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সুন্দরী

BRAC SUPERVISION

## Pry teachers reject govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary school teachers of the country threatened to go for tougher movement against the government decision of handing over the responsibilities to Brac, a non-government organisation, to supervise all primary schools in 30 upazilas.

They feared that this is the initiation to privatise the whole primary education.

Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA), Bangladesh Private Primary Teachers Association (BPPTA), Bangladeshi Graduate Primary Teachers Association (BGPTA) and Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) jointly organised a press conference at BPTA office yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision on monitoring of all the primary schools in 30 upazilas across the country.

The four associations of primary teachers announced a series of protest programmes demanding immediate withdrawal of the government decision.

Their programme includes submission of memorandum to the adviser and secretary for primary and mass education, director general of directorate of primary education and other concerned authorities today.

Besides, teachers will also wear black badges across the country on June 10-12. They will also submit memorandum to the chief adviser on June 12.

On April 23 this year, the government decided to give Brac the responsibility of monitoring all the primary schools, including government, private and community schools, in 30 upazilas across the country, sources of directorate of primary education said.

"The main objective of NGOs in the country is to start micro credit programme. If they enter any school in the name of monitoring quality education, they workers will definitely launch their prefixed credit programme," said BPPTA President Mohammad Shamsul Alam at the press conference.

He also said the government has to lift the decision within next 10 days. Otherwise, they would go for countrywide tougher movement to compel the government to cancel it as they did in 1981.

Wahiduzzaman Miah, president of BPTA, apprehended that country's primary educational system could be ruined if monitored or supervised by such inexperienced institution like Brac as it could not continue its own schools in remote areas for "mismanagement".

Teachers also demanded intro-

ducing rationing system for teachers with 60 percent dearness allowances, single education system in primary level, removing salary discrimination among the staffs, nationalisation of all the in-service non-government school teachers, and recruiting both male and female teachers based on equal qualifications.

BGPTA President Abdul Khalek, BPTA Secretary General BM Asad Ullah and BPTA Joint Secretary Naznin Banu were present at the press conference.

The primary and mass education ministry in a statement yesterday said the permission was given to implement the programme targeting to improve the standard of the primary education through a pilot programme.

The statement also said that the Brac training programme will run on holidays without interrupting or hurting the ongoing regular training programme of directorate of primary education and total education activities.

The next line of action will be taken after completion of mid-term and final evaluation of Brac programme by the directorate.

"The pilot programme of Brac will assist with government's second phase of Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-II). Monitoring of the government programme on primary education has not been given to Brac or any other NGO," Khondaker M Asaduzzaman, director general of directorate of primary education, told The Daily Star yesterday.