

**Goods worth Tk 1.5 lakh looted**

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 1: Two daring dacoities were committed in the houses of Manoj Kumar Saha and Utpal Kumar Saha of village Bhabanipur in Harinakundu thana of the district recently.

Report says, a gang of armed men in the guise of police numbering 10 to 12 raided the house of Manoj Kumar Saha at 12 noon. The miscreants claimed them as police force and informed the house owner that they had reached there to arrest an accused person. Then they looted valuables worth at least Taka one lakh from the house. Just after the dacoity, the miscreants attacked the house of Utpal Kumar Saha in same way and looted valuables worth Taka about 50 thousand.

Two separate cases were lodged with Harinakundu police station in this connection but police could not arrest anybody so far.

**251 bodies brought to morgue for autopsy**

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 1: A total of 251 bodies were brought to the morgue of Kishoreganj sadar hospital for post-mortem examination in 1994.

According to the hospital source, post-mortem of 21 bodies was performed in the month of January, 14 in February, 19 in March, 22 in April, 22 in May, 25 in June, 24 in July, 23 in August, 17 in September, 22 in October, 20 in November and 22 in December.

The bodies had been sent to the morgue by the police of 13 police stations of the district.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 191 bodies were brought to the Kishoreganj morgue for autopsy during the year 1993. Of them, 10 bodies performed in January, 19 in February, 15 in March, 17 in April, 12 in May, 16 in June, 19 in July, 22 in August, 15 in September, 19 in October, 11 in November and 16 in December.

**Two stabbed to death, another killed in bomb attack**

JESSORE, Feb 1: Two people were killed and one was injured in attacks by unidentified miscreants here Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police said, a teenager was stabbed to death and his friend injured critically while returning home at about 8 pm.

Ariful Islam Arif, 18, of Mollahpara in Barindia area succumbed to his stab injuries at the sadar hospital.

His friend, Kamrul Islam, was also stabbed by the miscreants while they were returning home by a rickshaw.

Police said, the group attacked them in front of Rangamat garage in a sequel to a quarrel centering a girl.

In another incident, a group of assailants killed a young man in a bomb attack at Sarapal village in Rupdia union of Kotwali thana.

Police said, Aminur Rahman, 28, was taken out of the house at about 9:30 when he was watching TV and killed in handbomb blast.

The body was sent to the sadar hospital morgue.

**Prices of chemical fertilizers up in Kushtia**

KUSHTIA, Feb 1: The prices of different kinds of chemical fertilizers have shot up in the northern districts including Kushtia despite satisfactory stock with the traders, reports UNB.

The farmers said fertilizer traders and stockists, creating artificial scarcity in the markets, have enhanced the prices of fertilizers hampering Irri-Boro cultivation during the current season.

They alleged that the stockists and traders create artificial crisis every year with the connivance of concerned officials.

They said the traders are selling fertilizers at high rates ignoring the prices fixed by the government.

Urea is being sold between Tk 350 and 400 per bag. Triple Super Phosphat (TSP) between Tk 425 and 450, MP between Tk 350 and 370 and Zipsam between Tk 200 and 220 while the prices of Urea, TSP, MP and Zipsam were Tk 270, Tk 290, Tk 280, and Tk 100 respectively a few months back.

The farmers said they are unable to purchase fertilizers due to its high prices.

They urged the government to take immediate steps in this regard.

**Setting up of BSCIC units in B'baria**

**Complex rules discourage interested entrepreneurs**

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 1: Due to lack of administrative care and securities the interested entrepreneurs seemed not to show any interest in establishing industries at Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, BSCIC industrial estate.

Sources have said that in order to provide employment to young men the authorities purchased 21.98 acres of land at the cost of Taka 42 lakh for establishing the industrial estate at Nandanpur, some seven kilometres north of the district town. Of the total expenditure for the industrial estate, especially earth filling work has been completed at the expenditure of Taka 86 lakh, over head water tank was completed at the cost of Taka 97 lakh, a deep tubewell was installed at the expenditure of Taka nine lakh. The electrification, water supplying, gas supplying and internal brick soling road construction works were also done at the cost of heavy amount of money. But latter the authorities did not complete the rest of works along with boundary wall construction and telephone line connection for unknown causes.

Sources also say that the authorities made 124 plots in the BSCIC industrial estate. Of them eleven plots were allotted for DRI-workshops and the rest 113 plots were allotted for industrial units.

At present, the authority plans to allot 88 plots including two plots for mechanical, one for forestry, six for chemical industry and one for food products unit. Sources have also said, plots applicants have to pay Taka eight lakh as down payment for an acre of land, or if any plot holder wants to take time he or she has to pay Taka eight lakh along with six per cent interest for 20 years according to instalment rules.

For such rule and order the entrepreneurs are not taking any initiative to establish industry here. Meanwhile, the authority has not finished the rest of the works inside industrial estate. The important work like telephone communication, internal road carpeting are lying incomplete stage due to shortage of fund. In the meantime only five plot holders having establish factories are producing and marketing their products while the other plot holders are not taking any initiative to establish any industry. Though some of the plot holders laid foundation stone 5 to 7 years back they are not taking any step to build more till reporting as they are facing various difficulties. As a result, the plots are lying empty and have turn into grazing fields. It is alleged that the authority did not build the boundary wall around the industrial estate. As a result the security of this area is being hampered.

For collecting the information of present rate of raw materials and products from other areas or countries, the holders do not get any telephone set in case of any emergency. The holders are forced to use public call office, 7 kilometres from here, for emergency telephone communication. In order to get a good facility by telecommunication for their production the authority did not arrange for telelink with other districts or country.

The brick soling road are yet to be completed. On the other hand, the tank of industrial estate which was dug inside the estate at the beginning was not used for pisciculture neither leased to any party. Sources have said, if 124 plots of industrial estate were run to produce six thousand unemployed youngsters it would get a good opportunity for providing themselves in the job. The people have urged the authority to apply easy process and take proper step for dissolving the all kind of difficulties of the BSCIC industrial estate of Brahmanbaria district soon.

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RANGPUR: A vital road at Dahagram-Angorpota enclave linking the Tin-Bigha Corridor is under construction. The total cost of the work is estimated at Tk 17 lakh. — Star photo

**Notes from Gaibandha**

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 1: Shaghata Thana police in a drive recovered a stolen pump set used for irrigation purpose from village Jadurtair under Shaghata Thana recently.

On getting a secret information a police contingent raided the house of one Abdul Jobber Akanda and recovered the stolen 78 H P pump set. None was arrested during the raid. A case was filed with thana.

**One killed in road mishap**

Sanover Hossain 25, Manager, Grameen Bank under Gobindaganj thana was killed by a running mini-bus 15 kilometre from Gobindaganj thana recently. On January 12 the victim was awaiting together with some other colleagues at the bus stoppage. All of a sudden a speedy mini-bus, Bogra-No. 8100 dashed him. He was removed to Palashbari health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead. A case was filed with the local thana.

**Katler Beel project**

At the aim of enhancing irrigation facilities under self-help and food for works programme the Katler Beel is being used under Sadullapur thana. Government has allotted 182 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of the project. Under this programme, 2.80 kilometre long Katler Beel is being re-excavated. On completion of the project about one thousand acres of land will be brought under irrigation facilities.

**Indian salt seized**

TNO, Gobindaganj thana seized 23 bag full of Indian salt from a bus Bogra-BA-6678 near Gobindaganj Girls' School on January 12. The conductor and helper of the bus were unloading the salt bags from roof top which drew the attention of Gobindaganj TNO while passing through the road.

**Uplift work in progress**

Implementation of 187 primary school building is going on in seven thanas of the district at the expense of Taka 7 crore 44 lakh. Local Govt. Engineering Directorate is conducting the implementation work.

**One killed, six injured**

One child was killed and six others sustained injuries when a loaded truck turned turtle at the cross road of Palashbari thana on January 16. The truck, Dhaka Metro-DA-6209, suddenly skidded off the road and turned turtle in which one, Rakib Hossain, 8, fell under the truck and died on the spot. Besides, six others received serious injuries. Two of them are said to be in critical condition.

**In Comilla by April '95 1300 households to be provided with electricity**

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Feb 1: Work on rural electrification programme at five backward unions under Homna and Daudkandi thanas of Comilla district has started with an involvement of Taka one crore 15 lakh, reports BSS.

The schemes to be completed during the current fiscal year would cover the thanas of Chandanpur, Barakanda, Lutcherar, Radhanagar and Govindapur of the district. Shipping Minister M K

Anwar yesterday formally inaugurated the work of the electrification programme by erecting a pole of electric supply at Mugarchar and Manikarchar of Radhanagar union.

Electricity will be provided to about 1300 households by April next and all the villages under the unions will be provided with electricity in phases.

The minister also visited the work of nine kilometre Homna-Manikarchar road being constructed with an allocation of 486 metric tons of wheat under food for work programme.

Addressing a series of public meetings on the occasion, the minister said, the BNP government do not claim that it has solved all the problems of the people, but, he said, the government has been working relentlessly for socio-economic uplift of ten people for which they entrusted their confidence of BNP. The people has already started getting benefit of the massive development programmes initiated by the government, he added.

Anwar said, some people-rejected politicians, are trying to disrupt trend of uplift programme clamouring on non-issues since the inception of BNP government. He called upon the people to resist against the politics of hartal and blockade.

**600 eye patients receive free treatment**

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 1: A total of 600 eye patients were given treatment including 24 surgical operation in a week-long eye-camp at Mollahgram High School of Kasba thana, reports UNB.

Sponsored by Lions Club of Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Factory unit, the camp was inaugurated by its President, Alhaj Md Shafiqur Rahman, on January 23.

Founder of the Mollahgram High School and a social worker Anwar Shaheed Bhuiyan presided over the inaugural function.

A large number of poor people took free treatment including prescriptions free of cost. The cataract patients were provided with spectacles.

**In brickfields Frequent use of timber despite govt ban**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 1: Rampant use of firewood despite government ban in the brickfields of the district is going on unabated hastening the process of deforestation.

Brickfield owners are using trees as fuel despite availability of coal in the depots, local people alleged.

Besides bamboos are also being used as fuel for burning bricks in all the 580 brickfields while age-old pine trees, mango and other fruit bearing trees are being felled down.

Date trees, on the other hand are being chopped down indiscriminately to feed the brickfields affecting production of molasses, they added.

Meanwhile, the environmentalists have expressed grave concern over the increasing felling of trees which is affecting the ecological balance in the district.

The government in July 1989, imposed ban on using firewood in brickfields to curb deforestation all over the country.

Local people urged the authorities to take proper action against the brickfield owners for violating government order without further delay.

Meanwhile, district administration has conducted a raid in 8 brickfields in the district and confiscated huge quantity of fuel wood which the brickfield owners were using for burning bricks in stead of coal. Use of fuel wood in brickfield was banned by government in 1989 in order to save environmental hazards caused by indiscriminate felling of trees for the purpose of selling them to the brickfield owners.

The raid conducted under the command of Magistrate Shafique Anwar and Magistrate Mahub Alam and recovered 8 thousand maunds of fuel wood, confiscated them and seven thousand 2 hundred maunds disposed off in open auction in Sadar thana.

It may be mentioned that this is the first time such raids have been conducted against use of fuel wood in brickfield.

**Workshop on mobilisation of labour contracting societies held**

FARIDPUR, Feb 1: A day-long workshop on "Mobilisation of Labour Contracting Societies (LCS)" was held here recently at the Training and Resource Centre of BRAC, reports UNB.

The objective of the workshop is to involve organised labour groups of productive employment project (PEP) and NGOs in construction and maintenance activities of Rural Development Project-4 (RDP-4), LGED in greater Faridpur and Kurigram districts.

Superintending Engineer of LGED Ataulka Bhiyan inaugurated the workshop which was also addressed by Workshop coordinator MA Quasham and team leader of RDP-4 Leif Oxheden. Project Director of RDP-4 A Taher Khan presided.

**Huge electricity bills remain unpaid with govt offices**

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 1: Electricity bills amounting to about Tk 1.5 crore remain unrealized under the supply network of Sirajganj Palli Bidyut Samity-1 at Ullapara.

It is learnt that Sirajganj Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) has extended the supply network in Shahzadpur, Ullapara, Raiganj, Tarash thana areas and a part of Belkuchi thana. Power bills amounting to Tk. 16,43,567, remain unrealized from the government offices which include Tk. 9,11,143 with Tarash, Raiganj, Ullapara and Shahzadpur police stations and Hatikumrul police outpost. Tk. 3,22,880 remain outstanding with the Thana Administration Offices of Ullapara. Huge amount of bills are lying unpaid from the private industries and business establishments of influential quarters.

Needs be mentioned that the PBS disconnects the supply system if bills are not paid for three months. But one to pressure of influential quarters the PBS authority fails to implement the disconnecting programme.

The supply network of Sirajganj PBS is disturbed much following non-payment of electric bills from government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and influential quarters.

**Fund shortage FAP in Jamalpur may be delayed**

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 1: Implementation of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) project may be delayed further for want of fund with a view to protecting 6000 hectares of land of boro, auro and aman crops from flood water and water logging from rivers Brahmaputra and Jamuna.

Water Development Board had taken up flood control drainage project and embankment-cum-road in 1989-90 financial year at an estimate cost of Tk 200 crore. The scheme falls under the district.

The project areas is funded by the Brahmaputra and Jamuna in the east and west at these river parts. The gross benefit area at the project is about 6000 hectares of land and creative of 8,000 job for labourers.

The feasibility study of the project will be completed by the 1998-99 financial year and the execution at the scheme was expected to be started this year but no fund has yet been allocated for executed of the scheme.

**Huge shoal appears in river, transporting of goods affected**

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 1: Transportation of goods in Kishoreganj-Katiadi riverine route is being hampered seriously following emergence of a shoal in the confluence of Brahmaputra and Ariakha rivers, reports UNB.

The 600 yards long shoal emerged near Char Noakandi about one and a half miles away from Katiadi thana sadar has been hindering movement of all kinds of country boats in this route.

Traders and farmers of the area have to depend on this route for their goods and products transportation due to bad condition of road communication.

The Kutchra road from Katiadi bazar to Char Noakandi is in dilapidated condition and not even fit for rickshaws and bullock carts.



BRAHMANBARIA: At least 100 plots of BSCIC industrial estate remain empty for more than eight years. In 1987 the industrial estate of 124 plots were established on 21.98 acres of land at Nandanpur, some 7 Km from the B'baria town. — Star photo

**Smuggled Indian sugar floods markets in border dists**

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 1: Almost all the markets of greater Jessore, Khulna and Kushtia districts have been flooded with smuggled Indian sugar causing much threat to our local sugar industries. Due to this price of local sugar falls in the markets as a good quantity of sugar lying unsold in different stores of sugar mills.

According to reports, everyday about one thousand maunds of sugar is smuggled to Bangladesh from various borders and river routes from West Bengal. These sugar are being carried to different districts, thana or other important places for marketing. Now in various markets one kilogram of sugar is sold between Taka 26.00 and 28.00. While it is being sold near border areas like Maritampur and Keshabpur at Taka 22.00, in Kaliganj at Taka 23.00, Kotchandpur, Mohespur and Khalishpur of Jhenidah district between Taka 23.00 and 24.00, Benapole, Bagachra, Sharsha and

Nararon in Jessore district between Taka 17.00 and 19.00 a kilogram.

According to a sources, about 30 thousand metric tons of sugar is lying unsold in the stores of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills in Jhenidah, Kushtia Sugar Mills and Darshana Sugar Mills in Kushtia district and Madhukhali Sugar Mills in Faridpur district.

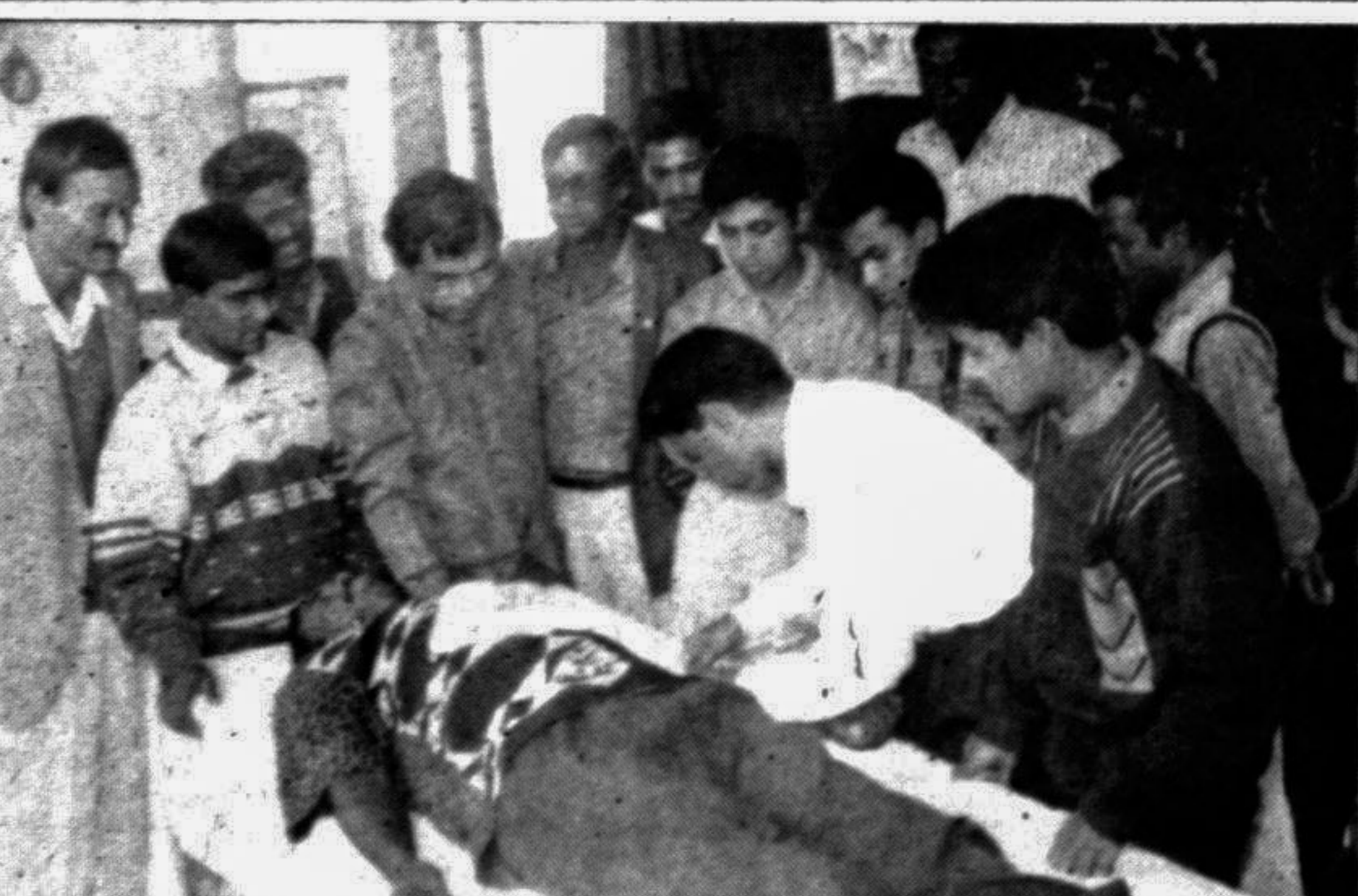
The source said that more than 4 hundred dealers of concerned mills did not withdraw their quota of sugar from the mills as the rate of sugar is higher than the market price as Indian sugar is easily available in the market. Talking to a dealer it was learnt that there was a provision to reduce Taka 4 hundred a month from the security money deposited by the dealers. However, they were not in position to withdraw their quotas. The dealer said that they are compelled to take delivery of sugar at the rate of Taka 27 thousand per

metric tons and sale the sugar at lower prices.

As the mills cannot sell the sugar to dealers, they are in financial crisis and facing troubles to pay to the growers in time.

Another source said, the sugarcane growers of Mobarakganj Sugar Mills, Kushtia Sugar Mills, Darshana Sugar Mills and Madhukhali Sugar Mills are in trouble with the debts rising to at least Taka seven crore payable to the growers. A sugarcane grower alleged that he had appealed to the Mobarakganj Sugar Mills authorities to sanction a small amount of money to cover his son's secondary school certificate (SSC) examination fees, but in vain. The mills authority could not pay the same to the growers.

The sources added, growers surrounded mills authorities of Mobarakganj, Kushtia and Darshana sugar mills to pay their money.



GAIBANDHA: Some of the artistes of the district, 'Naitiya Sangstha' recently voluntarily donated blood on the occasion of the organisation's founding anniversary. — Star photo

**"Cooperative: Vehicle for dev of the national economy"**

COMILLA, Feb 1: State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan Tuesday said the government has identified the villages as focal point of development, reports UNB.

It also emphasized on improving the lot of women and disadvantaged groups through massive poverty alleviation and rural development programmes, he told a national seminar here.

The state minister was inaugurating the two-day seminar on "Cooperative as a vehicle for rural development and poverty alleviation" at the conference room of Bangladesh Cooperative College.

Dr Khan said, cooperative is the appropriate mechanism or vehicle for the development of the national economy as well as to bring desired change in social infrastructure.

He stressed the need for small credit programmes, productive employment generation and motivational work by cooperatives to involve the poorer segment of the people and women folk in development activities to help attaining success of the cooperative programme as social movement.

The minister observed that until and unless the women and the poorer section of the people are uplifted or empowered, the cooperative movement cannot be successful.

The government has initiated participatory approach to formulate a plan document for ensuring proper implementation of the country's plan, he said.

"It will thoroughly take into account the needs and priorities of general masses and suggest necessary measures so that a balanced development would be attained within a shortest possible period of time."

Referring to the World Social Summit to be held in Copenhagen, Dr Khan said social development has got priority worldwide which can only be achieved through social development of the poorest of the poor who are at present living in hardcore poverty.

The inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by Registrar of Cooperative Societies M Azizul Hoque Bhuiyan, senior Cooperative Advisor of ILO Ejrin Mogensen, ILO Country Director Johannes Lokkolo, UNFPA Director Alain P Mouchiroud and BRDB Director General Ayub Quadry.