

New Year's gift awaits non-govt pry teachers

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THE prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, is scheduled to make a formal announcement today on the nationalisation of 26,200 non-government registered primary schools for further development of elementary education.

Primary and mass education ministry officials said that of the 1,04,000 teachers of the schools, whose jobs would also be nationalised, 21,522 did not have required educational qualification.

The primary and mass education minister, Afsarul Amin, at a press conference on Tuesday said that the prime minister was going

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21,500 pry teachers unqualified

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will. The teachers were later brought under a special pay structure of the government and remained in their jobs.

It was revealed that these teachers passed the Secondary School Certificate or equivalent exams in third division though the minimum required qualification was a second division.

Back in January, 2004, the primary and mass education ministry had asked all the 21,522 teachers having qualification less than required to meet the qualification by November 2006 or to lose their jobs.

Such teachers, as the deadline neared, threatened to

hold street agitations, prompting the caretaker government led by Iajuddin Ahmed to postpone implementation of the ministry order.

The council of advisers at a meeting decided that all such teachers would need to take the competency test to be conducted by the primary and mass education ministry by June 30, 2007 and the teachers who would come out unsuccessful would lose their jobs. The interim government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed in July 2007 asked such teachers to meet the qualification by November 2007.

The council of advisers of the caretaker government

on December 21, 2008 extended the deadline for the last time for such teachers to meet the minimum required qualifications. However, 21,522 out of a total 44,000 teachers failed to meet the qualification by the deadline but remained in the jobs.

According to the prime minister's announcement on May 27, 2012, the government will nationalise the jobs of all 1,03,835 teachers of 26,193 non-government registered and un-registered primary schools in three phases starting on January 1, 2013.

Former primary education adviser to interim

government Rasheda K Chowdhury told New Age she hoped the government should not compromise on the quality of teachers. She said that the government should ask all the 21,522 incompetent teachers to acquire minimum required qualification before getting their jobs nationalised.

Educationist Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, who is also a member of the education policy implementation committee, said that he was always in favour of increasing the pay and perks of all teachers, but did not support compromise on the quality of teachers and education.