met within the time they will observe demonstra-tion day on January 15, (c) and they would resort to hartal and ghcras to realise their demands

J. N. VARSITY

Earlier, Jahangir Nagar Uni-versity Teachers' Association held an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday and called upon the government to fulfil demands of the primary teachers.

Stating the three-point dem-ands as "genuine" they said that government would be tes-ponsible for any serious conse-quence arising out of the hun-ger strike situation.

Expressing solidarity with the primary teachers against the government they demand-ed immediate release of Prof. Azad, President of the Primary Teachers' Association.

The teachers have also deci-ded to cancel their strike pro-grammes from December 31.