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Closure of UPE project puts 8000 teachers into uncertainty

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The fate of eight thousand primary school teachers has become uncertain with the winding up of the World Bank financed universal primary education project. The teachers under this project who were employed by the Ministry of Education are not getting salaries for past eight months.

The project was launched in 1980 for a period of five years in which the World Bank provided 85 percent fund and the rest 15 percent was given by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

The duration of the project from 1985 to 1990. But the time

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Closure of UPE

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for the project was extended for another year at the request of the Education Ministry.

Ministry of Education sources said, about 8,000 teachers were appointed for the universal primary education project and their salaries were given from the development head of the government. About 90 percent fund for the development project was provided by the donors, the sources added.

The World Bank refused to pay fund for the project saying that the period of the project has already expired, said high official of the Ministry of Education and added the Government was compelled to close it down due to shortage of fund.

But, a move is underway to meet the problems of the eight thousand primary teachers of the universal primary education project.

According to sources, the Ministry of Education has already held a meeting with the Ministry of Establishment and Finance to finalise the appointment of the teachers on permanent basis. The teachers salaries will be provided from the revenue budget of the government, the sources said.