

Shortage of schools, poverty cited causes

88,700 children deprived of primary edn in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 25:—About 88,700 children of the age group between six and ten years in seven thanas of Cox's Bazar district are deprived of primary education due to economic hardship and shortage of schools.

According to the District Primary Education office, there are about 2.48 lakh children in the age group between 6 and 10 in the district, of them 1.60 lakh children are studying in Government and non-Government primary schools. The 88,700 children of school going age are deprived of primary education. The dilapidated condition of most of the primary school buildings, inadequate number of schools, furniture and shortage of teachers are also main causes for hampering the education in the district. Moreover, many schools damaged in cyclones and other natural calamities in the last few years have not yet been repaired. Students of these schools are attending their classes under the open sky.

There are 514 primary schools in the district of which 376 are Government and the rest 138 are non-Government. There are 1979 teachers in these schools. The ratio of teachers and taught is 1.80 as against the recognized ratio of 1.50 depicting the picture of deprivation of students from proper teaching.

In addition, as many as 164 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time. Of the total post, 31 are of head teachers and the rest 131 assistant teachers. There are seven Thana Education Officers and four Assistant Education Officers to supervise the overall programme of the teacher in the schools. A total of 745,547 books have been distributed among the students by the District Primary Education office. The thana-wise break-up are as follows: Cox's Bazar Sadar 1,30,760, Ramu 77,330, Chakaria 2,53,001, Kutubdia 44,587, Moisca 90,932, Ukhia 91,113, Teknaf 58,024.

The local people opined that the Universal Primary Education Programme of the Govt. will suffer if the bottlenecks of the schools are not removed.

Beautification work progressing

Work on some projects of beautification of Cox's Bazar tourist zone at a cost of Taka one crore under the supervision of the Local Government Engineering Department is progressing fast.

According to official sources, to attract the tourist from home and abroad, some projects for beautification have been taken up with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank under Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project. The projects include, setting up of Mercury light from 9EB Hatchary to Kalatoli, construction of walk

way and tourist spots. Eighty per cent work has been completed.

It is expected that Minister for Civil Aviation and Parjaton Engineer Mosharraf Hossain will inaugurate the beautification projects after completion of the work.

9000 cft firewood recovered

In a joint operation the Task Force recovered 9000 cft firewood from seven brickfields in Ramu thana

worth about Taka four lakh and also seized one lakh ninety thousand pieces of bricks manufactured by using firewoods.

Magistrate Tajul Islam led the raids with the help of Forest officials and members of law enforcing agency.

The Cox's Bazar Forest officials in a separate raid seized 400 cft valuable timbers from sluice gate of Jumchari village under Cox's Bazar Sadar. Separate cases were registered with the police.