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## Gazipur primary schools in deplorable condition

GAZIPUR, Feb 27: The Universal Primary Education Programme in the district has been facing set back due to multifarious problems, including shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

Official sources said there are 517 government and 150 non-government primary schools in six thanas of the district with 2,28,114 students.

Deplorable condition of most the school buildings, inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers were identified as the main problems hampering the education adversely.

Besides, high prices of paper and other educational appliances and poverty of the students were the major obstacles to the progress of the education. The number of dropouts was reportedly increasing day by day due to acute financial stringency.

Local people alleged that most of the school buildings damaged in devastating floods, storms and cyclones over the last few years have yet been repaired.

In the absence of water supply system the minor students are compelled to take water from ponds and canals causing spread of the water-borne diseases.

At least 120 posts of primary school teachers have long been lying vacant in the district. But no arrangements have yet been taken to fill up the va-

cant posts.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to remove problems to help achieve the goal of education for all by the year 2000.