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Economic crisis, shortage of teachers

88,700 children deprived of education in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR Apr. 3.—About 88,700 children of the age group between six and ten years in seven thanas of Cox's Bazar district are deprived of their 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 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 recognised ratio of 1:50 depicting the picture of deprivation of students from proper teaching.

In addition, as many as 167 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time. Of the total posts, 42 are of head teachers and the rest 125 assistant teachers.

There are four thana education officers and ten assistant education officers to supervise the overall programme of the teacher in the schools.

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

Smuggled goods seized

Police seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 2,50,000 from Sandwip bound chair coach Metro-02-0036 in the early morning of Saturday last.

Acting on a secret information, a contingent of police headed by Offic-

er-in-Charge of Cox's Bazar Police Station rushed to the bus terminal at Jhawtola and recovered smuggled goods from the coach.

The seized goods are Chinese locks and keys and foreign medicines.

A case was registered with Cox's Bazar thana in this connection.