

## Despite PM's announcement

NETRAKONA, July 21: Despite government campaign and efforts for compulsory primary education in the country, a large number of registered primary school teachers have not received government portion of their salary for last four months, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced at the conference of the registered primary teachers in December last that the government portion of their salaries would be paid regularly.

But some 75,000 teachers of 20,000 registered primary schools of the country, including Netrakona district, are yet to receive their salaries for four months since February.

This has put the teachers along with their family members in acute hardship and seriously hampering academic activities in those schools. Nearly 1.5 crore children are enrolled in the schools.

A registered primary school teacher gets maximum Tk 1,153 per month with which one could hardly support a family. And if such a small sum remains outstanding for four months how could one pass his days, a teacher asked.

He said the Prime Minister had also announced in the conference that the government would enhance its portion of salaries to the registered teachers to 80 per cent from July 1999.

The authorities concerned, including the Ministry of Education, should take immediate steps to ensure regular payment to the registered teachers to save them from further hardship.