

National

Illegal Indian cloths flood markets

Weavers face uncertain future

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 26: Widespread smuggling of Indian cloth has seriously affected the weaving industry of this district. Weavers of this district have been facing a setback due to price hike of raw materials and other necessary inputs.

The prices of dyes, yarn and chemicals have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor weaving factory owners. Most weavers have deserted their ancestral profession due to fund constraints. Out of 50,000 weavers in this district about 30,000 weavers have already left their occupation.

According to a source, the weavers of Bera, Santhia, Sujaganar and Pabna Sadar upazilas are heavily burdened with loans.

They have failed to repay the loans due to price hike of their inputs and low price of their products in the market.

In this situation, smuggled Indian textile goods which flooded the markets, have further aggravated the situation.

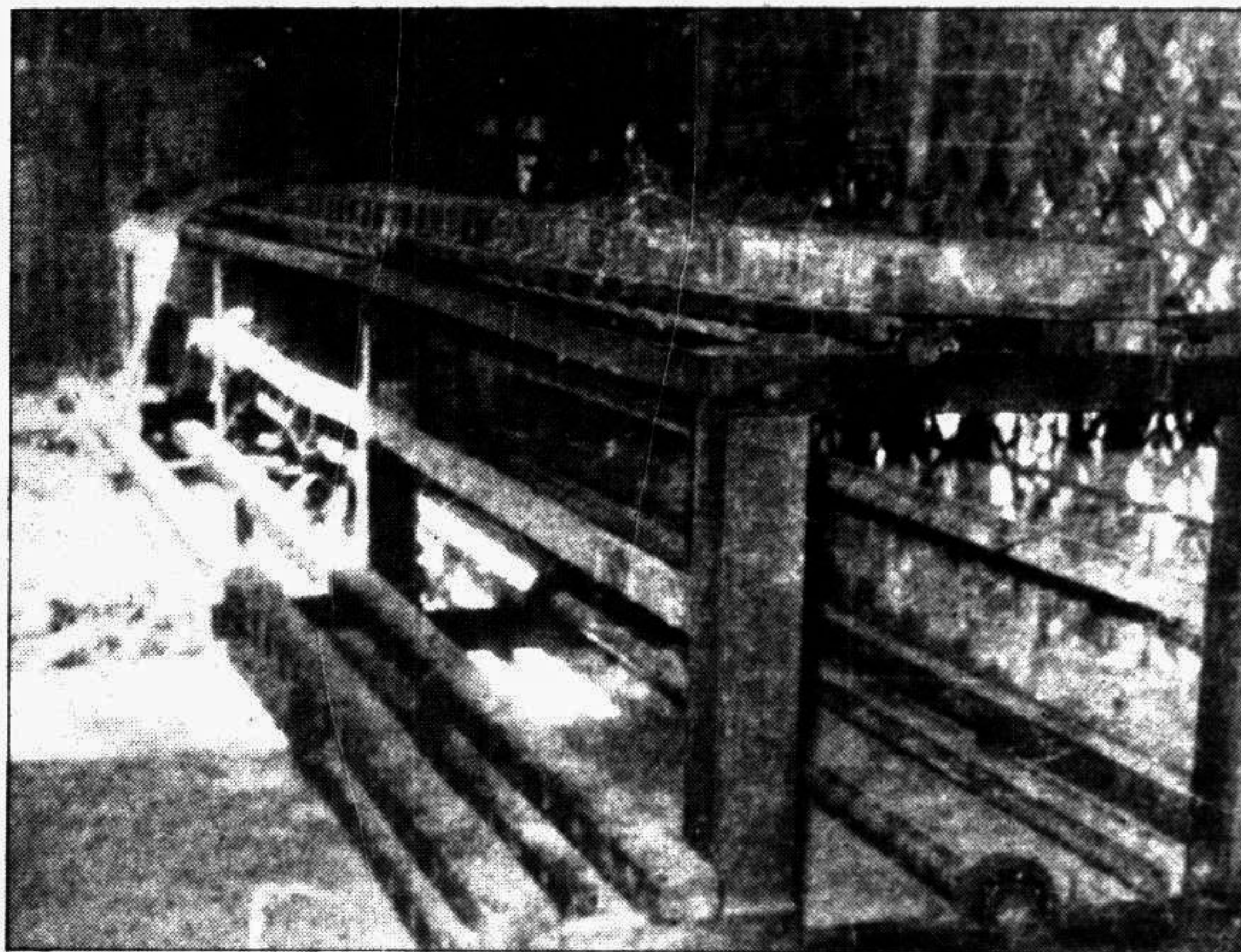
The weavers have urged the authorities to provide them with necessary fund on easy terms and make arrangements for marketing facilities.

Due to erratic power supply, businessmen, owners of small and cottage industries and hospital face difficulties. On the other hand SSC candidates are hard hit.

Frequent fluctuations in voltage cause damage to bulbs, television and radio sets and other electric goods.

On the other hand, some areas of the municipality are yet to be properly electrified,

due to which the people have to undergo a lot of inconveniences. The miscreants are also taking opportunities for suspension of electricity at night and as such the crimes are increasing day-by-day.



PABNA: A traditional weaving tool lying idle for want of raw materials. —Star photo

Besides, many labourers also left the village for want of job and entered the town. Thus the population of Pabna town has also increased.

Power failure

Frequent power failure and fluctuation in voltage have been causing much sufferings to the dwellers of Pabna municipal area. Irregular power supply is also hindering academic pursuit of the students and putting industries in disaster.

Frequent power failure has become a regular phenomenon in Pabna town and its adjoining areas, causing great inconvenience to the domestic and commercial consumers. Hardly a day or night passes without disruption of power supply.

House rent up

House rent at Pabna town have increased manifold over the past years creating problems to the low income

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Stomach ailments on rise

From Our Correspondent

Apr 26: Stomach and skin ailments have showed an alarming rise due to adulteration of foodstuff, consumers complained.

Doctors said patients with gastrointestinal complications are pouring into their chambers in large number.

Market sources said, adulterated edibles like milk, ghee, butter and oil are sold openly with impunity.

Besides, some vendors are found, selling spurious food in front of schools and colleges posing threat to the health of the students.

No preventive measure is learnt to have been by the local health department.

KUSHIA

Gambling in Baishakhi Mela

April 26: Obscene Jatra, house and gambling have been going on unabated at housing estate area here in the name of holding "Baishakhi Mela," it is alleged, reports UNB.

According to sources, such anti-social activities have been vitiating the serene atmosphere of the town. The youths particularly the students are being allured by the organisers of Mela causing moral erosion.

Guardians alleged that the candidates of ensuing SSC examination were spending their valuable times during night time in the venue. They also alleged that incidents of stabbing and hijacking are on the rise in the area.

Local elite have urged the authorities to stop the anti-social activities in the name of Baishakhi Mela and take action against the anti-social elements.

Debt burden

Hundreds of farmers in the district have been passing their days in extreme agony due to the growing indebtedness to the local banks.

According to sources, natural calamities coupled with low prices of agricultural produce made the farmers unable to repay the loans taken earlier from the different banks.

Several commercial banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank have issued notices to the farmers to repay the outstanding loans within the specified time.

KISHOREGANJ

Law, order situation deteriorates

From Our Correspondent

April 26: Law and order situation in Katiadi, Bajitpur and Bhatrab upazila of Kishoreganj district has deteriorated with reports of crimes like theft, dacoity, robbery, smuggling, murder, gambling, hijacking, cattle lifting, drug abusing and divorce much to the concern of the peace-loving people of the area.

Besides, a gang of pick-pockets has been running brisk business unabated in these upazila town. The pick-pockets are seen in different Bhatrab, Manikhal, Sararchar and Gaechata rail station.

BRAHMANBARIA

Woman rescued

April 26: After 45 hey-days with her lover, police finally brought Halima Begum (22) back to her husband, reports UNB.

Nurul Hoque who married Halima very recently lodged a complaint with police saying that his wife had been missing since the last week of February.

Acting on a tip, police rescued her from Nabinagar last Friday after hectic search.

Family sources said Halima of Magurjura village in Trisal upazila in Mymensingh district was wedded to Nurul Hoque of Nilkhi village in Raipur upazila under Narsingdi district during January this year.

But soon after he marriage, Halima got involved in extramarital affair with Abu Jan of Brahmanbaria where her husband worked and she stayed.

Halima staying home alone most of the day was frequented by Abu Jan who gradually fell in deep love with her.

At one stage Halima fled away with her fiancé leaving behind Nurul puzzled.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Road link disrupted

Road communication between Dharikhar and Akhaura of the district remained disrupted causing untold sufferings to the people.

According to sources, about 10 kilometers road badly damaged by recurrent floodings

are yet to be reconstructed. The road is the only link for incoming and outgoing of commodities. The economic activities of the area remained almost stranded due to disruption of road communication.

Besides, two culverts destroyed earlier also await reconstruction.

Sufferers have urged the authorities to reconstruct the road without further delay.

BARISAL

1,840 tubewells out of order

April 26: At least 1,840 tubewells both deep and shallow are out of order in five southern districts for a long time, reports UNB.

The tubewells went inoperative in Barisal, Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Borguna districts.

Public Health Engineering Department admitted the fact and said they undertook a programme for sinking one tubewell for 75 people in average in the region.

The programme to supply drinking water will be implemented by the year 2000 with the financial assistance of UNICEF.

A total of 2,476 deep and 12,000 shallow tubewells will be sunk while 1,513 choked up ones will be resunk later this year, officials said.

NETRAKONA

Dacoits loot valuables

From Our Correspondent

April 26: Nine residential quarters under Kendua Upazila Health Complex were raided at a time by armed dacoits at night recently.

The dacoits reportedly beat up the inmates of the quarters and looted cash money, gold ornaments and other valuables.

Police told this correspondent the dacoits numbering about 20 to 25 armed with lethal weapons disconnected power and telephone lines before committing the dacoity.

Night post office needed

Trade and commercial activities are being hampered greatly in the district due to absence of a night post office in the town.

With the upgradation of Netrakona sub-division to a district, the volumes of postal activities have increased to a great extent. But due to shortage of post offices and for want of night post office, most works are to be performed till late hours.

SIRAJGANJ

Power disruption hampers irrigation

From Our Correspondent

April 26: Irrigation in IIRI and Boro fields hampered much due to irregular supply of electricity in Sirajganj district.

It is observed that Sirajganj distribution centre of PDB is responsible to keep power supply smooth at Sirajganj town and the upazilas including Chowhatti, Belkuchi, Kamar Khanda and Kasipur. Due to irregular power supply the domestic consumers never get electricity in the evening causing trouble to the students. At day time power disruption continues for hours together and the irrigation pumps remain inoperative while IIRI plants in thousands acres of land have grown pale for want of water.

When contacted, a source of Sirajganj PDB said that load-shedding at peak hours causes such disruption while the consumers alleged that power supply is stopped by PDB employees only to cover the system loss due to unauthorised connections.

JHENIDAH

Smuggled cattlehead seized

April 26: Police seized 12 Indian smuggled cattleheads worth about Taka 45,000 on Tuesday from Harinakundu upazila, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of suspected people while passing through the upazila headquarters with the cattle were challenged by them. The alleged smugglers then fled away leaving behind the animals.

Local people alleged that gang of smugglers are involved in trafficking cattles, spices, sugar, cosmetics, sarees, lungis into the country for a long time. They sent the contraband to other parts of the country through their agents.

A general diary was lodged in this connection.

College student stabbed to death by friend

DINAJPUR, Apr 26: A college student was stabbed to death allegedly by his friend at Baluadanga in the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victim Kamruzzaman, a B.A. final year student of Adarsha College here and son of Shamsul Huq Chowdhury was stabbed mercilessly by the miscreant when he was on way home at 5 pm.

The victim who was also a member of Chhatra Dal and joint convener of the college unit was rushed to General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Elder brother of the victim has filed a case against Probal, a close friend of the deceased with Kotwali police in this connection.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Dal district convener Jahangir Alam condemning the killing demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the heinous act.

Govt incurs heavy loss

Malpractice in uplift projects alleged

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Apr 26: The use of inferior quality materials and preparation of defective design for various development projects in Melandah upazila caused a huge loss of money to the government exchequer, it is alleged.

Projects executed by the Melandah Upazila Parishad, have been demolished and reconstructed during the current fiscal year following detection of faults in their blueprints and designs. Many other projects executed with the inferior quality materials may face the same, it is alleged.

The projects included the

pucca RCC bridge construction of buildings, extension work of Melandah bazar and construction of doors and windows, repair of residential quarters.

It is learnt that the upazila engineering section has been directly involved in this work.

Besides, manipulation further in the allotment of residential houses, unfair means in the repair of cyclostyle and duplicating machines and purchase of stationary goods for the Upazila Parishad have also been alleged.

The engineers and other employees of Melandah Upazila

Parishad have allegedly adopted corrupt practices during the implementations of different projects.

Local people demanded impartial inquiry into the matter immediately.

Smuggled goods

The markets of greater Jamalpur district is flooded with smuggled goods like Indian sarees, insecticides and different types of cosmetics. The items are smuggled from Sherpur border, it is learnt.

According to the sources, numerous markets in the district are overflooded with different types of Indian sarees, the prices of which are ranging from Taka 190 to Taka 1000.

Lack of checking by BDR at the boarders and customs and police in the districts is said to be the main cause behind the inflow of smuggled goods.

It is further learnt that the traders have to pay regular tolls and for the goods. Besides, some customs officials and police personnel are being benefitted, it is alleged.

On the other hand, due to the over flow of the Indian sarees local textiles are losing its demand in the district rapidly.

Two killed during Eid holidays

CHANDPUR, Apr 26: Two people were killed and another sustained serious injuries in separate accidents during Eid holidays, police and hospital sources said here today, reports UNB.

According to eye-witnesses, Abul Hossain (30) and Md. Alamgir Hossain (22) while travelling on the roof of a Chandpur bound train from Chittagong fell near Chandpur railway station all on a sudden.

As a result, Abul Hossain got his both legs fractured and his companion Alamgir Hossain received serious head injuries. They were rushed to Chandpur Zila Hospital where Abul Hossain succumbed.

Abul, an employee of Moqbul Rahman Jute mills, Chittagong, hails from village Ramnagar of Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district.

Another report says that Noor Mohammad (32) received grievous injury when he was hit by a motor launch recently at Chandpur launch ghata.

His right thigh was crushed. Noor, who hailed from Barisal district later succumbed at Chandpur Zila Hospital.

Like Abul, Noor was also going to observe Eid at his village home.

Separate cases have been filed in this connection.

2 killed in road mishap

JHENIDAH, Apr 26: A sugar mill worker and an old female beggar were killed in separate road mishaps in the town on Tuesday, police here said, reports UNB.

Rafiqul Islam (32), a worker of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills received grievous injuries when he was hit by a Jessore bound minibus near Kaliganj upazila bus stand on Jhenidah-Jessore road. He died on way to Jessore Sadar hospital.

Police seized the vehicle (BA 10560) but the driver managed to escape.

A beggar Khidashi (60) also died in a road accident on the same day in the town. Police failed to give more details of the incident.

6 SSC candidates held; arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Apr 26: Six SSC examinees were arrested with pipe gun, bullet and ammunition from village Kamlapur of Faridpur district, police sources said.

The students are Lutfar Rahman, Atiqul Islam, Delwar Hossain, Mohammad Sayed, Asad and Ripon. They are all SSC candidates from Maynuddin High School of Faridpur.

Police caught them red handed when Sayed was selling a pipegun and bullet at the house of another arrested Delwar at Kamlapur, 5 km away from town. Others were present at that time, police said.

Police were interrogating them to find out the motive of the gang, Faridpur police recovered 15 firearms in last 10 days from different parts of the district which include two stenguns, six double barrel guns, two revolvers, five pipe guns and huge bullets and ammunition. Eighteen persons were arrested in this connection.

Lightning kills 3 in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Apr 26: Three people including a woman were killed by lightning during a thunderstorm that lashed the district Wednesday morning, reports UNB.

Villagers said lightning struck Kallaz Mia (22) to death at village Mokarram in Bantachong upazila when he came out of his house to bring home his father from a nearby paddy field.

Zahurunnisa (40), the wife of Abdu Noor of village Farazer in Chunarughat UZ, was killed while doing domestic works inside her house.

Lightning struck Birendra Poul (45) at Anandapur village in the same upazila.

Non-govt schools beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 26: The non-government schools and madrasahs at secondary level in Chapainawabganj district are beset with various problems including the shortage of building, teachers, science laboratories, hostels etc, hampering the education of thousands of students.

The five upazilas of the district there are 176 secondary high and junior schools and madrasahs of which 102 are high schools, 26 junior high schools and 48 Dakhil madrasahs. Of the schools and madrasahs 19 and three are for girls respectively. In the above schools and madrasahs 50,447 students including 17,270 females are prosecuting their studies.

Of the total schools, 120 have no pucca buildings. These schools are mostly in Barendra and Char areas and 72 of them

have no science laboratories. Besides, absence of urinals and latrines in more than hundred of schools put specially female students in troubles.

The government makes up only 25 per cent of local expenses for the government declared free education for the girls upto class seven.

This system has not yet been applied in all the girls schools. A few years back five schools, three in Shibganj and one each in Bholahat and Nachoul upazila were sanctioned some government grant but they did not get the money yet.

A government high school has 26 teachers subject wise where as nongovernment high school has only nine teachers who teach three to four subjects, due to which the education of the non-government high schools is being badly hindered.

Train journey in Chandpur hazardous

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Apr 26: In the absence of modernisation and development work railway journey between Chandpur-Laksham, Chandpur-Sylhet and Chandpur-Chittagong routes have become hazardous.

The journey by train in these routes are troublesome due to shortage of engines and dilapidated condition of bogies. Basic amenities are absent in both Chandpur court station and Chandpur main stations.

Both mail and local trains are running with shortage of compartments. As such hundreds of passengers have to travel on the roof top on an engines risking their lives.

Even the luggage vans remain overcrowded with passengers. The compartments are lacking

in basic amenities like lighting and water supply.

Carrying of goods in passenger compartments is a common feature. Irregular running of trains is yet another problem. Most trains are running two to four hours late to the utter inconveniences of passengers specially school and college students. The trains between these routes very often run with upper class compartments. Electric fans, bulbs and water taps in almost all of the compartments remain out of order.

The passengers in these routes have appealed many times to the higher authority to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers but to no effect.



Santal women set out for a day's work at Pirganj in Dinajpur. —Star photo by Mohsin.