

## Accommodation crisis in schools for rising number of students

MAULVIBAZAR, July 18: Primary education in six thanas of the district is being hampered due to shortage of accommodation in government and non-government schools, reports UNB.

According to official sources, about 60 per cent government primary schools have been facing acute accommodation problem as students are being enrolled in increasing numbers.

Besides, most of the schools are in dilapidated condition for a long time. The shortage of teachers, tables, benches and other problems have made the situation worst.

Officials said about two lakh students are now studying in 690 government primary schools in the district.

Meanwhile, many dilapidated primary schools which were damaged by flood, cyclone, storm and other natural calamities during the last few years, were handed over to Facilities Department. But these schools have not yet

been repaired.

Local people said a good number of schools are holding classes in the open and many schools are running without fences. It is also alleged that in some schools there are no chairs for the teachers.

Besides, supply of necessary appliances including black boards, chalk, dusters is also inadequate in many schools. About 80 per cent of the schools have no playgrounds for the children.

### ESSENTIALS DEAR

UNB further adds: Prices of essential commodities including soyabean oil, sugar, salt, onion, garlic and vegetable have shot up in all the markets of the district during the last few months causing immense sufferings to the consumers.

Middle class and the low income group of the people are the worst sufferers as they cannot afford to buy the daily necessities to maintain their livelihood.

Local people said soyabean and palm oil are being sold between Tk 55 and Tk 42 per kg

respectively as against Tk 36.

Prices of onion and garlic have gone up by Tk 4 and Tk 2 per kg respectively, they added.

Besides, the prices of construction materials like rod, flat bar, tin-sheet, bamboo have shot up adversely affecting the middle class people.

A section of dishonest businessmen are demanding higher prices creating artificial scarcity in the market.