

District roundup

NATORE

One crushed under wheels of bus

Nov 17: A peon of Dighapathia Revenue Office was killed when a passenger-bus ran over him in front of Uttara Super Market in the town last week, says UNB.

The victim was identified as Shahadat Hossain (50) of Shadhnagar village in sadar thana.

Police said Shahadat was crushed under the wheels of the Boga-bound bus (Jessore-Ba-460) on Natore-Rajshahi highway on November 6, when he was going to the station by a bicycle. He died on the spot.

Police seized the bus from the spot, but its driver and conductor managed to flee.

A case was filed with Natore thana.

C'NAWABGANJ

Tree planting programme arranged

Nov 17: The district unit of Prokrichi and 26 BCS cadre jointly organised a tree planting programme at Balugram Adarsha College premises of sadar thana, reports UNB.

A total of 500 saplings were planted at Balugram area. Apart from this, 500 cattle vaccines and 700 poultry vaccines were distributed among the farmers.

A discussion meeting was also held at the college premises with the principal of the college in the chair. It was also addressed by Deputy Director of Agriculture, district unit, district Livestock Officer and Civil Surgeon.

KHULNA

Protect sustain democracy

Nov 17: Jatiyo Sangsad speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali said that the most important duty of the people was to protect and sustain democracy and give it a permanent shape for fulfilling their hopes and aspirations, reports BSS.

"Only a (democratic) government can solve the problems of the nation" he told a meeting of cross section of people here Tuesday.

Presided over by the District Vice-President of BNP Advocate S A Sabur the meeting was addressed among others by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Shaikh Tayebur Rahman.

Shaikh Razaque Ali said that democratic government could not ignore the legitimate demands of the people.

RAJSHAHI

Conference on mathematics

Nov 17: The ninth Mathematics Conference '93 began here at the university syndicate house Sunday morning, reports UNB.

Prof Shamsul Haque, Chairman of University Grand Commission (UGC), inaugurated the three day conference.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Anisur Rahman attended the inaugural session as special guest. President of Bangladesh Mathematical Society Prof Faruque Khalil presided.

In this inaugural speech the UGC Chairman said that Mathematics is often referred as "the queen of sciences or the mother of sciences".

Mathematics is the key to our understanding of the physical world. It has given us power over nature and conviction, Prof Haque said.

"Mathematics teaching is at present in a dismal state. Although we are in the midst of a galaxy of brilliant stars" he said adding "Whatever mathematics is taught at schools and colleges is often not done in a proper way, it ought to be".

About 250 mathematicians from home and abroad including India and Sri Lanka are participating in the conference.

NOAKHALI

Swimming competition held

Nov 17: A swimming competition among the students of different educational institutions of Sherbag Thana was held last week, says UNB.

Some 20 students of different schools and madrassas of the thana took part in various events, including breast stroke free style and back stroke.

Local MP Jozal Abedin in a ceremony distributed prizes among the winners with the Thana Nirbahi Officer Abdul Awal in the chair.

CHITTAGONG

Farook briefs Lotodo on refugee repatriation

Nov 17: Visiting Kenyan Home Minister F. Lotodo had a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Muhammad Omar Farook at his official residence Monday, an official handout said, reports BSS.

Farook briefed the minister on the present situation of the various aspects of the Myanmar refugee repatriation.

It is expected that the recently concluded agreement of understanding between Myanmar and UNHCR would ease the process of voluntary return of the refugees to their homeland. A similar agreement of understanding was concluded earlier between Bangladesh and UNHCR, the divisional commissioner informed the Kenyan minister.

Forty seven thousand and one hundred and eighty-eight Myanmar refugees returned to their country voluntarily so far, Farook further informed Lotodo.

B'BARIA

Alarming rise in drug addicts

Nov 17: The number of drug addicted youths are increasing in an alarming manner in the district town and its adjoining areas, says UNB.

Local people alleged that the district town and its suburbs have turned into an open market of various drugs. Banned Indian-made Phenstylid and country-made wine are available in the medical shops.

Some dishonest medical shop owners are frequently selling the drug items to all types of buyers, particularly to youths. They are also selling seductive tablets without any authorised prescription.

In the urban areas, drug addicted people, usually rush to the medical shops, tea stall, and grocery shops to procure these drugs. Similar scenes are also available in rural areas.

A well-organised circle has been smuggling these contraband items from India and are selling it in different areas of the district.

Guardians of teen-aged boys have become scared at the present situation as a good number of boys are also taking seductive drugs.

Meanwhile, local people have urged the concerned authorities to take punitive measures against the dishonest traders to save the young generation.

FARIDPUR

Discussion on eradication of illiteracy

Nov 17: A discussion meeting on eradication of illiteracy was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner of the district on Thursday, says UNB.

It was attended by a number of educationists, teachers, government officials, social workers and representatives of various PVDOS, working on literacy programmes in the district with Deputy Commissioner K M Nurul Huda in the chair.

Speakers suggested a number of action plans for effective implementation of the nationwide primary and mass education programme taken up by the government.

ADM Alhaj AKM Manjurul Haque, ADC (General) Ali Akbar Chowdhury, ADC (Revenue) Sawkat Hossain and former principal Lutful Rahman Mia were also present.

SIRAJGANJ

One killed, 3 injured in road mishap

Nov 17: A pedestrian was killed and 30 passengers were injured, three of them seriously, in a bus accident on Boga-Nagarbari highway at Purba (Delua) in Ullapara thana of Sirajganj district Sunday, reports UNB.

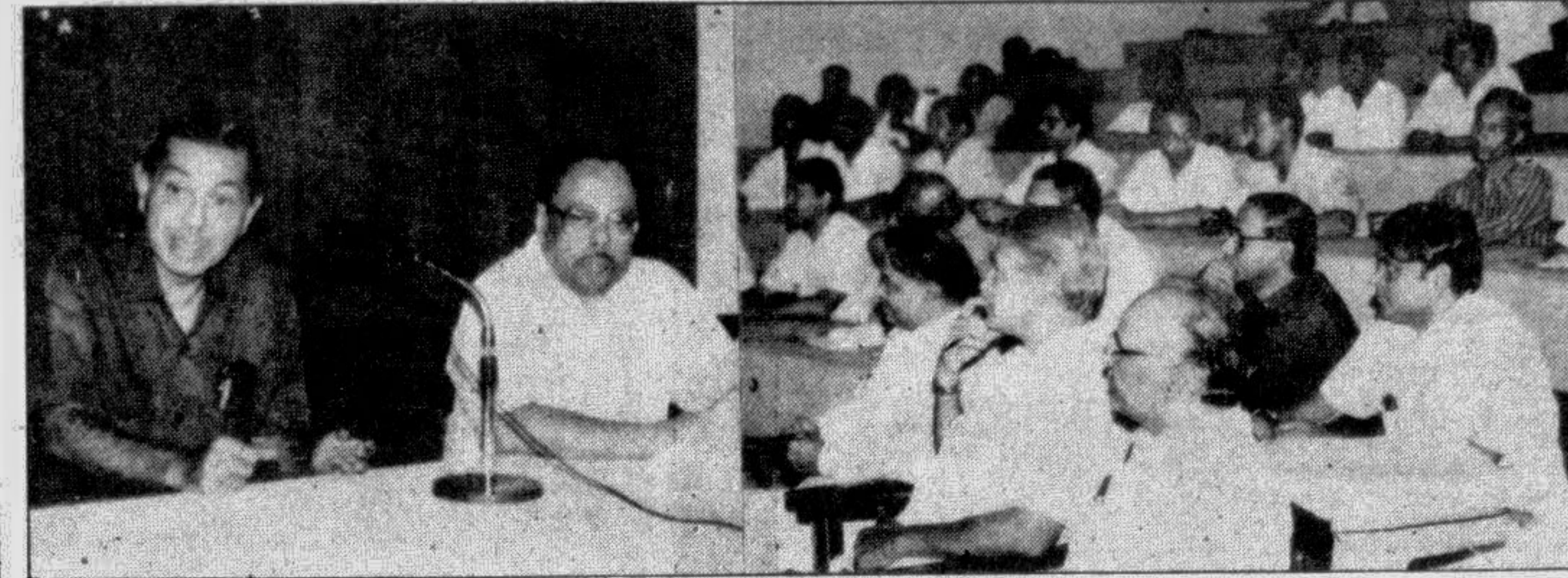
Police and witnesses said the Dhaka-bound day coach from Bettil in Ullapara plunged into a roadside ditch at about 8.30 am while the driver was trying to give side to a rickshaw van.

The identity of the dead, age 30, could not immediately be known.

Of the injured, Arjan (30), wife of Badal of Dhanbandi in Sirajganj town, was rushed in a critical condition to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Other injured people were admitted to Sirajganj sadar hospital and Purnimaganj health complex.

Police seized the bus but the driver was absconding. A case has been filed in Ullapara thana.



MYMENSINGH: Prof M Shahjahan, VC of BUET (extreme left) presenting paper at a seminar on Farakka Barrage — its impact on Bangladesh held recently at BAU premises. Prof S M Faruk, VC, BAU (2nd from left) is also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Bangladesh hard-hit by Farakka Barrage

N-part turning into desert, southern zone facing salinity

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 17: The northern part of Bangladesh is turning into desert and the southern zone has been facing salinity due to the impact of Farakka Barrage constructed by India.

This was expressed by Dr M Shahjahan, VC of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at a seminar held here on November 12.

The Central Seminar Committee of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) arranged a seminar on Farakka Barrage — its impact on Bangladesh — which was presided over by eminent educationist Professor Dr Monowar Ahmed.

The Vice-Chancellor of BUET Professor Dr Shahjahan presented the key-note paper at the seminar while Professor Dr Shah M Faruk, Vice-Chancellor Bangladesh Agricultural University was present as chief guest.

Held at the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology gallery, the seminar was attended by a large number of teachers, researchers and students of the University.

Describing water as one of the main resources of the country, Dr Shahjahan narrated that India through her water policy had pushed at least 29 districts on the brink of disaster.

Professor Shahjahan described in details the position of Farakka and the history of the construction and operation of Farakka.

Seminar on agriculture

Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh Agricultural University will hold a day-long seminar on "Agriculture and Society" at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium on November 18.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammed Faruk will be the chief guest while former Vice-Chancellor Professor Molehuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Secretary, Science and Technology Division Dr M A Jallil will be the special guest at the seminar.

Uplift of agri sector stressed

Professor Dr M Abdul Haque, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture underscored the need for agricultural development of the country while addressing an orientation function on the eve of a week-long study tour to various thana headquarters.

Meanwhile, a group of senior teachers comprising former Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr A H Bhuiya, Professor Dr Monowar Ahmed, Professor Dr Md Yunus, Professor Dr A A A Munshi, Professor Dr Md Idris, Professor Dr Md Azizul Haque, Professor Dr Md Mahbul Karim, Professor Dr Md Bahadur Miah left the campus to observe BAU student activities within five Thana Headquarters of the greater Mymensingh district.

REB in Barisal constructs 646 km of power lines

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 17: The Barisal Pally Bidyut Samity-1 (PBS-1) under Rural Electrification Board (REB) has constructed 646 kilometres of power lines bringing 7,277 consumers of 140 villages under Barisal Sadar, Bakerganj, Hizla and Muladi thanas of Barisal district since 1988 with the financial assistance of World Bank.

The Rural Electrification Board (REB) started its programmes from January 1, 1978. The REB is now implementing its programmes in phases in rural areas of the country and in the mean time 53 Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS) of 330 thanas have been approved by the government of which 12,282 villages of 203 thanas have already been brought under electrification network through 40 PBS constructing 870 kilometres power lines and installing 121 33/11 kv power substations.

Meanwhile power connections have already been given to 6,57,169 domestic, 1,04,824 commercial, 32,313 irrigation projects, 16,833 industrial and 4,480 other consumers under REB electrification network.

About one crore people in different villages of the country have been provided with power facilities and at the same time more than eight lakh acres of land have been brought under power aided irrigation system.

The action plan of REB for expansion of work has been planned in five phases. To implement the programmes, 1,44,000 kilometres of power lines and 200 33/11 kv power sub-stations will be constructed.

Government has approved projects for forming eight new PBS in Faridpur, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Jhenidah, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Magura.

Besides, government also approved two projects for expansion of power distribution system in 33 running PBS in the country and at the same time allocated an additional amount of Taka 100 crore in the current Annual Development Programme (ADP). Against these two projects 15,600 kilometres power distribution lines will be constructed, the sources said.

To intensify the electrification programme of rural electrification board, government has allocated Taka 323.75 crores including Taka 123.05 crore in local currency during the current fiscal year.

Goods worth Tk 9 lakh looted

Two passengers were injured and goods worth Taka nine lakh were looted in a daring night coach dacoity at Darikandi bridge in Belabo thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, police said.

Witnesses said, a gang of armed bandits numbering 15 to 20 stormed the Sylhet bound coach coming from Dhaka in the early hours of November 3 when it reached at the bridge.

They beat the passengers and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables and decamped with the booty.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Passengers alleged that night coach dacoities are rampant on this route for a long time but no step has yet been taken for adequate police patrol by the concerned authorities.

Diarrhoea claims 200, attacks another 5000

NARSINGDI, Nov 16: Diarrhoea claimed 200 lives including 65 children and attacked 5000 others in the district during last two months, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Among the victims 90 people died and 3000 attacked in first five weeks and 110 died and 2000 attacked in last three weeks.

Thana wise break up of deaths was as follows: Belabo-31, Raipura-45, Shibpur-21, Sadar-40, Polash-22 and Monohordi-41.

However, Civil Surgeon office sources confirmed only 100 deaths including 36 children. They said about 4000 people were attacked by the disease in the district during the same period.

They also said the situation remained under control. But every day scores of people are being admitted to the health complexes and Sadar thana hospital for treatment.

Four more fishing trawlers seized in Bay

KHULNA, Nov 17: Bangladesh Navy seized four more foreign fishing trawlers and arrested 91 crew members on Friday from near the Patney Island, says a press release.

With this, the total number of impounded vessels stood at 10 while the arrested persons numbered 213 within a short period from the Bay of Bengal.

The BNS Shaheed Akhtar Uddin, a patrol-craft of the Bangladesh Navy impounded these fishing trawlers from the Malanch river mouth. These trawlers were fishing within our territorial waters.

The trawlers, alongwith their catch of fish, worth about Taka 30 lakh were escorted to Mongla and were handed over to the local customs authorities.

Chhatra League demands withdrawal of false cases

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: The Awami League backed Chhatra League (M-I) Monday held a protest meeting at local Shahid Minar premises and demanded withdrawal of the false cases filed against their student leaders, reports UNB.

Al city unit secretary ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury attended the meeting as the chief guest which was presided over by Mohammad Murad.

Doctors, nurses, staff of Khulna hospital on 5-day work stoppage

KHULNA, Nov 17: Doctors, nurses, officials and employees of Khulna 250-bed Hospital began a five-day work stoppage from Monday to protest the non-payment of their salaries for the last four months, reports UNB.

About 250 hospital staff including doctors and nurses are not getting their salaries since June. Authorities had also stopped giving funds and essential medicines to the hospital, said the striking employees.

The hospital staff also staged a two-hour sit-in demonstration in front of the Superintendent's office and wore black badges Monday as part of their protest programmes.

They will hold a meeting in the hospital premises Wednesday at 11 am demanding payment of their salaries. All doctors of the district will abstain from work on November 20 expressing solidarity with their demand.

Khulna 250-bed Hospital was established in 1989 with modern facilities.

Another dies in oil tanker fire incident

Another man burnt in the oil-tanker fire in Bhairab river succumbed to his burn injuries at the 250-bed Hospital here Tuesday.

Azhar, 45, one of the six injured in the incident, died at the hospital at noon, hospital sources said. The body was sent to his village home in Chittagong district.

Five people, including four crew members of MV Dey-Brise and a boatman, were charred and six others injured as the tanker caught fire in the river near Daulatpur on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the three-member inquiry committee headed by Ali Ahmed, Controller of the Jamuna oil depot, arrived here Monday to investigate the incident.

One succumbs to bullet injuries

A man was killed and four others sustained injuries when a group of people of a so-called shrimp farm owner opened fire on the villagers in Rampal thana of Bagerhat district on Monday.

Police said the so-called shrimp farm owner forcibly grabbed the lands of the farmers of Perikhal village and started shrimp cultivation sometime back.

On the fateful day the land owners assembled the area to protest the shrimp cultivation on their land. At one stage of hot exchange the masters of the shrimp farm owner opened fire on them injuring five people seriously.

They were rushed to the Khulna General Hospital where one Abdul Hakim succumbed on Tuesday.

The four other wounded are Farid (18), Abu Bakar (55), Rakibul (23) and Islam (32).

Travellers harassed at Benapole check-post

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 17: A group of touts have been causing harassment to the transit passengers at the Benapole Customs Check-Post recently.

According to sources, these well organised extortionists are collecting tolls from travellers to and from India on the plea of providing them relief from baggage check by Customs officials.

Sufferers say that these anti-social elements are carrying on with their activities with total impunity allegedly under the protection of the local leaders.

Reportedly, the customs officials here are also wary of these hoodlums. The officials have since been playing safe for their own safety.

The sufferings of the incoming travellers by land are exacerbated by the transport workers who manhandle them at the bus terminal.

Witnesses say the bus and coach attendants routinely drag passenger, both men and women in a rude manner causing untold sufferings to them.

BSS adds: A ten-day long book fair was held at Munshi Meherullah madda recently under the auspices of Jessore Institute. A pioneer cultural organisation of Khulna division.

Twenty five leading publishers of the country including Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Sishu Academy and Muktdhara participated in the book fair with their latest and popular publications.

Discussion meetings followed by cultural functions, musical soirees and poetry recitation sessions were held on the occasion.

Those who participated in the discussion meetings included internationally reputed artist S M Sultan, Litterateur Dr Humayun Azad and Khaleda Edib Choudhury. Poet Asad Choudhury, Dramatist Mamtazuddin Ahmed, Novelist Moycenul Ahsan Saber, Dr Muntazir Mamun, Artist Aminul Islam, Story Writer Akhtaruzaman Ilias and Editor of Daily Ajker Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed.

Besides, Chander Hat, Surobitan Sangeet Academy, Udichi Shilpigosti, Michael Sangeet Academy, Kingshuk Sangeet Academy, Bangladesh Sishu Academy and Sammlito, Sangskritik Jote presented musical soirees. Jessore Sahitya Parishad members participated in poetry recitation session.

Women and children were among thousands who visited this bai-mela every day.

Training camp on survey, settlement of BCS cadres

GAZIPUR, Nov 17: A five-week long training camp on survey and settlement of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) officers began at Bhabanipur here Monday, says BSS.

Eighty BCS officers of different cadres including administration, judicial, police and forest services are taking part in the training programme.

The participants will be imparted training on land laws relating to laws of inheritance, mutation, demarcation of land, mapping etc.

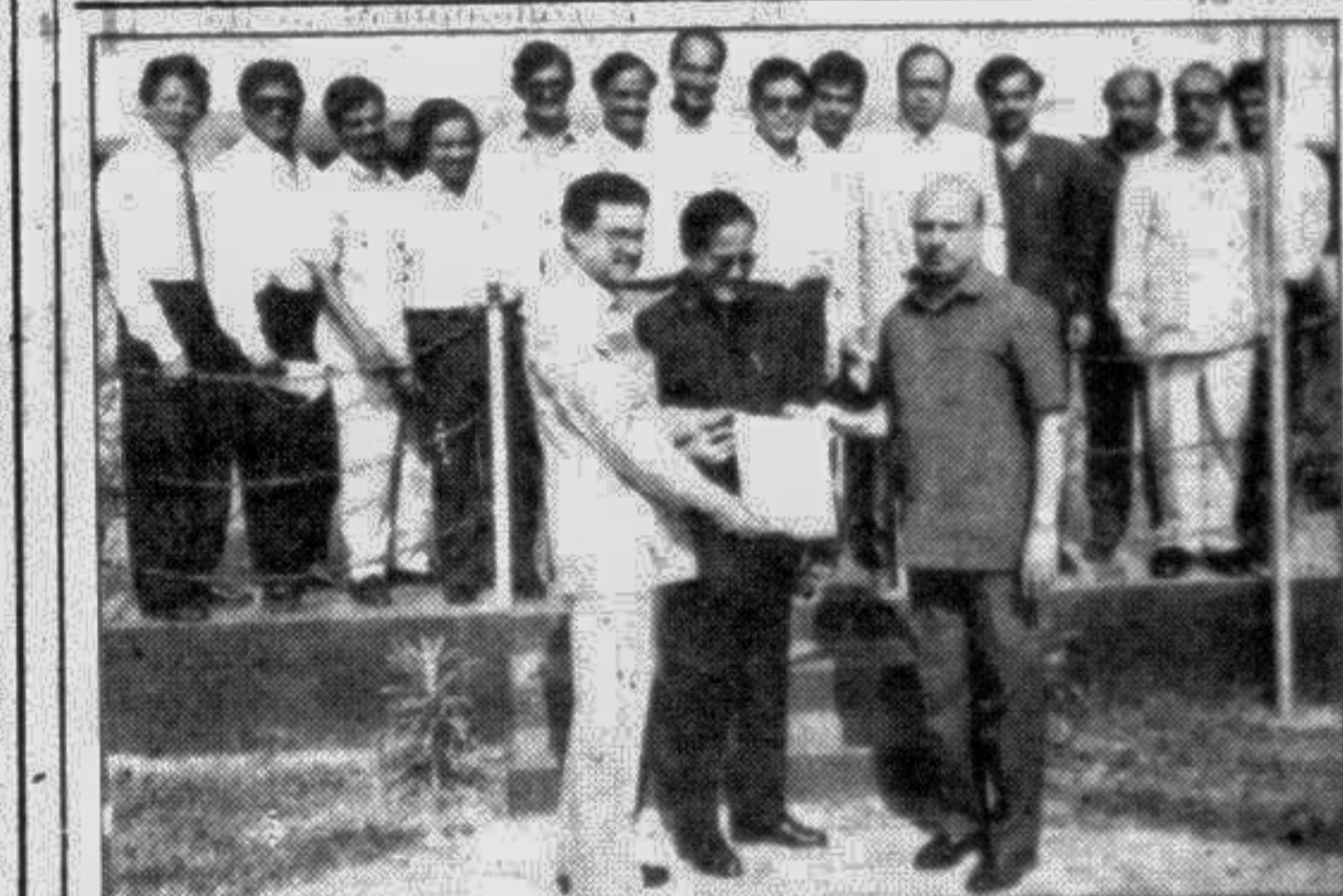
Land Secretary M Aminul Islam formally inaugurated the training camp. Among others Chairman, Land Reforms Board M Faizullah, Director General, Land Records and Survey, M A Bari and high officials of the concerned ministry attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, land secretary M Aminul Islam called upon the participants to work with utmost sincerity, dedication and zeal to bring an end to the sufferings of the common people.

He said, the acquired knowledge and technical know-how through this training will benefit the millions of people directly in resolving disputes relating to land.

Turning to the existing complicated land disputes he said, training of BCS officers of different cadres like administration, judiciary, police and forest would help expeditious dispensation of judgement to the multifarious litigations.

Camp-in-charge and settlement officer of Diara Settlement Operation Hemayetuddin Talukdar also spoke on this occasion.



NATORE: Lion Faruq Moin, District Governor-315A, presenting a banner to Dr. Shariful Islam, President of newly formed Natore Lions Club at a simple function on Sunday. The PDG Lion Moslem Ali Khan and PDG Lion Tauhidur Rahman, Vice-District Governor, Lion M. Azizur Alam, N.D.C. Natore, AM Mehadi are also seen in the picture. — Star photo.

NARAYANGANJ: A K M Rafiquzzaman, DG, Family Planning Directorate is seen at a sterilisation camp held at the Adamjee Jute Mills premises recently. — Star photo