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## Pry Schools beset with problems in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Nov. 5.—Most of the government and non-government primary schools of the district are beset with manifold problems hampering Compulsory Primary Education programme, reports UNB.

According to official sources, there are 549 government and registered non-government primary schools in six thanas of the district. But most of them have been facing accommodation problems due to increasing number of enrolments in every academic session.

Government has been implementing various programmes including Food for Education Programme to raise the number of primary students in the country. But due to shortage of teachers, furniture and other necessary appliances many schools cannot accommodate additional students. Most of the schools are also lacking adequate water supply and sanitary latrines.

Besides, many schools damaged during cyclone, flood and other natural calamities are yet to be repaired. In some schools students are attending classes under the open sky.

Local people alleged that teachers in many schools do not attend their classes regularly. They also alleged that in some schools there are more teachers than required while there are less than the need in other schools.

Guardians alleged that on the basis of understanding with local Education Officers, some teachers attend their schools once in a week just to put their signature in the attendance register.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate measures to ensure better education to the

students.

Our Panchagarh correspondent adds: As many as 7,133 students were covered by Food for Education Programme in Panchagarh district during 1994 education year.

These students were selected in 10 schools of Mirzapur Union of Ato-wari Thana, 10 schools in Shalshiri Union of Boda Thana, 13 schools of Chilahati Union of Debiganj Thana, 4 schools in Buraburi Union of Tetulia Thana and 10 schools in Chakla Union of Panchagarh Sadar Thana.

A quantity of 92.70 metric tons of wheat has been distributed among 7,133 students belonging to 6,000 families of those areas.

It is gathered that more students will be covered by the programme in other unions of the district during the current education year.

UNB from Magura adds: Construction works of 85 educational institutions including college, in the district have been completed.

This was disclosed at a meeting in the Deputy Commissioner's conference room on Thursday. The meeting was organised to distribute cheques against grants for constructing new educational institutions.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Major General (Rtd) Majidul Huq handed over cheques among the representatives of 25 schools and colleges.

The Minister said that the present government had attached top priority to the education sector to develop infrastructure of the country's educational institutions.

He urged the school authorities to raise the standard of education by utilising all facilities extended by the government. He also emphasised on checking 'unfair means' in the examinations.