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## Only 25 primary schools in 3 years!

By A Staff Reporter

Only 25 primary schools were established in the country during the first three years of the Third Five-Year Plan as against the target of enrolling 79 per cent of the primary school age children during the plan period.

Prof M Shamsul Huq member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and a former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, told a seminar yesterday that devastating floods in the recent years caused damage to the old school buildings. The repair and reconstruction of school buildings might have consumed the whole allocated amount and budget cut has created another problem, he said.

Prof Huq said there was a sizable increase in the number of primary schools during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The number rose to 44,200 in 1985 from 40,445 in 1980. He said if this trend could be maintained the target of the Universal Primary Edu-

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### Primary schools

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cation (UPE) could be achieved sooner or later.

Prof Huq observed that at least 50 per cent of the students having primary education would not go for further education. He called for provisions for technical workshops attached to the primary schools or in the locality to train those dropouts to become skilled labourers. He said science education should start from primary stage in the form of nature study.