



## Over Tk 100 cr needed to repair govt pry schools

By Bikash Barua

Reconstruction and repair of the government primary schools damaged by the recent floods in the country would cost over Taka one hundred crore, according to an official source.

A senior official of the Primary Education Directorate told the Times that of the 29,000 primary schools in 50 flood-affected districts, nearly 2000 had been completely damaged while another 10,000 had been partially damaged. There are 44,000 primary schools in the country of which 38,000 are nationalised.

According to preliminary reports received by the Directorate from the districts the number of primary schools affected

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## Pry Schools

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seriously was the highest in the Barisal district. Over one hundred primary schools in Barisal district were completely damaged. The number of schools partially damaged in the district was much higher. Other districts where the damage to schools was extensive were Chandpur, Sirajganj and Sunamganj.

An official of the Directorate however, was skeptical about the authenticity of the estimate of the damage prepared by the district level primary education authorities. Because, he added, within such a short period it was not possible to make correct assessment of the loss due to the floods. The upazila level reports of the damage caused by the floods are yet to reach the Directorate.

In the Dhaka city, the situation is not that bad. None of the 300 primary schools in the city suffered total damage. However, some have been partially damaged as flood water en-

tered the buildings and the flood affected have been using the school buildings as relief camps.

The environment in and around the schools used as relief camps has been polluted. The bathrooms even the class rooms are now unusable. In some institutions flood-affected people, most of whom belong to the lower strata of the society even used school furniture as fuel wood.

In view of the prevalent situation concerned quarters were found skeptical about the reopening of the educational institutions on October 1. Moreover, school buildings now being used as relief camps are yet to be vacated. Only two primary schools in the city were vacated till Monday. And it still remains uncertain as to when the rest would be vacated. Moreover, resumption of classes will not be possible immediately after evacuation because the schools buildings first need to be thoroughly cleansed.

### TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

The total damage caused to country's 77 technical institutions (polytechnic, monotechnic and vocational) by the floods have been estimated at Taka one crore and fifty-five lakh, according to a senior official.

The estimate has been prepared according to the first-hand reports received from various technical institutions in the country.

The flood water damaged heavy machinery of a number of institutions which could not be moved to the safer places. The loss would have been much higher if the light machinery and other equipment were not shifted to the safer places, said a concerned official.

Of the 77 technical institutions, 20 are polytechnic, two of them are under construction, 51 vocational, four monotechnic and two are teacher training institutes and colleges.