

## 3194 deprived of primary education due to poverty in Patuakhali thana

**PATUAKHALI, Feb. 9:**—At least 3194 children of 5 to 10 age group of sadar thana could not be brought under Compulsory Primary Education Programme even after two years of implementation, reports UNB.

According to a recent survey conducted by a social organisation, at present 46,084 children out of 49,278 of the same age group in Sadar thana are attending the school.

Parents of the poor children said the very existence and survival is more important to them than education as they are suffering from poverty.

The report revealed that many teachers of primary schools are not taking professional interest to attract children to remain in the schools.

Local elite said Food for Education Programme should be geared up and attitude of the teachers should be changed in the changing circumstances to make the Compulsory Primary Education Programme a success.

Society (Bohumukhi Unnayan Society), a non-government organisation, in Nabagram of Kalkini thana has been awarding stipends to girl students of 43 secondary and junior schools of the thana.

This was disclosed at a seminar on the girl students stipend-scheme of the organisation held at Madaripur thana parishad auditorium on February 2.

Presided over by President of the organisation Principal Ganesh Hal-dar, it was attended by H.M. Rashiduzzaman, TNO and Hamidul Haq Gazi, Thana Education Officer, as chief and special guests respectively.

The Director of the Society Gilbert Binimoy Sarker said the stipend scheme was started in 1987 under the auspices of Asia Foundation to encourage female education and so far 6181 girl students have been awarded stipends. He said more 2000 girl students would be brought under the scheme during the current fiscal year.

He informed that stipends are given at the rate of Tk 65 to Class VI, Tk 70 to Class VII, Tk 75 to Class VIII, Tk 105 to Class IX and Tk 110 to Class X students.

The stipend is being disbursed through the Education Directorate and the NORAD of Norway.

With the disbursement of stipends among the poor students of the rural areas the dropouts have drastically decreased, it is learnt.

The society is also implementing various projects on rural sanitation, sinking of tubewells and tree planting.

A report from Madaripur adds: The Multi-Purpose Development