

No improvement of law, order situation in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 10: During the period from January 15 to February 3 last, 14 people were killed by miscreants in different thanas of the district following persistent deterioration of law and order.

According to source, last week seven people including three in Bagherpara, two in Kotawali and one each in Keshabpur and Jhinkergacha were brutally killed.

Reports say that Parul, 14 daughter of Khokan Pal of Bashuria and Tahmina, 30 daughter of Sohrab of Aladpur under Bagherpara were killed of night on January 26. Both were stabbed to death after violations.

On February 1, Arif, 20 of Barukipara and Aminul, 30 of Sorarpole under Kotwali were killed. Arif stabbed to death and Aminul was shot dead. On February 2, Zamir Hossain, 30 of Kagemkola under Jhinkergacha was axed to death while Abdus Samad of Keshabpur was beaten to death. Both were picked up from their houses before killing.

According to another source, Saheb Ali, Zamir of Bagherpara were shot dead on Friday. Abeda Khatun of Joypur under Monirampur, Golam Mowla of Obhainagore, Shakila of Bhanipur under Sharsha met similar fates during the same period.

According to local law-abiding people, violence, terrorism and anarchy are dominating the district.

They also alleged that no killer was arrested by police get despite reporting in local newspapers.

Suspected terrorist escapes from police custody

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 10: One suspected terrorist Shahinur Islam Shahin Mia, 20, managed to escape from police custody from Brahmanbaria sadar hospital recently.

According to sources, Shahin Mia, son of late Nurul Islam was arrested from Asrabad village under Bancharampur thana when he was called for questioning about a clash incident at polling centre of Parliamentary by-election of Brahmanbaria-6 (Bancharampur) on January 25. Shahin who received injuries was admitted into Brahmanbaria sadar hospital by police on January 26. But due to lack of proper police guard the suspected accused Shahin Mia managed to flee through the window of the hospital.

Plan to raise soil fertility

BHOLA, Feb 10: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme for increasing soil fertility by proper application of chemical fertilisers and using of organic manure in 21 districts of the country, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the programme has been taken under the "Soil fertility and fertilizer management project". Under the programme, about 10 lakh marginal farmers have been given training to increase soil fertility by using natural fertilisers — green and organic manures — and by applying proper dose of chemical fertilisers.

Soil fertility of most of the cultivable land is rapidly decreasing due to shortage of organic matter and improper application of chemical fertilizer affecting crop production, the officials said.

Jointly financed by DANIDA, the project is likely to cover the entire country by the year 1997 in phases.

Call to set up new industries

BAGERHAT, Feb 10: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman called upon the entrepreneurs to set up industries on the basis of area-wise facilities and necessities to create employment opportunities and strengthening the national economy, reports UNB.

He was addressing at the inaugural ceremony of a day-long workshop on Sustainable Management held at Shilpakala Academy here on Wednesday, organised by the National Small and Cottage Industries Samity Bangladesh (NASCIB). Chaired by President of Bagerhat unit of (NASCIB) Mahtabuddin, the inaugural ceremony was also addressed by NASCIB President Ainal Haque Sobel, Resident Representative of German Federation Small Business M Azizur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Dewan Zakir Hossain and Director BSCIC-Khulna region Hamayun Kabir.

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Law, order situation worsens in Satkhira 22 killed in 7 dists of Khulna division in January

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 10: A total of 22 persons including 6 women were killed in seven districts of Khulna Division during the month of January '95. The districts are Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur.

According to the concerned sources, 8 persons including 4 women were murdered in Jessore district, five persons in Jhenidah, 3 persons including 2 women in Khulna, 2 persons each in Kushtia and Chuadanga districts and one person each in Satkhira and Meherpur districts.

According to reports, in Jessore district one Rokeya Begum (20) of Bhaturia village under sadar thana was murdered on January 1. Later the body was recovered from the paddy field. The bodies of pregnant housewife Tahmina and a minor girl Parul were recovered by police from nearby baor on January 2. The miscreants kidnapped Tahmina and Parul of village Aladpur under Bagherpara thana and raped them. Later they killed them mercilessly.

On January 6 last one Saheb Ali, 14, of Khanpur under Bagherpara thana was murdered while rival party attacked on him and he died on the spot. One Amena Begum, 22, of Joypur village under Manirampur thana was slaughtered by the miscreants on January 10 last. One Golam Mollah, 55, of Kafal village under Abhoyganj thana was murdered by the rival party-

men on January 15. The miscreants shot dead two persons. Abdul Wadud, 45, and Ramiz Uddin, 40, at Narikelbaria bazar under Bagherpara thana on January 17 during the period.

In Jhenidah district one Abdul Mannan 30 of Dayal Mundia under Kaligonj thana

Australian envoy visits development projects in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 10: The High Commissioner of Australian High Commission to Bangladesh Kaneth W Espynel visited different development projects taken by the Unnayan Sahayak Sangstha (USS), a non-government organisation working in Moulvibazar recently. The High Commissioner was accompanied by his wife Espynel.

A briefing session was held at the project office of the USS in this connection where local pourasava chairman and advisor of the USS Syed Mohsin Ali and Secretary of USS Faizul Karim Moyun informed the High Commissioner about their projects and programmes. The briefing session was attended among others by Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar Md. Abu Sayeed, Advisor of USS Abdul Kadir Mahmud and Prof Shah Abdul Wadud.

The Australian High Commissioner also visited the districts lone water fall, Madhab Kunda picnic spot under Baralekha thana of the district.

was chopped to death by the miscreants on January 1. One Abdul Hannan, 33, of the same thana was stabbed to death on January 7 and one Kripa Sindhu Biswas, 45, paddy merchant while returning home and when he reached near Khalkhola field, the miscreants stabbed him and he died on the spot.

In Khulna district, one house-wife Roksana Khatun Mina, 18, of village Akra under Dumuria thana was beaten to death on January 4. One Abul Hashem, 45, a worker of newsprint mill was stabbed to death by the miscreants at Alamnagar under Khalishpur thana on January 16 and a body of an unidentified woman was recovered from a bush of village Niklapur under Rupsa thana.

One Yusuf Ali, 30, of Kumarkhali was shot dead on January 19 and an unidentified youth, 26, was stabbed to death near Shashari Ghat under Kushtia thana on January 30, both from Kushtia district.

In Chuadanga district Jahangir Hossain, chairman Harda union parishad was shot dead by the miscreants near Osmanpur Bazar on January 23 and Joyal, 45, GRP police personnel was stabbed to death by the dacoits at Uthali station on January 28. One Joyal Abedin 42 of Sonali Naita village under Tala thana was shot dead by the miscreants in Satkhira district and Arswad, 35, of Gangi under Meherpur district was chopped to death on January 25 last.

Fish supply declines in Chandpur markets

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 10: Fish supply has seriously declined in Chandpur terminal market, a wholesale fish market of the district.

Hilsa, carps and other varieties of fishes are generally accumulated and sold in the terminal market, an important fish market in the area. Traders from various parts of the country have their local agents here for procurement and supply of fishes to their desired trade centres.

It is reported that fishermen can not accumulate fishes in the market due to increased activities of the pirates in the rivers and adjoining areas. As a result, fishing in the river the Padma and the Meghna have

been facing a serious setback causing huge short supply of fishes in the local market.

About ten thousand fishermen in the district are engaged in fishing in the rivers but very recently many fishermen have abandoned fishing in the river for fear of pirates.

It is further reported that there are about one thousand trawlers and three thousand fishing boats, engaged in fishing in the rivers but most of the boats and trawlers lying idle due to rampant attacks by the pirates.

Traders and fishermen have urged the authorities to ensure security for the fishermen in the rivers.

Betel leaf cultivation is beset with manifold problems in different areas of the district.

About eight thousand betel leaf growers are facing various problems for a long time.

It is reported, betel leaf growers are facing acute financial crisis. Cultivation of betel leaf now a day has turned tough as well as costly as the prices of inputs marked a sharp rise in the markets than before.

Besides traders finding it hard to sell betel leaf in the markets due to competition and low prices. Betel leaf in an exportable item.

It was largely exported to Pakistan and middle east countries.

Number of rickshaws on rise in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Feb 10: The abnormal increase of rickshaws in the town has been causing immense sufferings to the residents and pedestrians, reports UNB.

According to an official source, at least 4,000 rickshaws are plying on the 16 miles narrow pucca roads within the 5.07 square miles area of the pourashava.

The roads specially in the commercial areas of the town remain all along blocked by rickshaws, causing obstruction to the movement of pedestrians.

Most of the rickshaw-pullers do not know the traffic rules. They ply their rickshaws violating traffic signal and park their rickshaws here and there creating traffic jam, the dwellers alleged.

The town dwellers also al-

leged that while moving on the road of the main town they are to remain stranded for minutes together due to the jam. The school going children are the worst sufferers.

Besides, plying of vehicles has become difficult during the office hours.

Apart from, a good number of rickshaws everyday enter into the pourashava from outlying unions of the town aggravating the situation.

Children suffer from malnutrition

Another UNB report says: Hundreds of children in six thanas of the district have been suffering from malnutrition, glaucoma, jaundice and other intestinal diseases due to the lack of proper family care and treatment facilities.

According to a statistics, 60 per cent of the victims upto nine years of age have been suffering from intestinal and skin diseases, but their medicare was hampering due to the scarcity of necessary medicine in the hospitals.

Besides, the physical growth of the children are also being hindered for want of vitamin.

According to the local physicians, malnutrition in such a large scale was caused by vitamin deficiency and the rotten foodstuff taken by children.

Moreover, the thana health complexes are not equipped with necessary medicines to help remove the vitamin deficiency of such a large percentage of children.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Professor M Eusuf Ali, vice-chancellor and Professor Salahuddin Ahmed visited the mobile lorry of Bangladesh National Museum in observance of 40th anniversary of the History Department of the university recently. — Star photo

Invest money in productive ventures: Saifur

HABIGANJ, Feb 10: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman suggested that prospective investors should invest their surplus money in productive ventures, instead of going in for big investment in house-building sector, reports UNB.

The government would always encourage and help the production-oriented development ventures, he said.

"Such ventures are not only economically vital for the nation, but are also very profitable for the investors concerned, besides creating employment opportunity," he added.

Saifur mentioned that the government had liberalised and simplified the loan disbursement procedure to give momentum to the investment credit flow to the productive sectors.

The Finance Minister was inaugurating a pisciculture project at Nabiganj in the district.

"During the last three years unprecedented success has been achieved in the fish, poultry and dairy production sectors, which is the backbone of our economy," said Saifur.

Later, addressing a public meeting at Auskandi in the same thana, the Finance Minister said the government was determined to carry on democratic process and would always uphold democratic norms and values for the sake of parliamentary system.

Microwave tower breaks down in an unusual accident

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 10: In an accident in Jhenidah thana compound the microwave tower was totally broken down and razed to ground last Monday. As a result, all types of wireless communication has been disrupted with all concerned police stations.

According to reports, some transport leaders came at Jhenidah police station for discussion regarding a case on a road mishap which had occurred recently. A sub-inspector of the police station Saiful Islam started driving a vehicle inside the thana compound and suddenly hit the microwave tower. As a result, the tower collapsed and the vehicle was partially damaged.

Until the tower operation is restored Jhenidah thana police remains cut off from any contact through their wireless communication system.

Talking to Jhenidah thana, an official admitted the fact atleast Taka 5 lakh will be required to make the microwave usable again.

It was alleged that the sub-inspector had no previous experience of driving any motor vehicles.

More children engaged in odd jobs in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 10: Child labourers are on increase in Sirajganj district.

Minor boys and girls within age limit between seven and 16 are reportedly engaged in different odd jobs in the handloom factories, workshops, teastalls and agricultural land.

It is gathered that child labourers have been increasing alarmingly in different parts of Sirajganj district. Minor boys and girls who were supposed to go to schools are engaged in odd jobs. A considerable number of child labourers are found working in different sec-

tions of handloom factories, workshops and tea stalls. Minor boys and girls are also engaged in agricultural land.

It is observed that the government has taken massive schemes to encourage universal primary education by introducing food for education scheme and semi-stipend schemes. In addition, free education for girls have been extended upto class eight.

In addition to all government facilities, number of school going children have increased no doubt about that but the child labourers are still on increase.

In Jhenidah Mounting problems of telephone subscribers

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 10: The telephone subscribers of six thanas of Jhenidah district have been suffering badly for negligence by authorities.

According to reports, to make the telephone call easy, Operators Trunk Dialing (OTD) system was introduced at all thana level telephone exchanges. But no operator was posted for the purposes. As a result the operators of trunk boards are compelled to furnish the duty which put them into trouble frequently as they cannot attend OTD telephones on time.

Further, a number of monitors of telephone exchange reportedly do not attend their duties regularly, it was alleged. Telephone subscribers of

Sailkupa alleged that the said monitor attends his office once in a month that is to draw his salary. As a result the subscribers can not place their problems to the authorities. Some subscribers also alleged that the OTD telephones often go out of order. But the authorities do not pay any attention to the problem.

Administrative problem has thrown the subscribers in great trouble: There is no revenue office at Jhenidah for the subscribers of six thanas as Jhenidah sadar, Sailkupa, Hanakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Mohepur. But number of telephones has increased many times in last five years in the district, a source said.

Normal election schedule important in democracy

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 10: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said following normal election schedule in a parliamentary system is vitally important to give democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

"A national election is a matter of huge expenditure. An early election without any justifiable reason will only disrupt the democratic process," he told a public meeting at Anzad Ali High School ground in Kulaura thana recently.

He said the expenditure for the past polls was Taka 50-60 crore, but this time Taka 400 crore will be required for preparing voters list and issuance of laminated identity cards to 60 million voters of the country.

Rahman said parliamentary democracy in our country is at the nascent stage and the pre-

sent parliament should be allowed to complete its full term for democracy to flourish.

Referring to the en masse resignation of opposition MPs, he said they will have to explain the causes of their childish act to the voters of their respective constituencies. He urged the people not to elect them again as they deserted parliament by submitting resignation letters.

Earlier, inaugurating a new school building at Kormodhu under Kulaura thana, he said education which is the basis of all development was given top-most priority in the current year's budget. The government is spending Taka 4,000 crore for the development of education sector this year, he added.

The Finance Minister also inaugurated a card-phone centre and an X-Ray unit at the thana hospital at Kulaura on Tuesday.

Smuggling rampant in borders of Sharsha thana of Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 10: Everyday goods worth taka crores are being smuggled to India and coming from there in our country through different borders of Sharsha thana in Jessore district. As a result, the government is deprived of revenue for Taka lakhs every month.

According to reports, video cassette player (VCP), video cassette recorder (VCR) and other electronics goods, copper and kansha made utensils, gold, silver, bearing of motor parts, jamdani saree are smuggled in India through the borders like Rudrapur, Goga, Puthkhal, Daulatpur, Sadipur, Raghunathpur, Dhannakhola, Sikerpur and other areas of Sharsha thana.

On other hand, hundreds of cows, buffaloes, salt, sugar, low-priced sarees, spars of bus trucks or other vehicles, tube lights, audio-cassette ready-made garments, still and ceramic utensils, soap, detergent power, bidi, medicine, heroins and other goods are being smuggled to Bangladesh through those border areas.

These goods are almost carried by bus, truck or other vehicles.

According to reports, cows are smuggle to our country mainly through Sadipur, Dhannakhola borders and most of the cows brought at Satmail, Baganchara, Nanaron and Ithikargacha, are stated to be Indian. At least two times the smugglers have to pay money as tax according to unwritten

contract. These animals are also carried through jungles and surrounding areas. As a result the government is being deprived of huge revenue.

While visiting some shops and corners of Benapole bazar and check-post area this correspondent witnessed that the major portion of goods are Indian there mainly Le Sancy soap made by Hindustan Lever Limited, Camayard Cinthol soap made by Godrej (proctor and gambler), Palm Olive made by Colgate India Limited, Liril made by TFM, Ponds cream made by Ponds India Limited are being sold without any protection. Further Super Max and Topaz blades are being sold in shops and also available to hawkers.

Indian drug, sarees worth Tk 2 lakh seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 10: Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled Indian phensidyl and sarees worth Tk 2.08 lakh from Gokornaghat in sadar on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, the jawans of 23 battalion raided the ghat and recovered 1000 bottles of phensidyl syrup and a huge quantity of sarees.

All the goods were deposited with the Akhaura customs godown.

Another report adds: A three-day agriculture fair was concluded here at Sarall thana agriculture office on Monday.

Inaugurated by Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department, it was attended by Thana Nirbahi Officer Abdur Rouf Choudhury.

Some 200 agricultural items were exhibited in the fair.

Microbus skids off road, one killed, 6 hurt

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 10: A woman was killed and six others people were injured when a microbus skidded off the road near Ashuganj on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the Dhaka bound microbus turned turtle on Thursday when the driver lost its control killing Shamsunnessa, 55 on the spot.

The seriously injured Abdul Quaiyum, Abdul Mohit, Malu Miah and Joyal of Balaganj, Sylhet, were admitted to Sylhet Osmany Hospital.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape. A case was filed with Ashuganj police.

Four awarded life-term for murder

MADARIPUR, Feb 10: Four people were awarded life term imprisonment on charge of murdering a man, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts Siraj Master, Rezaul Haq, Siraj Khan and Alamgir Khan Tk 5000 each. In default, to suffer another six months more.

According to the prosecution, the convicted people murdered Chan Mia son of Abdul Mojib Mia of village Dhuasha in Kalkini thana on August 25, 1992 following a previous enmity.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the four people.

After examining the evidences and records the District and Sessions Judge awarded the punishment last week.

Skin diseases break out in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Feb 10: Skin and gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in the district in an epidemic form due to consumption of adulterated edibles like ghee, butter and mustard oil and milk, reports UNB.

Doctors said patients with the complaint of intestinal disorder and itching are coming to their chambers in large number.

Local people alleged adulterated edibles are openly being sold in the local markets and the law enforcing agencies are reluctant to take any measures.

Doctors also attributed the outbreak of the diseases to selling of unhygienic eatables in hotels and restaurants.

A section of spurious traders in collaboration with some dishonest officials have long been indulged in this unfair practice.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps against the dishonest traders.

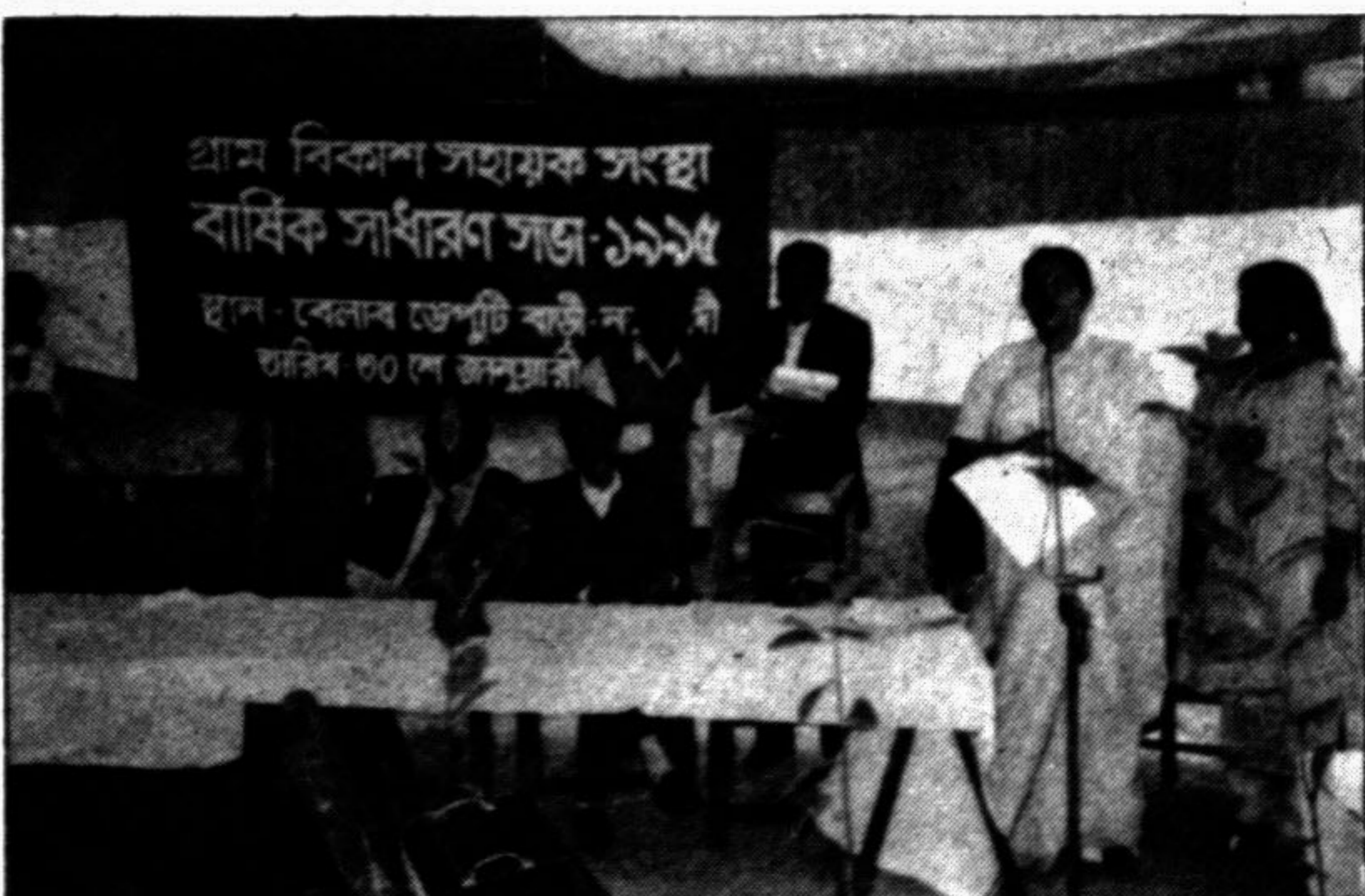
KCC highest defaulter of electricity bills

KHULNA, Feb 10: Electricity bills worth about Tk 32 crore has been lying outstanding with the 13 pourashavas, including the Khulna City Corporation (KCC), reports UNB.

According to Power Development Board, of the arrear, KCC is the highest defaulter with Tk 17 crore followed by Bagerhat district with Tk 8 crore.

If the total arrear of 13 pourashavas is not paid this year it will exceed Tk 50 crore next year, the sources said adding a few pourashavas are regular in paying their bills.

The PDB officials said, they cannot take proper action for realisation of pourashava electricity bills due to procedural loopholes.



Masuda Banu, Project Director of the Gram Bikash Sahayak Sangstha speaking at the annual general meeting of the sangstha at its premises at Belabe Deputybari, Narsingdi.