

District roundup

FENI
Anti-smuggling drive hampered for want of border pillars

Nov 13: Due to the absence of many pillars at the 133 km long border of Feni with Tripura district of India, anti-smuggling drive is seriously being hampered in the district, reports UNB.

Informed sources said about 50 per cent of the pillars have been damaged or lost in the bordering areas of the district. As a result, the trans-border smuggling and other crimes have increased enormously.

For setting up of new pillars, demarcation of border line and to solve other problems a meeting has been called between the administrators of the two districts on June 11. But it has been postponed as per the request of Tripura district Magistrate.

The postponed meeting could not be held during the last few months after repeated requests from the Deputy Commissioner of Feni due to the non-response of the Tripura district Magistrate.

District Administration sources said if needed the Feni Deputy Commissioner is ready to go to Tripura to hold the meeting at any time.

TANGAIL
PHED to sink 880 tubewells

Nov 13: A total of 880 tubewells are being sunk in the district this year under the supervision of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), reports BSS.

Official sources said of the total 444 tubewells are being sunk under government grant and the rest under UNICEF assistance.

Three hundred and fortyfour tubewells are taratype and the rest are shallow. Tara pumps are being sunk in hilly thanas of the district and the rests in flood and drought stricken areas. Besides eight thousand latrines are being constructed for sale at subsidised rate.

MH Zahangir, Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department said that site selection and necessary formality are being done to complete task this fiscal year.

At present there are 2,189 tubewells in the district to supply pure drinking water of which 22,274 are hand operated tubewells.

NATORE
RKUB gives Tk 2.12 crore as agri loan

Nov 13: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RKUB) disbursed Taka 2.12 crore as agriculture loan during July to October in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the bank disbursed loan to the growers for purchasing cattle, fertilizer, seeds to boost agri production.

Meanwhile, during the same period RKUB realised Taka 1.56 crore outstanding agri-loan from the growers.

Another report adds: District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a comprehensive crop production programme.

Sources said 55,000 hectares of land will be brought under boro, 16,500 hectares under wheat, 2,150 hectares under potato and 1,150 hectares under winter vegetable cultivation.

District AED has set up 50 boro, 30 wheat, 60 potato and 50 winter vegetable demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

With the successful implementation of the programme it is expected that at least 15,450 metric tons of boro paddy, 31,350 mt of wheat, 25,650 mt of potato and 36,100 mt of winter vegetable will be produced.

SYLHET
JCD, Shibir clash leaves 3 injured

Nov 13: Two processions were brought out by JCD and Shibir activists in the town Tuesday evening which clashed at Zindabazar resulting in injuries to at least three persons including a constable, reports UNB.

The rivals encountered at about 5 pm and exploded hand bombs causing injuries to Khalidur Rahman, Hasan, an unidentified constable and panic in the area.

Police quickly intervened and lobbed tear gas shells and opened several rounds of rubber bullets to quell the situation.

Situation in the town remained tense.

PATUAKHALI
Pest attack on aman crops

Nov 13: Widespread pest attack in aman crops has created panic among the farmers of four unions of Dumki thana of the district, says UNB.

Farmers said the attack of maza insects in the seed bed also adversely affected the aman plantation in the locality.

According to the local people the attack of the insects has badly affected the aman fields of Lebukhali and Muradia unions.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said proper use of insecticides will reduce the damage of pest attack and advised the farmers to use proper insecticides against such attacks.

Farmers said several other diseases have also attacked the paddy fields threatening the normal crop production this season.

JOYPUR
Education, main component of development

Nov 13: Shipping Minister MK Anwar Tuesday said the government has taken up programme to remove illiteracy from the country by 2000. He said 'food for education' programme introduced by the present government is a new concept for achieving the expected target, reports BSS.

He was addressing a rally of the students, teachers and guardians at Joypur government primary school premises here, a PTD handout said.

Anwar inaugurated the 'food for education' programme here by distributing wheat among the parents of the students who are attending schools under the programme.

The minister said, the present government believes in the politics of development. He described education as the main component of development and said all our development efforts will be frustrated if we can not educate our people properly.

KUSHITIA
Meeting of Muktiyoddha Kallyan Samity

Nov 13: A meeting of the Kushitia Zila Muktiyoddha Kallyan Samity was held at the auditorium of local Polytechnic Institute recently, reports UNB.

Former Ambassador and Chief Patron of the samity Mir Mohammad Razaul Karim was present as chief guest.

Presided over by President of the samity Ashrafuddin Anwarul, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Deputy Registrar of the Islamic University Dr Moslemuddin Ahmed, General Secretary of the samity Nasim Uddin, samity leaders Matir Rahman, Nawsher Ali, Nazrul Islam, Haji Abul Kashem and Aftabuddin Khan.

The chief guest in his address lauded the heroic role of the freedom fighters during the struggle for independence of the country in 1971.

He called for their proper recognition and providing basic amenities to those who are passing hard days.

CHITTAGONG
3 get life-term, another 2 get 10 yrs RI

Nov 13: The Second Additional and Sessions and Anti-Tribunal Judge Syed Enayet Ullah Tuesday awarded life term to three persons and fined them Taka five thousand each in default to suffer one year more RI on charge of hijacking and terrorism, reports BSS.

The judge also sentenced two persons to ten years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka two thousand each in default to suffer six months more RI in the same case.

The three accused persons given life term were Mir Ahmad, son of Saich Ahmad of Pahartali, Mohammad Jasim, son of Abul Kashem of Double Mooring and Mumammad Liaquat Hussain son of Umed Ali of Murad Nagar, Comilla.

Two persons sentenced to ten years RI were M Dulal, son of Abul Kalam of Double Mooring and Iskandar son of Abdus Sukkur of Double Mooring.

The prosecution story is that the accused persons demanded tolls from a shopowner on July 6, 1993 at Pahartali when he refused to give toll he was stabbed. The accused also ransacked Bismillah Hotel and tried to rape on Rafeya Begum.

Ali Akkas filed a case against the five terrorists with Double Mooring thana. Police submitted chargesheet against them.

The judge examined eight witnesses in the case and found the accused persons guilty.



SYLHET: The local unit of BNP brought out a procession here in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. — Star photo

Textile mills facing closure

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 13: Bengal Textile Mills (BTM) in the district is facing closure due to acute financial crisis following being unable to sell the yarn, produced by the mill.

Availability of smuggled Indian yarn at cheaper prices, has aggravated the situation, said a source.

Reports indicate that buyers prefer Indian yarn instead of yarn produced at BTM because of wide difference in market rates. It is learnt that rate of 40 count yarn of BTM is Taka 20,800 per bale while that of India is Taka 14,500 per bale. It is also learnt that comparing of quality, durability, size and economic utility, both the yarns appear equal.

According to informed source, five thousand bales of yarn, produced by BTM are still lying unsold in the mill godown causing mounting losses to the mill.

All the authorised dealers and retailers have stopped purchasing yarn from the mill in protest against corrupt practices and irregularities of mill staff and officers, said one source.

Besides, sale of yarn has totally stopped following the injunction impressed by the Dis-

trict and Sessions Judge Court, Jessore on it for last two months after hearing. The prayer submitted by a businessman against gross irregularities carried out by a mill officer in handling a tender illegally.

All transaction, including payment or salary of the mill staff and employees, electricity, telephone and other bills, have been suspended due to shortage of fund.

What is more surprising is that 30 per cent production of the mill has already declined for want of raw materials. Mill has every apprehension of being closed down if this crisis continues any longer rendering a total of one thousand five hundred workers jobless.

Ideals of Islam can wipeout oppression
BSS report says: The Minister for Post and Telecommunication, MP, Tariqul Islam Thursday called upon the Islamic scholars (Alim samaj) to engage themselves in the development of the country by motivating the people on the ideals of Islam to wipe out oppression, tyranny and corruption from the society.

He said that patriotism is taught by Islam and asked the

religious scholars to be vigilant against those who were trading religion.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the Jessore district Jatiyotabadi Ulema Party district conference at the Jessore town Alamgir Siddiqui Hall premises.

Presided over by Al-hajj Maulana Aminullah, Principal, Jessore Aminia Alia Madrasa, the conference was addressed among others by Advocate Nazrul Islam, Secretary Jessore District Unit of BNP, Maulana S M Ruhul Amin, President of Jatiyotabadi Ulema Dal, Central Committee, Vice President Moulana A K M Nurul Islam, Vice President Advocate Nazrul Islam and local Jatiyotabadi Ulema Dal leaders.

A 51-member committee with Moulana Nurul Islam as President and Moulana Moslemuddin as Secretary was formed at the conference.

Deploing the disunity among the Muslim world the minister said, the failure of Muslim Ummah to strictly follow the correct Islamic teachings was resulting in the misfortune of Muslims across the world.

The minister said, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zi-

Paddy selling below output cost

BARGUNA, Nov 13: The farmers of six southern districts are selling their paddy far below the production cost as the price of paddy has fallen down sharply in the local markets, reports UNB.

According to the farmers of the region, per maund paddy is being sold at about Taka 110 in the markets while the production cost of one maund of paddy is over Taka 250.

The farmers are compelled to sell their crops at throw away prices in the absence of government purchasing centres. The middlemen, taking advantage of the situation, are purchasing paddy to earn windfall profit.

The farmers of some remote areas are even forced to sell their products at Taka 90 per maund, it is learnt.

One more village gets electric connection

KASHIPUR, (Barisal), Nov 13: Electricity, one of the most vital tools of modern living, has finally reached this Barisal village when country's power minister switched on electricity in the houses of some villagers, reports BSS.

The village which is under the jurisdiction of Barisal Palli Bidyut Samity-1, had its electrification programme formally inaugurated by Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain on Saturday. Kashipur is one of the 110 villages under this PBS that had been brought under electrification.

Several houses and shops got their power connection switched on by Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain.

Later, passing through the village, the minister talked with

the residents and asked them to ensure proper and productive use of electricity. He also witnessed the connection procedures which was instantly demonstrated before him by samity lineman.

Mujibur Rahman PM, Selma Rahman MP, Energy Secretary Fazur Razaque, Chairman, Rural Electrification Board, Brig Muhammad Enamul Haq and senior officials of Energy Ministry and REB were present.

With the formal inauguration of electricity in Kashipur, 156 new clients will now enjoy the benefits of power.

The Barisal PBS-1 is a project assisted by International Development Agency. The samity so far has reached power to 7,290 consumers including 6,445 domestic, 725 commercial, 65 irrigation and 55 industrial connections.

Fish cultivation suffers serious setback

NETROKONA, Nov 13: Fish cultivation in the district has been facing serious setback despite immense possibility of fish production, says UNB.

Local people said lack of proper patronisation, scarcity of necessary inputs, siltation of the river and the ponds, indiscriminate catching of fish fry are the main reasons behind the decreases of fish production.

Besides, random use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and catching of fish fry by using current nets are also hampering the fish production in the district greatly.

Many marshy land all over the district have now been turned into cultivable land for IRRI, boro and aman crops causing rapid squeezing of the fish breeding day by day.

Moreover, a huge quantity of fish fry which were released earlier to implement the government programme into the waterbodies are washed away by the flood waters.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to stop catching of fish fry and use of current nets as well as extending patronisation to the fish growers.

Another report adds: Mushroom growth of unlicensed

medicine shops in different hats and bazars of the district has been posing serious threat to the public health.

It is learnt that there are at least 1,000 medicine shops in the district without having drug licences. As a result, the government is being deprived of revenue of about Taka one crore per year.

The shops are allegedly selling sub-standard and time-expired medicines. They are also selling high-powered anti-biotic medicines and sleeping pills without any prescription. A section of youths are being addicted to various spurious drugs.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take steps against these medicine shop owners.

2 minor girls commit suicide

SATKHIRA, Nov. 13: Two minor girls in separate incidents, being rebuked by their guardians, committed suicide by taking poison on Wednesday, police said, reports UNB.

They are: Tahmina Khatun (8), daughter of Fajar Ali of village Bhomra and Parul Begum (12), daughter of Noor Mohammad of village Amtoli.

Pourashava fails to extend necessary civic amenities

DINAJPUR, Nov 13: The residents of Phulbari pourashava have been facing manifold problems for a long time due to lack of basic amenities, reports UNB.

The problems include deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street lights, absence of proper drainage system, shortage of accommodation, lack of proper sanitation, mosquito menace, erratic power supply and absence of recreational facilities.

The pourashava is expanding with the rapid increase in population. But the poura authorities failed to provide necessary civic amenities to the residents.

Most of the roads in the poura area are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads hampering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

After a slight rainfall the roads become muddy and slippery and rain waters remain stagnant causing untold sufferings to the people.

Moreover, the roadside ditches, derelict ponds and drains filled with garbage and water hyacinths are not cleaned regularly which turned the ideal breeding centres of mosquito.

Most of the poles are with fuse or no bulbs plunging the area into darkness after sundown. As a result, anti-social activities are on rise.

Local elite have urged the poura authorities to solve the problems without further delay.

Another report says: Mushroom growth of welding shops on pavements and in open

places in the town has become a public nuisance.

These shops located at Kachari Road, Munshipara Road, Station Road, western side of Lily Talkies, Kalitala Road and Ghosh Para are causing problems for the movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Students are the worst sufferers who usually use these routes twice or thrice a day. Local people alleged that sparkles from these unprotected shops hit their eyesights.

Local people time and again lodged complaints against the mushroom growth of welding shops but nothing has yet been done in this respect.

Another report adds: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in the town causing untold suffering to dwellers.

Stagnant waters in road side ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage dumped beside the roads are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes.

Students are the worst sufferers as they cannot carry on their studies after sundown due to mosquito bite.

Local elite have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to eradicate the menace.

JP holds rally to press home their 7-point demand

JAMALPUR, Nov 13: The Jatiya Party held a rally here on Wednesday to press home their seven-point demand, including release of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, says UNB.

The rally was organised as part of the countrywide 'mass demonstration day'. Held at Jamalpur High School premises, the rally was addressed by local leaders with the district unit president Reaz Khan in the chair.

The speakers blamed the government for the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. The peace-loving country have become the hostage at the hands of maastans and terrorists, they added.

They said violating the democratic norms the government started repression on the opponents in various forms. Innocent people are being arrested under anti-terrorism act while the real culprits are spared at the instance of the high ups.

The demanded restoration of upazila system for the benefit of the common people.

Later a procession was brought out in the town chanting various slogans.

All thanas of Faridpur under REB programme

FARIDPUR, Nov 13: The works of rural electrification programme in all the eight thanas of the district are going on in full swing, reports UNB.

Rural Electrification Board (REB) has taken up the programme to bring all the villages under its electrification programme with a cost of Taka 69.38 crore.

Meanwhile, Palli Bidyut Samity held a meeting in Madhukhali thana headquarters on Tuesday to seek people's cooperation for implementing the project in time.

Local MP MA Rouf attended the meeting as chief guest and it was addressed by, among others, Md. Shahjahan Ali, Superintending Engineer, REB, Ziaul Isam, TNO of Madhukhali, AIM Latiful Azam, Deputy Director of REB and team leader.

Chairmen and members of Union Parishads, social leaders, teachers, traders, farmers and government officials attended the meeting.

It may be mentioned that Faridpur was the first and lone district in the country where all the thanas were brought at a time to supply electricity by REB.



GOPALGANJ: The ADC (General) Mohiuddin Ahmed addressing a seminar arranged on the occasion of World Thrift Day held at the local Nazrul Public Library Hall auditorium. — Star photo

Industry asked to go into commercial operation

TONGI, Nov 13: State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan Tuesday urged the Atlas Bangladesh Limited authorities to take appropriate measures for running the organisation on commercial basis so that it could earn more profit, says BSS.

He made this call while visiting the factory of Atlas Bangladesh Limited here, an official handout said.

The state minister said products like Honda and Mishuk of Atlas Bangladesh have heavy demand in the market and through more production of the same the organisation can raise its profit. Seeing the new developed model of Mishuk, the state minister expressed satisfaction and ordered the authorities to take immediate steps for marketing this new Mishuk model. He said, the new developed Mishuk would be able to create more demand in the market for its sustainable safer design and competitive price.

Rahman went round different sections of the factory and expressed satisfaction for favourable working condition there.

Atlas Bangladesh Limited

has earned, Taka one crore thirty eight lakh nine thousand as net profit during the last fiscal year (1992-93).

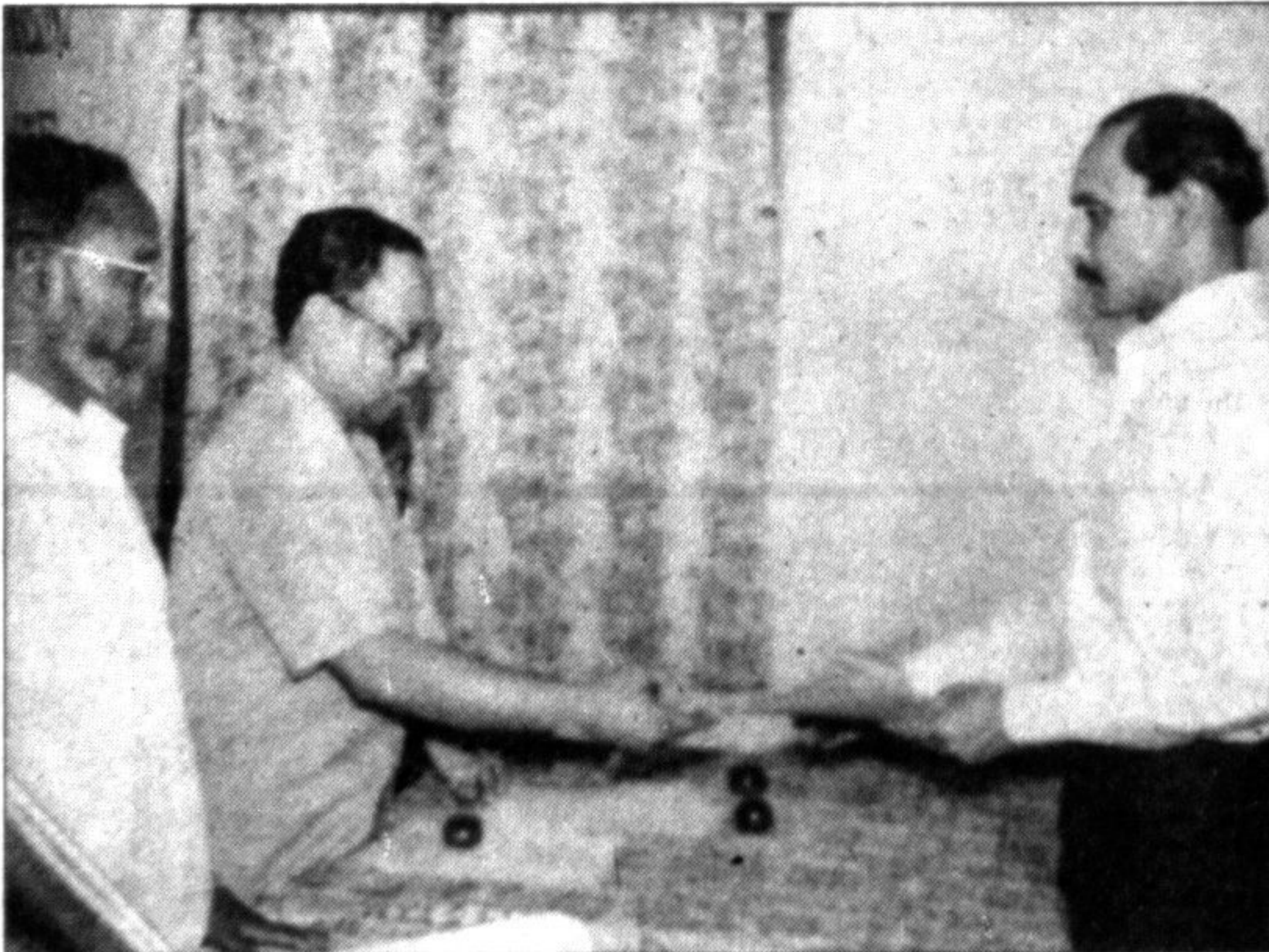
Earlier the state minister visited the Bangladesh Blade Factory here and enquired about the production and marketing situation of its products. He ordered the authorities to take all efforts to make the factory a more profitable one.

Food for education gets great response

BARISAL, Nov 13: State Minister Principal Md Eunus Khan said here Wednesday food for education had attracted a great response to remove illiteracy from the country, reports BSS.

He said, compulsory primary education and mass education programme had become a social movement in the country.

The state minister was addressing mass education programme held at the Islamia College. It was presided over by Prof Golam Kibria Manu.



MYMENSINGH: The VC Prof Dr Shah Mohammad Faruq distributing certificate to one of the participants of a three-week-long international workshop on 'Agricultural Research Management' held at the Graduate Training Institute of BAU recently. — Star photo