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Pry teachers begin hunger strike today

The demonstrating teachers of non-government primary schools toughened their action programme deciding to start a fast-until-death in the city from today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Earlier, they announced the programme to continue sit-in strike till Wednesday and hunger strike from Thursday if their four-point demand, including nationalisation of their schools, is not met.

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Association has been staging the sit-in demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club since Saturday demanding nationalisation of all registered non-government primary schools in the country along with the teachers.

They are also demanding a monthly allowance of Taka 1500 each for the teachers of the schools until these are nationalised, registration of the unregistered primary schools and appointment of teachers according to

the number of students, particularly in the schools in cities and municipal towns.

Hasina visits teachers

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina on Monday visited the striking teachers expressing solidarity with their movement and urged the government to meet their demands immediately.

Addressing the gathering of the teachers Hasina said the government lost its right to stay in power as it had failed to realise the demands of teachers and other professionals.

Terming the primary teachers as basic elements to eradicate illiteracy, she said if they were deprived of their rights, building of educational infrastructure would not be possible.

Hasina accused the Government of betraying with the people, saying it had breached commitments given to professionals and let loose terror throughout the country.

The government claims that it allocated the highest budget for educational sector, but the reality does not reflect that, she told the demonstrators. "Otherwise, the primary teachers would not have taken to street with their several demands", she said.

"How the teachers can teach the students if their minimum needs are not met", said Hasina and urged the government to talk to the primary teachers for an immediate decision to solve their problems.

President of the Association Major (Retd) Asaduzzaman said several thousand teachers passed the third day (Monday) of their sit-in strike and were determined to continue it until the demands are met.

He urged the government to meet their demands immediately to mitigate the sufferings of the teachers who came from different parts of the country to realise their "just" demands.