

## Non-govt school teachers' strike enters 7th day

By A Staff Correspondent

The teachers of non-Government secondary schools passed their sixth day of indefinite strike on Thursday in response to a call of Bangladesh Shikha Samnny Parishad.

Samnny Parishad (Body for coordination) in a statement on Thursday claimed that all the teachers and employees of non-Government schools are abstaining from their duty and the Education Board has stopped distribution of examination papers to the schools. The Secondary School Certificate examination (SSC) scheduled to begin from March 6, has become uncertain.

The Parishad claimed that there was a move to foil the strike by using the executives of "so-called federation". The leaders of the Parishad resented the activities of the executives of the federation and urged the teachers and employees of the non-Government schools to continue their strike unless the two-point demands were met.

They expressed gratefulness to the Chhatra Sangram Parishad and Bangladesh College Shikha (See Page 10 Col. 5)

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Samity for lending support to their programme. Bangladesh Sahakari Shikha Samity in a statement signed by Mr. Badruddin Halder decided to continue the strike and urged the Government to accept the two-point demands.

Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association in a separate statement on the day called upon the teachers and employees of non-Government secondary schools to abstain from the strike. The statement was jointly signed by Maulana Abdul Mannan, Secretary General, Bangladesh Shikha Samity Federation, Mr. A. K. M. Shahidullah and Mr. A. K. M. Ali Reza, President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh College Shikha Samity and Bangladesh Sarkari College Shikha Samity. Mr. Amanullah, President, Bangladesh Shikha Samity; Mr. Shahidur Rahman, General Secretary, Bangladesh Sarkari Madhyamik Shikha Samity and Maulana Nasiruddin, General Secretary, Jamiatul Mudarassen also signed the statement.

The statement said that steps were underway to implement enhanced benefits of the teachers and employees of non-Government secondary schools from January, 1986 in accordance with discussion held with the leaders of the federation with the Government in October last.

The call of strike on the eve of implementation of the enhanced benefits to the teachers and employees would only create uncertainty, the federation leaders observed. They said that they had no link with the strike.

They said that some people rejected by the general as leaders were engaged in strike when the problems of teachers were going to be solved. Giving an account of achievement of the federation for the teachers they said that a total amount of Taka 150 crore Government grant was needed to meet the expenditures of enhanced benefits for 1984-85 while an amount of Taka 172 crore would be required for 1985-86, they said.

Principal A. K. M. Shahidullah and Mr. Faruk Ahmed President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh College Teachers Association said that they had no link with the strike.