

Construction, repair of 1,371 primary schools

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The Government has undertaken the construction of 619 and repair of 752 rural primary school buildings under the second phase of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) Project.

The Taka 534 crore project being implemented between 1985 and 1990, also provides for construction of 119 two-storied primary school buildings at various district towns

and 19 such buildings in the four metropolitan cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.

The UPE project spread to 102 thanas and upazilas of the country now, is to help achieve the target of bringing 70 per cent of primary school-age children to schools by 1990. Besides expansion of physical facilities of the primary schools, free text books are being distributed to primary school students, and their tea-

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Primary schools

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chers imparted training under the project.

The 102 upazilas and thanas covered under the UPE projects, second phase include: 25 under Dhaka Division, 17 under Chittagong, 26 under Khulna and 34 under Rajshahi Division. The 619 rural primary schools being constructed will have a total of 1,857 rooms. This will cost Taka 8.40 crore. Repair of 752 schools, a half of these to undergo major repair work, will cost another Taka 8.93 crore, the sources said.

In constructing 119 schools with 595 rooms in urban areas, excluding the four metropolitan cities, the authorities are going for vertical expansion keeping in view the scarcity of space. Of the 19 schools to be constructed in four metropolitan cities, 13 will be in Dhaka and two each in Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi. Each such school will be a four-storied building, the sources said. Besides these, 322 flood affected school buildings are being reconstructed at a cost of Taka 6.13 crore.

In the cyclone-prone areas construction of 180 primary school buildings, in addition to the ones mentioned earlier, began last year; 59 of these have already been completed. Besides, the construction of another 48 schools was taken in hand after last year's devastating cyclone. Under the project 45,060 pair of high and low benches and 2,381 pair of chair and table are being supplied to the schools, the source added.