

29/3/88
5-4

066

of transferring the primary schools under the jurisdiction of the union parishads and the municipalities. It is learnt that the Demand Day would include mass rallies and processions throughout the country and in Dacca the teachers will also submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister who is in charge of the Ministry of Education too.

It is clear from the move of the Primary Teachers' Council that the teachers are not happy over the authorities decision which was probably taken without consultation with the teachers' representatives. Interest of the thousands of teachers are involved in it. And it also proposes a fundamental change in the system. So the decision ought to have been taken after a detailed consultation with the teachers' representatives.

Not all union parishads and municipalities in the country are equal. Their financial strength and administrative capacity are definitely not the same. Even their notion or attitude to primary education and the teachers is not likely to be same. For all these reasons, the primary teachers un-

der different local bodies may not get a uniform treatment. At least the teachers have sufficient reasons to apprehend such a development. And that is perhaps, the main cause that has compelled the primary teachers to go for observing a demand day.

The primary teachers were perhaps; more or less; happy under the present arrangement or system and so far as we know they did not want any change in it. We; therefore; fail to understand what compelled the authorities to decide for a change. May be that it was essential or it might be beneficial to the teachers and the country as a whole. But it should have been explained to the people concerned much earlier before taking any decision. Then it could be given effect to smoothly.

However; we hope that the decision making authorities would now sit with the representatives of the teachers and try to find out a mutually acceptable formula so that no further problem is created in our primary education.

A GUARDIAN
Dacca.

Primary teachers

The Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Council has decided to observe Demand Day on April 2 to urge the repeal of the recent decision