

## Shortage of teachers hampers CEP

NATORE, June 19:—Despite the progress of compulsory primary education (CPE) programme about 31,000 children of school going age have been deprived of education in the district for various reasons, reports UNB.

According to the district education office, a total of 2,56,637 children have been admitted into the primary schools this year out of 2,88,189 in the district. But other sources said the number of deprived children was actually much higher than that of the official figure of 31,551.

On the contrary, the on going progress of CEP is facing setback due to shortage of teacher and accommodation in remote rural areas of the district.

According to government decision, the teacher-student ratio should be 1:50, but the ratio in the rural areas is 1:72.

In the meantime, according to an NGO report, a reverse situation is prevailing in urban areas of the district. The report mentioned that in many cases teachers do not want to stay in the rural primary schools. They always try to get transfer in the town areas by any means.

The district primary education officer said at least 50 teachers are required for smooth functioning of the CPE programme and for making it dynamic and fruitful.