

Catching, sale of fish fry going on unabated

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 1: Defying the government order, the fish fry are being caught indiscriminately in different parts of the district.

It is reported that some fishermen in Chiribandar, Birol, Parbatipur, Kotwali, Birganj and Bocharanj thanas of the district had been catching fish fry of rohi, katla, mrigel, magur and silureid from rivers, canals and haors.

Everyday a huge quantity of different varieties of fish fry are being sold in different markets, hats and bazars of the district. It is learnt that some of the fishermen had been using current nets for catching these fish fry.

The government has banned the catching of fish fry below nine inches to implement its open water fish production programme.

It is alleged that law enforcing agencies are often play a silent role to take any stringent action against the illegal catching of fish fry.

If indiscriminate fishing goes on unabated, the fish production in the district will be decline abnormally.

Obscene films are being exhibited through VCR and VCPs in different areas of the district for long time without any hesitation.

The dishonest video shop-owners of Dinajpur town have been exhibiting obscene and blue films through their mobile unit of VCR and VCPs openly. These shows are also arranged in the rural areas.

The exhibition of naked films in the district greatly contributing eroding moral values of the young boys and girls. Moreover, with the screening of blue-films, the number of anti-social activities has increased alarmingly in the rural areas of the district, social worker alleged.

The video business has been going on unabated throughout the district including Dinajpur town without licences for years together.

It is alleged that the owners of a good number video-shops have been running their business by paying monthly payments to a section of officials. As a result, the government is deprived of a huge revenue in this sector from Dinajpur town.

Unfair action

CHANDPUR, Jan 1: Chandpur Pourasava plunged into darkness since Wednesday night after PDB snapped all electric connections in the poura area to realise its outstanding electric bills, reports UNB.

Official sources confirmed the news saying that the action has been taken to realise PDB's outstanding electric bills of Taka 2.85 crore from the pourasava.

They alleged that despite repeated reminders the pourasava authority failed to clear the bills outstanding since 1985.

The pourasava authority meanwhile has paid a portion of the dues amounting Taka 11.5 lakh, but it was not satisfactory, the PDB officials said.

The residents of the pourasava of about 1.5 lakh are going through immense inconvenience following the power switch-off.

They alleged that stealing is on the rise taking advantage of the darkness.



NOAKHALI: Barrister Moudud Ahmed, JP leader in parliament speaking as chief guest at the biennial conference of the local unit of party held recently at the poura auditorium. The conference was presided over by Abu Sufian where Anwar Hossain Monju, presidium member of JP also spoke. Moudud criticised the BNP government for keeping Ershad in jail under Special Powers Act.

Wastes of dying, yarn factories polluting environment

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 1: Chemical wastes of dying factories and yarn factories have been polluting the environment of handloom oriented Belkuchi, Chowdhali and Shahzadpur thanas.

It is gathered that mushroom growth of Firoza dying and yarn mercerising factories has created health hazards in different parts of Sirajganj district. During last one year, about 300 Firoza dying factories and yarn mercerising factories have been set up in different villages of Randhumbati, Majhail, Tamal, Chala, Shernagar, Mukundagati, Goprekhi and Gopalpur in Belkuchi thana; Gumurki, Betil, Enayetpur and Ghatbari in Chowdhali thana and Khukni, Jalapur, Rupshi, Makra and Dwariapur in Shahzadpur thana.

Firoza colour and mercerised cotton yarn are at present being widely used in the handloom

factories to produce saree, lungi and dhuti. Due to massive popularity and demand of Firoza colour, dying factories are still being set up in the handloom oriented villages.

It is further gathered that poisonous chemicals like caustic, nitric acid, hydrose, bleaching powder and naphthol are widely used in these dying and mercerising factories. Most of the factories are situated in the densely populated areas. Chemical wastes of these dying and mercerising factories are dumped in the nearby ditches and ponds in an unplanned method creating bad smell and even polluting tubewell water.

During last rainy season, poisonous water from these factories affected other ponds causing epidemic of fish. The wastes are so poisonous that trees and plants near the dumping areas have also dried up. People of

the adjacent areas of dying and mercerising factories have been suffering from gastro-intestinal diseases. Local people have repeatedly requested the factory owners to dump the wastes at distant and isolated places but they did not pay any attention to their calls.

Meanwhile, people of the affected areas have applied to the health authorities for proper actions. A team from Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's office recently visited a factory in Chala under Belkuchi thana.

The affected people of the localities have urged the higher authorities to take positive steps in keeping the environment clean and save the people from health hazards.

Dairy farmers need facilities

Prospect for dairy farming in the district has been gradually

ruined due to non-availability of necessary medicines as well as quality cows.

There are about 425 private dairy farms, including 50 at the town area. All these farm owners are encouraged who get necessary bank loans.

During a visit to a dairy farm at Mirpur in the municipal area, it was found that 40 to 50 litres of milk is produced everyday earning a profit of Taka 250 to Taka 300 everyday. Hafizur Rahman Khan, the owner of the farm, told The Daily Star that he was given Taka two lakh as loan from the Sonali Bank. Referring to the problems he and other owners face he said supplying medicine for the cows at fair price is urgently required.

Besides, import of cows including Frisian, Jarsee and Shahi variety are also necessary for production of more milk.

Only 15 pc get health care facilities

FARIDPUR, Jan 1: The 12th founding anniversary of Dr Zahed Memorial Shishu Hospital, Faridpur was observed here recently, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting at the hospital premises, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain Yusuf stressed the need for setting up of private hospitals to extend health care facilities to people of the country. Under the present condition only 10 per cent to 15 per cent people get health care facilities in the government run hospitals, the minister added.

The minister urged the private entrepreneurs to come forward to set up hospitals like our neighbouring countries to ease the prevailing health care situation. He further said, that government was ready to extend all kinds of assistance to such entrepreneurs.

The minister lauded the service given from the shishu hospital to the children of this area. He also assured enhancement of government assistance for the hospital which is getting Taka five lakh per annum.

The 30-bed hospital since its inception treated 36,181 outdoor patients, 9304 indoor pa-

tients. It also treated 21,008 patients through mobile units, immunised 40,933 children.

The present annual expenditure of the hospital is Taka 32 lakh. The expenditure is met from donations.

The anniversary meeting was addressed among others by Dr Makhtaruzzaman, Professor of Cardiology, Dhaka Medical College, Professor Dr Enayet Kabir, Principal of Faridpur Medical College and Abul Bashir Mia, President of Dr Zahed Memorial Shishu Hospital. It was presided over by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

The inaugural session was followed by a seminar on 'Child health and breastfeeding'. Among others, Prof MUK Talukdar, eminent child specialist and Project Director of Institute of Child and Mother Health, Dr AKM Lutful Kabir, Associate Professor of the Institute, Dr M Shahidullah and Dr M Qamrul Hassan of the same Institute participated in the seminar.

Speakers described breastfeeding as the most important factor for keeping the babies in good health.

Migratory birds decreasing for want of food, security

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 1: The winter migratory birds have started crowding the beels, canals, chars and haors of greater Khulna zone.

These migratory birds were abundantly found in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts during the winter season in the past.

The different types of birds like dighar, kaidighar, stork, krum, heron, hanhuk, kalkuch, mathavanga, madantak, bali-hansh and kora were found in the beels and haors.

Fish and insects are the main food of these birds. Now their number is gradually decreasing as there is scarcity of fish in the beels, haors, canals, ditches and lakes. Now-a-days, only a small number of birds is found in these areas.

Most of the birds come from Siberian region to avoid the biting cold that starts from the month of November and lasts till February. With the advent of spring these birds return to their homeland. The movement of the birds from one beel to another looks very beautiful.

According to the experts about 600 varieties of birds are found in Bangladesh of which

200 species of winter birds migrate from Siberia region.

It is informed that hunting and scarcity of fish are the main reasons for gradual decrease of migratory birds.

The shots from the guns terrify the birds and make difficult their stay there. The trappers catch birds day and night.

Many poor people catch birds in this way and earn money by selling them in the markets.

High officials of the government and influential persons who have licensed guns are found killing the birds disobeying the government prohibition order.

A section of people are interested to hunt birds and hire guns and cruelly kill birds out of joy.

The number of birds is also decreasing for the construction of embankments to protect the crops from flood water. The areas along the embankments become dry with the advent of winter.

Modern methods should be adopted which are in practice in Russia and other developed countries to protect these birds, experts said.

Apparatus, books for 5 university colleges

Jan 1: Government has sanctioned Taka 3,50,00,000 for purchasing scientific apparatus and books for five university colleges of the country under special development programme during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The colleges to be brought under this programme are, Government Brojomohun University College of Barisal, Government Eden's Girls University College of Dhaka, Government Ananda Mohun University College of Mymensingh, Carmichael University College of Rangpur, Government Victoria University College of Comilla and Government Brojolai College of Khulna.

According to an official source, of the total Taka 2,50,00,000 will be spent for

purchasing scientific apparatus and Taka 1,00,00,000 for purchasing books of the colleges.

Meanwhile, all arrangements have been made for implementing the projects, the source added.

Each of these colleges will get Taka 50,00,000 for purchasing scientific apparatus and Taka 20,00,000 for purchasing books.

Another report says: The Annual General Meeting and the election of the Barisal press club was held at the press club premises of Agarpur road Saturday with SM Iqbal, President of the club, in the chair.

Md Ismail Hossain Nagaban, General Secretary of the club, read out the report of 1993 and a number of resolutions were adopted in the meeting.

Taka 5 lakh goods gutted

COMILLA, Jan 1: About 100 people of eight families lost their homes in a devastating fire that broke out at Jubalaya village in Laksham thana in last week, reports UNB.

The extent of damages was estimated to be Tk 5 lakh. There was no report of any casualty or injuries, local people said. The cause of the fire could not be known.

Another report adds: An unidentified man was killed in a road accident at Chhaygharia in Chandina thana on December 21.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka bound truck overturned after colliding with another truck coming from the opposite direction.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

Another report says: BDR patrol party arrested two persons and seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 81,750 from a night coach at the junction of Comilla by-pass and Kotbari road last week.

Misappropriation charge against UP chairman

SATKHIRA, Jan 1: The works of Sovanali Union Parishad in Assasut thana are being hampered for last nine months due to alleged mismanagement of the UP chairman, says UNB.

Local people alleged that UP chairman Shahidul Islam misappropriated government goods allocated to the union for development activities.

The UP members also brought allegation of misbehaviour against him. They said the chairman misbehaved with them when they wanted to know on the issue.

The members have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner and the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) to take necessary actions against the UP chairman.

102 die of diarrhoea, similar diseases in one year

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 1: A total of 102 people died of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in the district in 1993, official sources said, reports UNB.

More than 20,000 people were attacked by the diseases in nine thanas of the district during the period.

Unofficial sources, however, said the death figure might have stood at 140 and some 25,000 were attacked by the diseases.

Lack of pure drinking water, adulterated oil and earth mixed salt imported from India were identified as the causes for spread of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in Kaziapur, Belkuchi, Tarash and Ullapara thanas.

The epidemic situation was checked by effective measures taken by the authorities, the sources added.

About 7.50 lakh people of

ten thanas of Sirajganj and Pabna districts have been suffering from various diseases including intestinal ones due to existence of excessive iron in drinking water, reports UNB.

The survey reports of UNICEF and Health Department revealed that each litre of water in these two districts contains 12 mg iron while medical sources said only one mg iron is required in one litre of drinking water.

The survey reports also apprehended that more people will be affected if proper measures were not taken immediately.

Public Health Department has undertaken a programme to set up iron removing plants in Shahjapur, Ullapara and sadar thanas of Sirajganj and Sathia and Bera thanas of Pabna.

Official sources said the plants will start functioning

soon to remove the excessive iron from the drinking water.

2 heroin addicts arrested

Police arrested two heroin addicts from a house at Soyagbndha area in the town on Tuesday night.

The arrested, identified as Anwar Hossain and Alam Hossain of the area, are heroin addicts for a long time.

Anwar was given money to buy some medicines for his mother who was fighting for life in Sirajganj General Hospital.

But instead of buying medicines he bought heroin with the money and was arrested by the police while taking the drug with his accomplice, Alam.

Sensing police arrival the house owner, Zahiruddin, an alleged heroin seller, managed to escape.

Rainfall in Rajshahi rises by over 10 inches

RAJSHAHI, Jan 1: Rainfall in Rajshahi region has increased by over ten inches for the last eight years despite adverse effect of Farakka, says BSS.

The average rainfall from 1978 to 1985 was recorded as 54.54 inches while 64.78 inches was recorded from 1986 to 1993 in the region, according to hydrology department of Bangladesh Water Development Board.

Rajshahi is known as a typical dry climatic region with comparatively low and high temperature ranging from eight degree Celsius to 44 degree Celsius.

Due to adverse effect of Farakka, environment and ecological problems are arising hampering the economic growth and creating health hazards in the region.

To overcome the situation, official sources said, different government, semi-government, non-government organisations and others have undertaken a massive afforestation programme in the region as per directive of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Official sources told BSS that over one crore various saplings have already been planted for protecting the desertification process as well

as maintaining ecological balance in the region. Besides, it would help adequate rainfall for the benefit of the people.

RCC mayor election

Election campaigning for the post of mayor and 30 ward commissioners of the Rajshahi City Corporation is continuing in full swing.

Seven candidates for the post of mayor, including BNP nominated candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu, visited different areas of the city Tuesday and exchanged views with the voters.

District roundup

PIROJPUR

BCL wins college union election

Jan 1: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) swept the Kalkhali College Students' Union election with Shahidul Islam Liton and Aminur Rashid as Vice President and General Secretary respectively, reports UNB.

Chhatra League (M-I) bagged all the 16 seats in the election held last week.

Rakibuddin was elected Assistant General Secretary of the union.

Another report adds: The election of Pirojpur press club was held recently with Goutam Roy Chowdhury (Banglar Bani) and Alamgir Hossain (Inqilab) as President and General Secretary.

Fasul Alam Bachu was elected Vice President.

PATUAKHALI

12 injured in groups clash

Jan 1: Twelve persons were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers of south Amragachhia under Mirzaganj on Friday, says BSS.

The clash ensued when the rival groups were trying to harvest paddy on a disputed land.

The five seriously injured persons have been admitted to Mirzaganj hospital. They are, Sohrab, Salim, Jalil, Abdul Hakim and Habib.

A case has been registered with Mirzaganj police.

SIRAJGANJ

Four JCD activists injured

Jan 1: Four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured, one seriously, in an attack by the rival group of students at village Rasulpur in Kmarkhand thana on Monday night, says UNB.

Seriously injured, Papon Islam (17), 1st year student of Haji Korap Ali Degree College, was shifted to Dhaka for treatment. He received serious head injury.

Police said, Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) activists attacked them following the past enmity. Police arrested two BCL members, Uzzal and Sukur in this connection.

PABNA

13 fisheries projects in operation

Jan 1: District Fisheries Department implemented 13 fisheries projects at a cost of 280 metric tons of wheat in six thanas of the district during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, three projects in sadar, two in Atgharia, one each in Vangura and Chhatmohar, two in Iswardi and three in Sujannagar were implemented on the second week of this month.

Meanwhile, some ponds in the district are being cleaned for pisciculture and initiative has been taken to motivate the people for fish cultivation in their respective ponds. Steps have been taken to extend soft term loan to the pisciculturists.

With the implementation of the projects, about 1000 maunds of fish worth about Tk 30 lakh will be produced annually.

MADARIPUR

JCD demands withdrawal of "false cases"

Jan 1: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of the district in a protest meeting demanded withdrawal of what they called the false murder case against its sadar thana secretary Idris Ali Dorji, reports UNB.

The speakers at the meeting held on Dec 20 said, Dorji was falsely implicated in a murder case by some interested groups.

The murder was committed on Dec 16 at Sayna village in sadar thana. They said, some miscreants attacked Dorji, ransacked his house and looted valuables worth about Taka 1.75 lakh on the following day.

Presided over by district JCD secretary Nazrul Islam Litu, the meeting was also addressed by organising secretary Jahander Ali Jahan, former VP of government N College students' union Md Qayum Miah, former GS Mizanur Rahman Murad and former AQS Martuza Alam Dhal.

They said, the attackers were moving freely but no step was taken as yet to recover the stolen goods.

FENI

Muhuri project inaugurated

Jan 1: At last pisciculture has been started at Muhuri Irrigation Project after nine years of its commission, says UNB.

A programme has been undertaken to release 14 lakh fish fry this year. Sangsad Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara inaugurated the programme by releasing fish fry on Dec 18. High officials of the Fisheries Department were present on the occasion.

Fisheries officials said, about 50,000 metric tons of fish worth about Taka five crore are expected to be produced with the implementation of the programme and over 10,000 enlisted fishermen would be benefited.

Muhuri project, the second largest irrigation scheme in the country, built at a cost of Taka 156 crore covering 20,000 acres of land alongside the rivers of Feni, Muhuri and Kalidas Pahalia, has been put into operation in 1984 to boost agri production.

MAJDEE COURT

BKB gives Tk 2.77 crore loan to farmers

Jan 1: Bangladesh Krishi Bank of Noakhali region has already distributed over Tk 2.77 crore as crop loan among 2,912 farmers in six thanas of the district, says UNB.

The loan was distributed during the current fiscal year to boost agri production in the district.

Bank source said, another amount of over Tk 7.43 crore loan will be distributed to the farmers by June '94. The distribution programme has been going on in full swing.

Drive for realisation of outstanding loan is also going on.

RAJSHAHI

Free books for pry school students

Jan 1: The Primary Education Department has undertaken a programme to distribute 13,08,105 books among the students of government and non-government primary schools of the district, says UNB.

The books will be distributed among the students of 559 government and 209 non-government registered primary schools, said an official handout Thursday.

Some 2,71,700 students were enrolled in the schools at the beginning of the year but 73.95 per cent of them attended classes till November last. The total number of children aged between six and 10 in the district were recorded at 3,03,981.

NATORE

Seminar on appropriate technology

Jan 1: A regional seminar on "appropriate technology" was held at Natore District Council auditorium Thursday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman was the chief guest at the seminar and Director of Science and Technology Research Council was present there as special guest.

Speakers at the seminar, held discussion on bio-gas plant, low-cost housing, Tarpump and solar oven, innovated by scientists of the council.

Five hundred representatives from six northern districts — Natore, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj — took part in the seminar.

Chaired by the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M Aminul Islam, it was also addressed by resource persons — Monirul Islam Khan, Dr Lulu Bilki and Deputy Commissioner of Natore Aziruddin Ahmed.

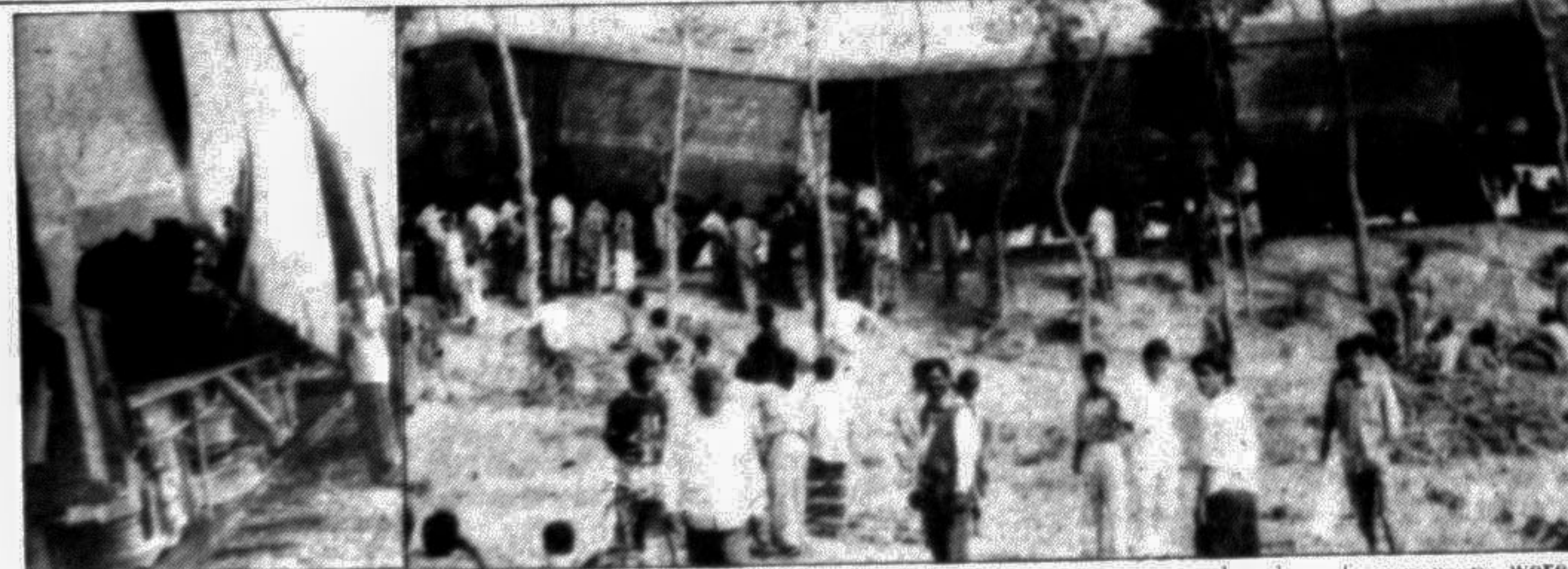
KHULNA

"United efforts must to attain any goal"

Jan 1: Jatiyo Sangsad Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali said here Monday that no nation could reach its cherished goal without united efforts of the people, reports BSS.

The speakers was addressing the prize distribution ceremony of annual literary and cultural competition of the Pioneer Government Girls' College at its campus. Organised by the central students union of the college, the function was addressed among others by the principal of the college and students representatives.

Shaikh Razzak Ali asked the students not to indulge in the politics of chaos and confusion.



CHUADANGA: The Khulna-Golunda train which was derailed at Darshana Halt point recently where four persons were killed on the spot.

Star photo