

Medical training school lying idle for six years

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 5 : The Medical Assistant's Training School (MATS) in Kushtia has been lying idle for the last six years for the reasons not known.

Established in 1979 with the financial assistance of the Netherland, the institute opened a three-year diploma course to train medical assistants. After few years of functioning the institute was closed down by the then government of Jatiya Party.

Admission of students remained suspended since 1988. However, the employees continued to enjoy facilities including salaries, telephone bills and others.

It is learnt that salaries worth Taka one crore was drawn by the employers of the institution during the last six years. Besides, Taka 10 lakh was reportedly spent by the institution as municipal tax, water tax, electricity and telephone bills during the period.

The institution has 135 fourth class, 17 3rd class employees, six tutors, one administrative officer, four lecturers, one serious lecturer, and the

principal who are enjoying the facilities without any work.

The training school was set up to facilitate accommodation of students of both, male and female. It also has a proper library, auditorium and of course, class rooms.

Another report says : A major portion of rail lines in Western Zone of Bangladesh Railways has become unfit for service.

It is learnt that the Western Zone of Bangladesh Railways has two divisions, one at Raksey and the other at Lalmonirhat. Out of the total 985 miles of rail route, 685 miles are of broad gauge and 300 miles are of metre gauge. During 1960-1965, the network of Western Zone was extended to 200 miles and connected with the Southern Zone of Bangladesh Railways.

At present, some branch lines have been closed for want of maintenance and development work.

It is learnt that following shortage of slippers and stones the rail route of Western Zone pose great danger at many

points. The railway bridges damaged during the devastating floods of 1987 and 1988 have not yet been repaired.

A total of 124 trains including 24 Inter-city Express trains, 24 mail trains and 76 local trains run in the this Zone with only 51 old-age engines.

Transportation of goods without booking and journey of passengers without tickets have been causing revenue losses to the railway department for a long. The existing coaches, specially of the local trains are in very poor shape. Rainwater leaks from the roofs and most of these coaches have no window panes or lights. The dirty toilets function without any supply of water.

Smuggled goods from India including sarees, salt, sugar spices and other materials are carried on most of these trains. Theft of diesel and rail slippers is said to be rampant on Sirajganj-Ishurdi, Ishurdi-Faridpur, Sirajganj-Chapai-nawabganj, Santahar-Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat-Panchagarh and Rajshahi-Goalundo rail routes.