

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

One electrocuted

Oct 1: One, Pulin Chandra Mondal (45) of village West Angoria under Dumki thana was electrocuted at Labukhali Bazar recently, reports BSS. The incident occurred as Pulin came in touch with the C-1 sheet of a tin shed he was working at. He was immediately rushed to Patuakhali sadar hospital where the doctor declared him dead.

NARAIL

Pottery industry faces extinction

Oct 1: Traditional pottery industry in the district is on the verge of extinction due to lack of capital and patronisation, reports UNB.

About 10,000 families of potters in the district are engaged in this age-old profession. Most of them are by born potters and have no other means of livelihood.

Besides, these skilled artisans have been facing fund crisis to carry on their business.

The products are being faced with innumerable problems in the absence of marketing facilities. They are allegedly not getting bank loans to carry out their profession.

Moreover, introduction of aluminium utensils in rural markets and its extensive use have decreased the demand of the earthen wares. Many potters have already deserted their occupation as they could not compete with the aluminium products.

CHITTAGONG

Two face anti-corruption charges

Oct 1: The Bureau of Anti-Corruption here Tuesday filed a case with Kotwali Police against one assistant general manager and an account holder of the Rupali Bank Limited, Amir Market Branch, for misappropriation of about Taka one crore thirty lakh from the bank, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the bureau, the account holder Seraj Mia in collaboration with Assistant General Manager AKM Lutful Karim had drawn an amount of Taka 1,28,81,519 from his current account during April 1 to September 30 of last year.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau detected during investigation that the account holder drew an excess amount from his account in collaboration with the bank's Assistant General Manager. Further investigation is on.

BARGUNA

Increase in divorces, unregistered marriages

Oct 1: Number of divorces and marriages of minor girls are gradually increasing with mushroom growth of unlicensed marriage registrars in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Similarly polygamous by divorced women are also increasing resulting in erosion of traditional moral values.

According to an estimate, over 5,000 divorce cases were recorded in five thanas of the district during the last four years. The under-aged housewives are the worst victims.

As per government rule, no person above 65 years of age is entitled to conduct marriage and "talaknama". But this rule is reportedly being violated.

Despite ban on marriage below the age of 18 years, the marriage registrars performed the registration of teen-aged girls taking money from the guardians.

FARIDPUR

Lions Club executives

Oct 1: The installation of the newly elected office-bearers of Lions Club of Faridpur was held recently at the local zila parishad hall, reports BSS.

Lion Faruq Moht, District Governor of Lions Districts 315-A Bangladesh administered the oath to the office-bearers. Lion Shahjahan Mollah and Lion Mizanul Hoque Mizan were installed president and secretary respectively of Lions Club of Faridpur for the year 1993-94.

The function was presided over by outgoing club president Atiar Rahman.

The function was attended by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner and Fazlur Rahman, Police Super.

In the function a rickshaw was donated to a poor man and a sewing machine to a disabled woman society on behalf of the Lions Club of Faridpur.

KISHOREGANJ

Big project to cultivate sugarcane

Oct 1: A total of 6,153.85 hectares of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation outside the sugar mill areas in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Zone this year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 2,995.95 hectares are in Mymensingh, 161.94 hectares in Netrokona, 121.46 hectares in Kishoreganj, 2,024.29 hectares in Jamalpur and 850.21 hectares in Sherpur fixing the production target at 3.76 lakh metric tons.

Official sources said Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) would supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the farmers at a fair price for successful implementation of the programme.

JAMALPUR

Six uplift schemes undertaken

Oct 1: Six development schemes will be executed in Jamalpur this year at a cost of Taka eleven lakh and seventeen thousand under district council allocation, says BSS.

The schemes included construction of union parishad houses, roads and culverts. Work on these schemes will soon start, official source said.

Besides, the sadar thana has undertaken seven projects for supplying furniture to educational institutions and reconstruction of government primary schools at a cost of Taka eleven lakh and one thousand.

BARISAL

4,039 apply for admission to 2350 govt college seats

Oct 1: More than 4,039 students, both boys and girls, sought admission to four government colleges in Barisal town which have seat capacity for 2350 students, reports BSS. College authorities have imposed some restrictions to ease the rush of admission seekers. Only those who obtained first division would be able to apply for admission.

Altogether 450 students would be admitted into government Brojomohun University College in humanities, science and commerce groups while 1,199 students sought admission.

Barisal Government Women's College can accommodate only 800 students in science and humanities groups but more than 1,200 girls have applied for admission.

JHENIDAH

Two succumb to injuries

Oct 1: Two people, critically injured in Monday's road accident in the town, succumbed to their injuries Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Amir Ali (40) of Pratappur in Harinakunda thana and Moham Pathan (55) of Narayanpur in sadar thana died at the Sadar Hospital Tuesday noon.

Some 40 people were injured, 27 of them seriously, when a Jessore-bound bus crashed into a deep ditch near Judge's Court as the driver lost control.

The injured were rushed to the hospital where Amir and Moham died.

COMILLA

Workshop on adult education

Oct 1: A ten-day long workshop for the teachers of adult education schools sponsored by BRAC at its Laksam office was inaugurated on Saturday, reports UNB.

Editor of Laksam Baria and President of the local Press Club inaugurated the workshop. About 450 teachers from selected 16 adult schools of Laksam pourashava are taking part in the workshop.

Another report says that tubectomy operations of 19 people were performed at a ligation camp held at Badurtala on Sunday.

The camp was jointly organized by FPAB Comilla and local Nibedita Mahila Sangstha which was formally inaugurated by Dr Syeda Ferzana Begum and the operation was performed by Dr Ashraf Hossain.



AGRI VARSITY: Prof M Abdul Haque, Convenor, Council of Deans of BAU signing the condolence book to pay tributes to the memory of late Prof M Ashraf Ali, former VC of the university — BAU photo

Rangpur Jute Research Institute

One officer carrying on work amid fund crisis

RANGPUR, Oct 1: The Rangpur Jute Research Institute is facing closure due to want of required fund.

With a view to finding out new high yielding varieties of jute, the institute was set up in 1966 over an area of 46.62 acres of land near Mahigonj in Rangpur paourasava.

There is only one scientific officer while three other similar officer posts have been lying vacant since its inception. The modern instruments required for conducting the research works at the laboratory, are insufficient causing great hindrances.

So far, six new varieties of jute have been invented at the institute. Of them, two are tossa and four local varieties.

The institute is lacking seed storage facilities. As a result, it is facing much difficulties in storing seeds procured for research purpose.

Due to financial crisis, the institute can not use its vast area of land. A small area is utilised for the research purposes. Taking this advantage a

From Our Correspondent

section of staff cultivate various other crops at their own initiatives, earning huge money annually.

There are three other similar jute research institutes in the country. These are situated at Faridpur, Kishoreganj and Chandina.

According to the information, all the institutes excepting Rangpur are equipped with required machinery to carry on research and have sufficient seed storage facilities.

There is a strong demand to remove the long-standing problems of Rangpur Jute Research Institute to run its functions properly.

Bus journey hazardous

The bus journey in the greater Rangpur zone is hazardous.

Every day, thousands of passengers travel by several hundreds of buses on different routes in the zone rickling life and taking immense trouble.

The routes are: Rangpur-Kurigram, Rangpur-Lalmo-

nirhat, Rangpur-Nilphamari, Rangpur-Saidpur, Rangpur-Jaldhaka, Rangpur-Pirgachha, Rangpur-Palashbari, Rangpur-Haragachh, Rangpur-Bhendabari, Rangpur-Badarganj, Palashbari-Gaibandha and Saidpur-Nilphamari.

Overloading, late running, rash driving, unnecessary stoppage at many places to pick up passengers from the wayside points have become a regular feature in the zone.

Most of the long route buses, coaches and coasters are allegedly found locked in races to overtake each other without considering the fate of the passengers travelling.

There are allegations that the vehicles in bad shape have been plying on different routes. The number of accidents has also increased nowadays due to rash driving, race for overtaking, carrying of passengers beyond capacity.

For want of passenger sheds thousands of passengers travelling everyday on these routes have long been experiencing inhuman miseries.

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 1: Construction work of new Academic building of Sirajganj Government College by the Facilities Department concludes at the cost of Taka 82 lakh.

The project includes construction of a gallery room, two professors' rooms, two meeting rooms, one 8-unit toilet, two library rooms, eight associate professors' rooms, four lecture rooms, one museum and a 20-unit of toilet.

The work also includes water supply, sanitation and electrification in the newly constructed building.

Mysterious death

Jamaluddin (25) of village Nischintapur in Raiganj thana died mysteriously at his father-in-law's house recently.

The victim had a quarrel with his wife on the night of September 15.

On the following morning he was found dead.

Drama assoc formed

A new drama association titled as 'Samakal Natya Sangstha' was formed at Chandai Kona bazar with Khairul Mannan in the chair.

Among others, Tarun Kumar Basak, Hajrat Ali, Saiful Islam and Mahbubur Rahman spoke on the occasion. Later a 17-member committee was formed with Kamruzzaman as the coordinating secretary. The committee vowed to stage creative and Muktiuddha-based dramas in the area.

AL public meeting

Salanga thana unit of Awami League held a public meeting at Paglapur High School premises with Pralay Kumar Nandi in the chair.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were District Secretary and former MP Abdul Latif Mirza, local leaders Abul Basar, Rafiqul Islam and Sawkat Hossain. They called upon all to intensify the movement 'save peasants, save country'.

Illegal film shows on VCR

Illegal VCR film shows are going on rampantly in different areas of Raiganj, Shahzadpur, Sirajganj sadar and Belkuchi thanas.

One killed by outlawed party activists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 1: One person was killed by the outlawed Purbabanga Communist Party recently in sadar thana.

According to reports, Amir Hossain (38) of village Chandaul, was slaughtered to death while another, Nabisuddin received bullet injuries on the same day.

Nabisuddin was kidnapped by the armed party activists and later they sprayed bullets on him. He was left behind in a critical condition. Later, he was rushed to hospital where he received proper medical treatment.

3 to suffer life-term for murder

SYLHET, Oct

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court Sylhet found three persons guilty and sentenced them to suffer life-term imprisonment in a murder case of Beanibazar thana recently.

The court also sentenced two other accused persons in the same case to suffer simple imprisonment for two years and to pay fines of Taka three thousand each in default to suffer imprisonment for two months more. The other accused persons were acquitted of the charges brought against them.

The prosecution case in brief is that, at about 10 pm on the night following June 4, 1988 the victim Alauddin was

stabbed to death by Belal Ahmed, Mahmud Ali, Rakib Ali and others at the eastern side of the bridge near village Kamargam on the Sylhet-Jakiganj Highway under Beanibazar thana. Brother of the deceased Matuuddin was also injured by the accused persons in the same incident.

A case was registered with the Beanibazar thana by Sirajuddin, brother of the deceased just after the murder.

The court after examining the records and witnesses of the case, found Belal Ahmed, Mahmud Ali and Rakib Ali guilty under sections 302/34 of BPC and sentenced them all to suffer life-term.

Most farmers, weavers becoming poorer

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 1: The number of debt-ridden persons are increasing day by day in the Kishoreganj district.

In all the 13 thanas of the district, there are nearly 12,00,000 debt-ridden persons and the number is still increasing.

About 90 per cent of the indebted persons are farmers and the rest 10 percent are weavers and small traders. All of them are now struggling for survival.

Indebtedness took a serious turn in 1984 due to natural calamities especially the devastating floods which hit year after year during the last few years.

The farmers have become indebted due to the sky high prices of agricultural inputs,

other daily essentials, natural calamities and dowry system in the rural villages. The farmers have mortgaged their agricultural land to local wealthy persons and the agricultural bank to receive loan to meet their various expenses including daughters marriage purposes.

Many of them have sold their cultivable land and dwelling houses to repay the loan.

A large number of cultivators have become destitute after repaying their loan. Some indebted farmers received loan from local money lenders, finding no other alternatives.

In many cases, needy cultivators produce fake documents to take loan. Because they know that they would not be able to repay the loan.

Dacoits loot mechanised boat's passengers, hurt over 32 people

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 1: At least 32 people were injured, three seriously, when a gang of miscreants attacked and looted the passengers of a mechanised boat in the river Jamuna near Khidirpur in Sadar thana of the district Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police sources said about 50 people on board were returning from Naltri Hat of Bhuapur in Tangail district to Sukhgacha after selling their goods. The miscreants numbering about 50-60 suddenly swooped on their boats and beat the passengers indiscriminately with lethal weapons. They also amputated two hands and legs of three passengers. Later, the miscreants decamped with looted money about Taka one lakh.

Seriously injured Nurul Islam (50) of village Atnadigh in Sadar thana, Habibar Rahman (32) of the same village and Nurul Islam were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Owner of the boat Noor Mohammad filed a case with the local police complaining that the men of Shukhgacha Hat committee attacked them for not complying with their demand to sell their goods at

Sukhgacha Hat. A housewife was gang raped and killed by her former husband and his accomplices here recently police said.

Anna Khatun, 30, daughter of Anwar Ali of village North S'rotia in sadar thana, was married to Hazrat Ali of the same village two years ago. She was divorced recently.

Ali went to Anna's house on Thursday, took Tk 17,000 from her father promising to remarry her and brought her to a relative's house at Masumpur in the town. He and his associates raped her there and poured poison in her mouth.

Later, the inmates of the house rushed Anna to the sadar hospital where doctors declared her dead.

None was arrested in connection with the incident. In two other incidents, a teenage boy and an old man allegedly committed suicide in two thanas of the district today.

Shamsul Haque, 18, of village Enayetpur in Chowhall thana hanged himself to death early in the morning after his guardians prevented him from marrying the girl he loved, family sources said.

Blood dysentery claims 50, attacks 30,000

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Oct 1: Blood dysentery has claimed lives of over 50 children and attacked another 30,000 people in Madaripur and Shariatpur district.

It is reported that about 2000 children have become crippled by vitamin deficiency in the two districts.

Some physicians informed this correspondent that blood dysentery was a rare case in the two districts.

Children up to the age of six years are the worst sufferers in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj districts and Gournadi thana under Barisal

district. Sources said that, blood dysentery patients are likely to be found in almost all the houses who have been suffering for a long time.

Different germs in water are responsible for the out break of the disease, some doctors pointed out.

About 10 to 12 patients carrying this disease are coming to the thana sadar health complex almost everyday for admission in critical condition. The sources said that the number of child patients are increasing everyday.

Double production in Chhatak Cement Factory expected

CHHATAK (Sunamganj), Oct 1:

The age-old Assam Bengal Cement Factory (popularly known as Chhatak Cement Factory), which has been losing heavily, plans to double its production on completion of modernisation and expansion in December, expecting to earn a fat profit, reports UNB.

The balancing, modernisation and expansion of the factory, set up in 1939, is nearing completion at a cost of about Taka 127 crore. The factory will go in full production in December.

"We are expecting to double the production to 2.67 lakh tons and earn a profit of Taka 10 crore annually", Managing Director of the Factory Hafizuddin told UNB.

Moreover, we will be able to reduce the price of our cement by Taka 10 per bag to Taka 190 at the retailers level, he said.

The BMRE of the factory was financed by Asian Development Bank, Danish grant and French credit while the machinery were procured from USA, Denmark, German and South Korea.

The country's annual requirement of cement is around 18 lakh tons of which Chhatak Cement and recently disinvested Chittagong Clinker Factory will meet a little more than 5 lakh tons, thus leaving the construction sector heavily dependent on imported cement.

Sena Kalyan Trust was learnt to be setting up a cement factory in Khulna with an annual capacity of three lakh tons.

Located at an idyllic surrounding on the bank of Surma

overlooking the hills of Meghalaya in India, Chhatak factory produces A class cement.

Some 80 per cent of the main raw material, lime stone, is imported from Meghalaya, carried to the factory through a 16-km ropeway from the foot of the hills across the border. The rest 20 per cent of limestone is procured from within the country.

Asked if it is possible to raise efficiency and reduce the price

Orientation course for UP chairmen ends

MAGURA, Oct 1:

A day-long orientation course on "Maintenance of Rural Law and Order, Rural Development, Sanitation, Primacy Health Care, Family Planning and Birth Control" was held at the conference room of Deputy Commissioner last week, reports UNB.

The course, arranged for the Union Parishad Chairmen of the district, was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Nirmol Chandra Sarcar on Monday.

Addressing on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner urged the UP Chairmen to cooperate with the government in implementing various development programmes in the rural areas.

A total of 36 UP Chairmen from four thanas of the district took part in the course conducted by district level officers and experts.

of cement, the Managing Director of the factory said they were not independent of the Ministry and the BCIC (Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation), who have been subsidising the factory.

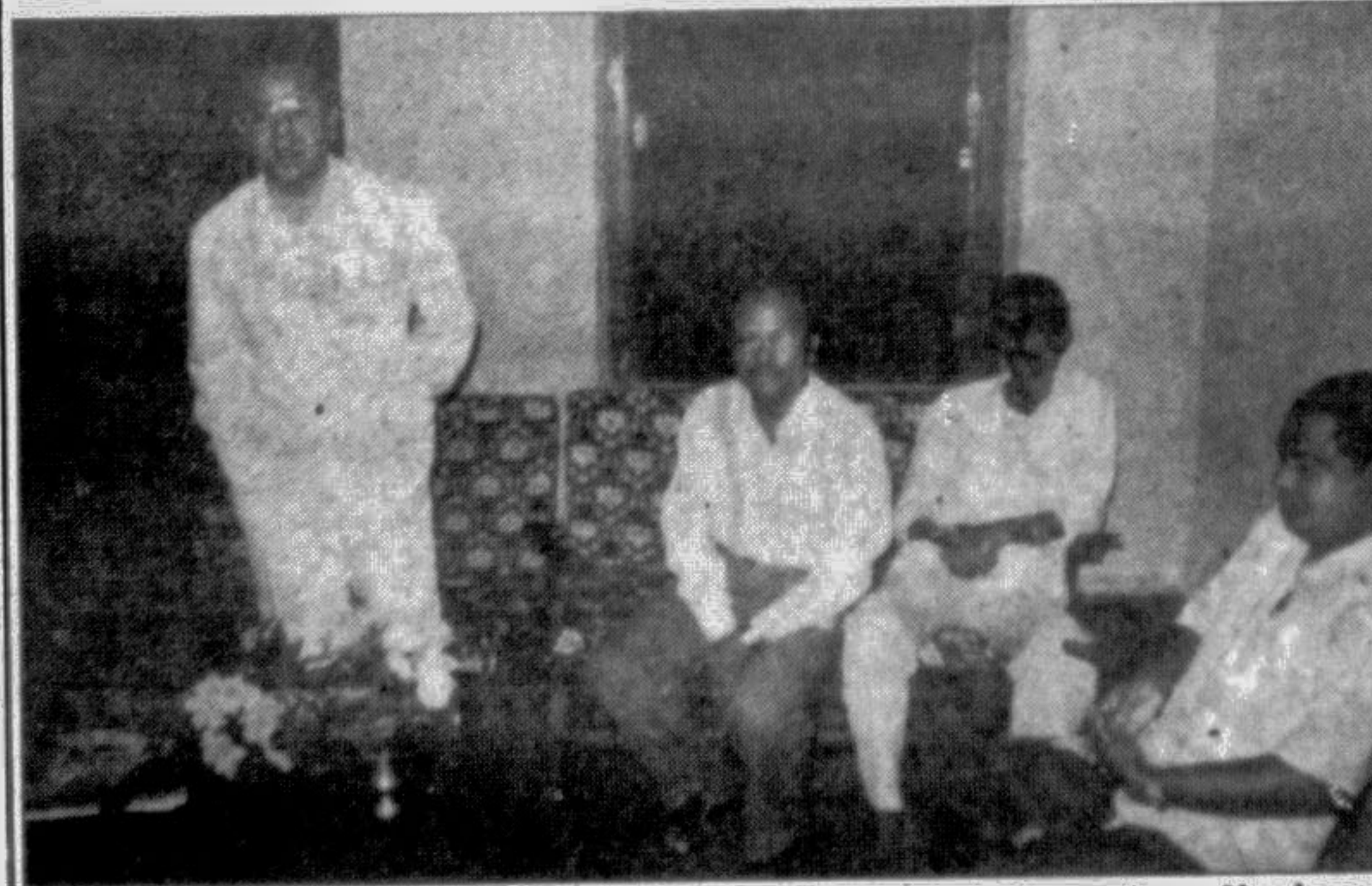
"Yes, it is possible", he agreed on insistence. A soft spoken engineer with brilliant academic career, Hafizuddin said "but you are to reduce gas price, rate of VAT and interest on foreign currency loan, and also discipline the workers".

Explaining, he said that gas, a major component, shares about 26 per cent of the cost. The factory is to pay 11.5 per cent interest to the government on 16 million dollar loan from ADB at nominal interest or service charge. The factory is to pay 20 per cent VAT. All these are required to be brought to a tolerable level for the promotion and growth of industry.

On labour, he said the factory has 914 workers and officials. All of them had to be paid full salary and other fringe benefits during the period the factory remained close partially or wholly for BMRE since May 3, 1992.

One thing the Managing Director would not say but was learnt from officials relates to the trade union. Some 530 workers of the factory has two factions. About 50 leaders of the workers hardly work, it was alleged.

They are patronised by political parties and hence it is difficult to impose discipline, said an official who declined to be identified.



CHANDPUR: Md Golam Kibria, new DC of Chandpur addressing the members of local press club recently. — Star photo