

Pry head teachers' status upgraded

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The government primary school headmasters got an upgrade in their ranks.

The headmasters will now enjoy the status of class II employees instead of class III.

The salary of headmaster and assistant teachers were also increased.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the upgrades yesterday at the inaugural Primary Education Week.

With this, the Awami League government fulfilled a long-standing demand of teachers and educationists.

Primary schoolteachers had been demonstrating for a long time to upgrade their status.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education officials said from now on, an experienced headmaster of a government primary school would be on a Tk6,400 monthly pay scale instead of Tk5,500 that they were on before.

Similarly, an untrained headmaster will be on a Tk5,900 monthly salary scale instead of Tk5,200 of the present salary structure.

The pay scale of untrained assistant teachers will be increased to Tk4,900 from Tk4,700 and those trained to Tk5,200 from Tk4,900.

The primary and mass education ministry issued a circular on this later.

At present, there are 37,000 government primary schools. The

government has recently nationalised 23,000 more government primary schools.

Speaking at the Primary Education Week 2014 at Osmani Memorial Hall, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government had a plan to elevate the level of the country's primary education up to Class-VIII from existing Class V, making it compulsory for every children, reports BSS.

The premier said computer education would also be compulsory at primary level along with taking all steps to fulfill her party's election pledge to achieve 100% literacy rate.

Saying that her government is completely aware about the demand of the

primary teachers, the prime minister said the government would continue efforts to develop professional, social and economic conditions of primary schoolteachers.

In a reaction, Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association President Abul Bashar said the decision would help improve primary education.

He said because of low social status, they did not play a role in the society.

Abul Ehsan, a professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, said due to low status, many talented job seekers did not come to primary teaching.

He said to ensure quality primary education, teachers' salary should be

increased.

However, the assistant teachers of government primary schools termed the increase in salary disproportionate.

"We are thankful for the announcement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, but we expected that the salary of assistant teachers would increase in proportion to that of the head teachers," Shahinur Alamin, secretary general of Bangladesh Assistant Teachers Society, told the Dhaka Tribune.

He said their salary was increased only Tk200 from the previous structure.

"We are disappointed over comparatively slight increase in the assistant teachers' salary," he said. ●