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Education for all by 2000 aimed at

The launching of Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) programme gets off to an auspicious start today aiming at achieving "education for all by the year 2000."

According to the Education Ministry, initially one upazila each of all the 64 districts of the country will be brought under the CPE programme from the academic session commencing today (Wednesday) while the remaining upazilas will be incorporated in the programme in phases within two to three years.

With the introduction of the CPE programme, the NP government is materialising one of its main electoral pledges made before the last Parliamentary polls. Earlier, the present BNP government has waived agriculture loans upto Taka five thousand with interest, written off revenue of land upto 25 bighas, extended age bar in the government jobs upto 30 years and resumed canal digging programme as per the electoral commitments.

Education Ministry sources said the upazilas brought under the first phase of the CPE programme are—Savar of Dhaka district, Patia of Chittagong district, Putia of Rajshahi district, Fultala of Khulna district and the Sadar upazilas of the rest 60 districts.

All the 11,591 primary-level educational institutions of the 64 upazi-

las will come under the CPE programme. These institutions are: 6,890 Government Primary Schools, 2,042 Non-Government Primary Schools and 2,659 Ibtedayee Madrasahs, the sources further said.

Four teachers each of the Non-government Primary Schools will get allowance of Taka 500 per month from the government for the purpose.

In the first phase, an estimated 28,98,100 children below 10 of the 64 upazilas will be targetted for the CPE programme. Of them 6,02,971 children belong to the age group six to seven, will be motivated for enrolment in the initial level of the primary education.