

## Teachers' strike continues

# Uncertainty looms over students fate

Uncertainty looms large over the fate of tens and thousands of students of country's non-government schools, madrasas and colleges as their teachers continued strike for the sixth consecutive day Tuesday, reports BD News.

Meanwhile, although the government was supposed to issue a Press Note regarding the demands

of the teachers Tuesday, the Education Ministry sources said the government is yet to decide on the issue.

Due to the disagreements between the education and Finance Ministries, the situation is gradually worsening, the sources added.

"Education Minister Osman Fattuk agreed to increase the basic salary of the teacher to 95 per

cent from the existing 90 per cent but Finance Minister Saifur Rahman declined to endorse it on grounds of fund constraint," the Education Ministry sources said.

State minister of education Ehsanul Haque Milon also cited the financial crisis as the main obstruction in meeting the demands of the teachers.

While talking to BD News, the State Minister said, "We are the parents of this sector. Have you ever heard of any who ignores the demand of the child? Our Prime Minister is concerned about the demands of teachers."

He added, teachers should be given the highest remuneration...otherwise talented ones will never be interested in this profession. But the financial constraint held the Government back. He, however, said, "We have given them maximum facility, the practice (See page 15 Col. 4)

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tice began from the era of President Ziaur Rahman."

Over the mounting demand of teachers for his resignation, Milon said, "Those who want us to resign are not teachers at all, but if the crisis of Tk 400 crore is met with this, I am ready to resign right now."

Terming his comment as lofty words, National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) convener Kazi Faruq Ahmed in an instant reaction said, "President Ziaur Rahman not only brought us under pay scale, but also allocated money with the arrears of previous 17 months. But Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is violating the pledges she made in the election manifesto."

In between the haggle of the agitating teachers and the Government, students are suffering terribly, since the three alliances of teachers and employees of non-government institutions vowed to continue their movement till their demands are not realised.