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# Teacher shortage in rural primary schools hits UPEP

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 11:—The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) has been facing manifold problems in 7 thanas of the district.

The dilapidate condition of most of the schools shortage of teaching staff and furniture hamper education of children in the district.

Besides poverty, social factors and negligence of officials are hampering the education of children.

A recent survey on primary education carried out by the District Education office shows that the number of children between the age groups of six and ten is 7,28,206 of whom 6,25,560 have been enrolled in different primary schools and madrashas of the district and the rest 1,02,646 boys and girls are deprived of education.

According to the sources, the short-

age of teachers is acute in many government primary schools, specially in rural areas. As a result normal education is being hampered.

The schools which were damaged during flood, cyclones and other natural calamities several years ago have not yet been repaired for want of fund.

Some of these schools have no houses at all and as such the students are compelled to attend their classes under the open sky.

## Bandarban

UNB adds: Primary education in Bandarban district is in jeopardy because of the deterioration of law and order situation, according to official sources.

Bangalee and tribal teachers of remote areas of Ruma, Rowangchori, Thanchi and Alikadam thanas have been keeping away from schools for fear of abduction and extortion.

Officials of primary education de-

partment described their plight at a reception, organised by District Primary Education Association for some education officials on Thursday last.

They said many schools including eight of the Thanchi thana remained almost empty. Even students do not turn up, they added. About 46 teachers of 12 registered primary schools have also not been getting salaries for the last one year.

Local Governor Council Chairman Mong-ky Ching Chowdhury in his speech at the reception assured education officials that he would take initiative to resolve the problems after discussing with the elected representatives.

The allegation of irregular attendance of teachers in schools is every day matter, he confessed.

The meeting also informed that education officials were not conducting regular inspection of schools for fear of outlaws.