

Poverty, shortage of schools and teachers

1.60 lakh children deprived of education in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Jan. 25:—About 1,60,000 children of the district are deprived of primary education due to various reasons, according to a survey conducted by the primary school teachers in 12 thana of the district.

The survey revealed that out of 6,62,135 eligible children of the district only 5,04,517 are going to schools.

The reasons as revealed in the survey report were poverty of the guardians, lack of awareness of the guardians, inadequate number of primary schools and high prices of educational materials.

There are 1,342 government and 227 registered non-government primary schools in the district which can meet only 70 per cent of the total demand of children.

Inadequate number of class rooms, teachers and educational equipment also discourage the chil-

dren from going to schools.

Books being distributed

About 6,70,700 sets of books have been allotted for the children of primary schools of the district in the current session which are being distributed, according to a District Primary Education Department source.

Out of the total books, 2,05,200 sets were allotted for Class I, 1,45,500 sets for Class II, 1,39,600 sets for Class III, 95,100 sets for Class IV and 82,000 sets for Class V, the source added.

Taka 2,04,500/- has been distributed among 104 destitute women in the project area as loan for generating income for attaining self-reliance under the slum development project of Comilla pourashava. The loan was distributed by the Chairman, Comilla Pourashava, Mr. Kamaluddin Chowdhury on January 16.

A meeting of the Comilla unit of the Bangladesh Journalist Association (BJA) was held in the local Mohila College auditorium on January 16.

Presided over by Mr. Rezaul Karim Shamin, President of the unit, it was addressed among others by Messrs. Aftabur Rahman, Editor, Weekly Falak, Professor Dipak Kumar Bhadra, Tapan Sen Gupta, Nurur Rahman, Ashoke Barua, Shahidullah and Shakhawat Hussain Selim.

The meeting condemned the killing of Abdul Mannan, an of employee Ittefaq. The meeting observed one minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Perveen (14) committed suicide by

swallowing poison on January 11 in village Runo-Cho under Laksam thana.

The cause of the her committing suicide was stated to be bad results in the annual examination.

Role of rural doctors

A seminar on the role of rural doctors, organised by the SCEMRB, Comilla was held in the Diabetic centre on January 6. Mr. Mohd Katebur Rahman, DC, Comilla was the chief guest.

In his speech the chief guest lauded the role of SCEMRB, for the service of mentally retarded children and observed that literacy of the womenfolk would help decrease the mental retardation.

The education fortnight concluded in a function held in town hall on January 8. Presided over by Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, TNO, sadar the function was addressed, among others by Messrs Mamtazuddin, and Abdul Hamid etc.

Begum Rabeya Chowdhury gave away prizes to the successful competitors in cultural function.

Sandhani of Comilla Medical College unit collected blood from the students of Ershad College, Burichang on January 8.

A total of 16 students including a female donated blood.

In a meeting of the district law and order committee held on January 4 suggested stern action to check smuggling and road accidents which alarmingly increased. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Mohd. Katebur Rahman, DC Comilla.

It was expressed in the meeting that to curb smuggling and crime in the district police should take prompt action and to book the culprits.