

## Education Minister's fresh offer for talks:

# Exams held despite

By Staff Reporter

The degree pass and subsidiary examinations under Dhaka and Chittagong universities were held peacefully on the first day yesterday under special arrangements with the non-government college teachers continuing their strike.

Officials and government school and college teachers were pressed into invigilation duty while the striking teachers held rallies and brought out processions to reaffirm their determination to continue the strike till their 15-point demand was met.

In the city, the strikers squatted on streets and held rallies in front of the National Press Club and the Shikkha Bhaban.

But no untoward incident was reported from anywhere while 1,77,680 students sat for the examinations at 203 centres, 132 under Dhaka and 70 under Chittagong universities. Over 80 students were expelled on the first day.

In the evening, Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar renewed his call to the striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges to resume duties and come to the negotiating table.

Addressing a press conference at the ministry last evening he said the examinations were held peacefully despite the teachers strike, and reaffirmed the government's determination to settle the impasse in the educational institutions for the sake of avoiding session jam.

But Zamiruddin Sircar reported that teachers did not disrupt the examinations, held on the 23rd day of the strike by about 25,000 teachers.

They even participated in invigilation duties, he claimed but failed to provide the percentage of the teachers or the number of officials pressed into examination duties by the

authorities.

But the education minister denied that he had threatened the teachers in anyway. "I want to talk to them and resolve some of their genuine demands," he said.

The minister told reporters that holding of examination does not mean that prevailing situation due to the strike should persist in the educational institutes since it involves the fate of other examinees in coming examinations.

He said the government likes to consider the demands which it considers genuine. But it needs time and consultations with the Finance Minister. Because the teachers have demanded extra pay and benefits totalling 125 crore taka.

The minister identified four demands which he said could be settled immediately. These are resumption of trust funds with teachers representations. Service rules for all including school employees and sorting of Index number systems, stretching its facilities to include the employees also.

But the teachers have demanded abolition of the Directorate of Inspection and Audit, something we are ready to do but there must be a system of accountability of public money. the minister asserted saying that 90 percent of the private school funds come from the exchequers.

On other demands of the teachers, he said the government since taking charge have been trying to remove anomalies in service conditions of the teachers, promoting 1400 teachers in colleges. Cases of some 1200 others are under active consideration for promotions, something they deserved during the past nine years but never got, he added.

Our Noakhali Correspondent adds: At least 37 students were

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No untoward incident reported

# teachers' strike

## Exams

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expelled from six centres of Noakhali district during the degree pass and subsidiary examinations under Chittagong University yesterday.

No untoward incident was reported during the examinations here.

Our Comilla Correspondent adds: Degree pass and subsidiary examinations in 13 colleges including eight government colleges were held peacefully yesterday.

About 96 per cent students out of the total 2397 appeared from the three government colleges in Comilla town.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent adds: Fortythree students were expelled from six centres in Kishoreganj district for adopting unfairmeans on the first day of the degree pass and subsidiary examinations yesterday.

A total of 1184 examinees appeared at the examinations on the first day out of total 1252 students. Of the expelled students, 19 were from Pakundia centre, 14 from Kotoadi, three each from Hossainpur and Bhairab and two each from Bajitpur and Kishoreganj Government Women's College.

Examinations in all the centres excepting the Kishoreganj Women's College were conducted by the local officials.

Our Faridpur Correspondent adds: The Degree pass and subsidiary examinations were interrupted by 10 minutes as thirteen candidates were expelled at Bhyanga K.M. College centre for adopting unfairmeans. Examinations in all other six centres of the district were held peacefully.

On the other hand the striking teachers of non-government educational institutions in the district brought out a procession in support of their 15-point demands. The procession paraded the main roads of the town. They also held a sit-in-demonstration in front of the DC's office and submitted a memorandum to the DC.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent adds: Degree pass and subsidiary examinations in four centres of the district were held peacefully yesterday under special arrangements.

One candidate was expelled from Tolaram College centre for adopting unfairmeans.

According to Narayanganj district administration, a total of 1401 candidates appeared at the degree examinations in Narayanganj district.