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## Degree exams begin peacefully

Staff Correspondent

Despite strike by the non-government college teachers degree pass examinations under Dhaka and Chittagong Universities were held peacefully yesterday (Monday). The examinations were held under the special arrangement taken by the government.

Deputy Commissioners, Magistrates and other government officials were deputed to conduct the examination.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said at a press conference that a total of 1,17,680 students, in 132 and 70 centres in Dhaka and Chittagong appeared on the first day of examination under special arrangements.

The Minister expressed satisfaction after visiting some

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centres in the city over holding of the examination peacefully with the help of government, non-government teachers, officials, guardians and student community. Transport strike also failed to distract the holding of the examination, he added.

About 25,000 teachers of private colleges, schools and madrasahs have been on strike since January 18 to press home their demands.

Education Minister referring to the demands of the striking teachers said, the government has in principle agreed to most of them. They include provision of a trust fund, introduction of salary index system, and new service rules for the employees and repeal of directorate of inspection and audit system.

He also said, the government is considering other demands and added that about 1400 college teachers were promoted by 20th November last year. The cases of 1200 others are under active consideration of the authorities. He however, hoped that the strike would be withdrawn immediately after fruitful discussions and possible measures would be taken to solve session jam in the university.