

PM urges teachers to join duty

Prime Minister Shah Aziz Rahman appealed on Wednesday to the striking college teachers to resume their duties and facilitate holding examinations in time with the assurance to them that "the doors of negotiations would always remain open."

The Appellate Committee has already accepted a "substantial part of their demands and rest are subject to future consideration", Prime Minister Shah Aziz, who is also in charge of Education Ministry, told BSS in an interview.

Prime Minister said, "Further discussions on other matters may continue and expressed his hope that the striking teachers will heed my appeal in the large interest of the country and academic stability."

Prime Minister said, "a section of Government college teachers were on strike for sometime" and added he had personally discussed with their representatives about their grievances. He also referred to steps taken in this connection.

Their decision to continue strike, he added, has enhanced a sense of alarm and anxiety in the minds of guardians of the examinee-students. There are about 600 Dacca University M.A. examinees in colleges and 2,500 directly under the university and 1,50,000 H.S.C. examinees all over the country.

Shah Aziz said if strike continued it would not be possible to hold examinations in time and the academic career of examinee-students "will be retarded." He said he had discussions with guardians as well and found them "very much perturbed about future of their wards."

Prime Minister said, "The doors of negotiations with striking teachers will always remain open. I wish to assert that appellate committee's decision on pay-scales reflects the collective decision of the Government, which is a corporate organ."