

One fifth teaching positions

Continued from page 1
Islam Choudhury.

He said one cannot expect proper education at schools facing shortage of teachers. How can the government justify such negligence of the schools it runs? He asked.

Prolonged vacancies in the position of head teacher and assistant head teacher, added to shortage of classrooms, science laboratories and furniture, has seriously worsened the academic atmosphere at these schools, said head teachers in reports to the DSHE.

Science lab and computer lab facilities at the govern-

ment schools at the upazila level were inadequate, head teachers said in the report.

Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers' Association president Insan Ali, also head teacher of Dhanmondi Government High School, said there was a shortage of latrines at the schools. Two shift schools have three to four toilets, he said.

Head teachers said that most of the government schools were built in the 1960s with seating arrangement for 25 students in the classrooms. Now the number of students has increased manifold and schools need

to accommodate 60 to 80 students in a classroom.

The head teachers said the government since 2005 had not recruited staff like office assistant, upper division clerk, cleaners and guards. In the absence of these staff members, head teachers face difficulties to run the day-to-day activities of schools.

Education ministry additional secretary Choowdhury Mufad Ahmed said that government has plans to increase classrooms and appoint employees to the government schools. 'We will take initiatives soon,' he added.