

SSC exams begin School teachers continue strike

By Our Staff Correspondent

Amidst continuing strike of the teachers of non-government secondary schools of the country, the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination of the current 1985-86 session began yesterday (Thursday) in all the 572 centers under the four education boards.

The striking teachers have, however, decided to continue abstention from their duties to press home their 2-point charter of demands including introduction of a revised pay scale for the non-government school teachers and Tk. 1000 monthly allowance for the teachers who obtained training from the official institutions.

They also included the demand for unconditional release of the teachers who were arrested during the strike period and were given one month's detention later on.

Earlier the teachers declared that they would start abstaining from their duties from February 22 unless their demands were realized. They also announced that during the program they would not take delivery of the admit cards of the examinees from the centers nor they would serve as invigilators at the examination centers.

Most of the political parties of the country expressed their concern at the program and urged the government to end this stalemate but only a few them extended their direct support to the teachers.

The 15-party alliance and 7-party combine leaders however urged the school teachers to "postpone" their

program on the ground that the SSC examination should be held according to schedule. But the teachers decided to continue with their strike.

On the other hand, the government took up the challenge and control room was established in the city. The government school teachers were asked to give the examination.

In the other districts the deputy commissioners were empowered to recruit government officials or teachers from the government schools and colleges to hold the examinations. Additional police and ansar forces were engaged at the examination centers to tackle any untoward incident.

Till March 5, the situation was unpredictable. Demonstrations supporting the teachers were made in almost all the districts of the country. Complete general strike was observed in Munshiganj and Lalmonirhat in support the demands of the teachers. In many places processions were arranged and memorandums were handed over to the district or upazilla administrations to end this uncertainty.

A leader of the striking teachers told Holiday yesterday that they would continue their program till their demands were met and they would declare their next course of action very soon.

On the other hand the deputy director of the education directorate in charge of the central control room at Dhaka said that abstention of the teachers would not affect the SSC examination anywhere.