

One teacher for 250 kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Only one teacher has been teaching 250 students at Sohrab Ali Government Primary School in Bhuapur upazila for the last one month.

As a result, the students of the school are being deprived of proper learning at the very beginning of the new academic year.

The school was established at Rehai Gabsara village, a char on the Jamuna river 12 kilometres west of the upazila headquarters, in 2014 under the "Establishment of 1,500 new primary schools in villages without school" project.

Directorate of Primary Education implemented the project through Local Government and Engineering Department to establish child-friendly learning centres in the char/haor/baor/hill and other remote areas.

Academic activities started at the school on January, 2015 with 172 students. Two assistant teachers from other schools were brought on deputation. However, there is only one teacher now as the other left in the first week of January for training.

The lone teacher Sanjoy Karmokar told this correspondent that the students have been deprived of proper learning since establishment of the school due to lack of

sufficient number of teachers.

"It is not possible for one or two teachers to take all classes in two shifts, besides doing other work of the institution," Sanjoy said.

"The teacher shortage for long may cause dropout of students from remote char areas," he added.

Guardians of several students said their children are losing interest in going to school as classes are not held regularly. They urged the authorities concerned to appoint enough teachers for the sake of proper education of the students.

Govindasi Union Parishad Secretary Sohrab Hossain, founder-president of the school, donated 33 decimals of land for establishing the school.

Sohrab said he has requested officials of the upazila education office to appoint teachers for the school, but the officials told him that teachers do not want to go to the remote char.

Upazila Primary Education Officer in Bhuapur Shahnaz Parvin said she has written to the district primary education office to send one more teacher for the school on deputation.

"Three such schools remain in the upazila and the government will appoint five teachers for each of the schools simultaneously after creating new teachers' posts," she added.