

Teacher shortage hits primary education

Cyclone-damaged schools in Barguna not yet repaired

BARGUNA, June 30.—Eighty per cent government primary schools of five upazilas of Barguna district have been facing setbacks creating obstacles in imparting education to the children of the district.

There are 1,35,000 students in 389 government primary and 133 non-government primary schools in Barguna district. About 2,700 teachers are required on the basis of one teacher for 50 students. But the number of teachers is inadequate.

The dilapidated condition of most of the primary school buildings, inadequate furniture and scarcity of teachers are ascribed as the main

causes for hampering the education in Barguna district.

Besides, abnormally high prices of paper and other educational appliances, financial crises, poverty and other social factors are also hampering the education of children.

The primary schools which have been damaged in the floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired.

Roofs of many school buildings have been damaged. Many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky. Most of the schools have

no provision for pure drinking water and students are compelled to drink impure water from tanks and ponds.

For want of pucca latrines, the students respond to call of nature here and there and pollute the environment.

Many schools which are in deplorable condition may collapse at any moment. Buildings of Ruhita, Dhashkhali Gohpekhali North Barataswar, Khuchnichora primary schools of Bamna upazila were handed over to the Facilities Department but the contractors left those school building halfdown.