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Govt. high school teachers' token strike today³

By A Staff Correspondent

Teachers of government high schools will observe a token strike today (Tuesday) throughout the country by abstaining from taking classes for four periods to press home their seven-point demands.

Addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club on Monday, Mir Abdul Baten, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Sarkari Madhyamik Shikha Samity (Government secondary school teachers' association) and Convener of the central action committee said that the association has decided to go on a total strike from October 3 if their demands were not fulfilled by September 30.

Mir Abdul Baten said that if due status along with adequate financial benefits were not given to the teachers the standard of education in the country could not be raised. He said that persons with better academic background would not feel attracted to teaching profession unless better pay and status were guaranteed to them.

Pay Commission, the status of the secondary school teachers, specially the assistant teachers has been lowered and their salaries were decreased. In the Pay Commission announced in 1973, the assistant teach-

ers were given the status of class II gazetted officials he added. The salaries of the assistant teachers were only one grade below the headmasters of the government schools. But in the present pay structure, the position of the assistant teachers has been lowered at least by four steps he alleged. He demanded of the Government to narrow the gap between headmasters, assistant headmasters and the assistant teachers by only one step respectively.

The seven-point demands of the government secondary school teachers include fixation of the pay of the Headmasters with the government officials of other departments of the same status the pay of the assistant headmasters only one grade below the headmaster and that of the assistant teachers one grade below the assistant headmaster. Their demands also include promotion of all teachers in the selection grade on completion of their eight years service and promotion for the trained graduate assistant teachers on preferential basis, creation of permanent posts for the teachers of newly announced government schools, arrangement for gazette notification for the assistant teachers and assistant headmasters as is done in the cases of other class II gazetted government officials in other departments.