

PRIMARY SCHOOLS Teachers plan agitation against Brac supervision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government primary schools will hold a grand rally in the capital on August 20 demanding cancellation of Brac supervision over all primary schools in 20 upazilas under a pilot project.

Tougher programmes will be announced from the grand rally, if their 10 demands are not met by August 18, said teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association yesterday.

"It is the responsibility of the state to ensure quality primary education for all. Why does the government allow non-government organisation Brac that has no experience in formal education to supervise all primary schools in 20 upazilas?" said association President M Aminul Islam Chowdhury at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

He also said the government move is part of a plan to privatise country's primary education. But it would not help improve the standard of primary education, he added.

"We shall hold a grand rally on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Primary schools

FROM PAGE 16

August 20 in the capital where a series of protest programmes will be announced against the government decision," said association Secretary General M Mansur Ali.

The tasks of Brac under the pilot project approved by the government on May 23 this year include training teachers, activating the school managing committees (SMCs) and improving the overall education environment of the classrooms.

Brac got the permission to supervise primary schools at 20 upazilas in Sylhet, Habiganj, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Munshiganj and Gazipur.

The demands of the teachers include nationalisation of their jobs, increase of house rent, medical allowance and dearness allowance.

Association leaders Golam Faruque Sarkar, Emtiaz Ali, Golam Mohammad, Abu Bakar Siddique, Mosharraf Hossain and Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present.