

National

Freedom Fighter beaten to death

MAGURA, Feb 6: A freedom fighter was beaten to death by some activists of outlawed Sharbaha Party in Sreepur thana, police said, reports UNB.

Fazlul Haque (40), Commander of Sreepur Thana Mukti Joddha Sangsads, was kidnapped by the activists from Sachilapur Bazar in broad day light on January 17. He tried to resist them from collecting tolls from the local people.

Later, they confined him in their den and perpetrated brutal torture on him. When his condition turned serious they left him unconscious at to bazar on January 30.

Local people sent him to Darlapur health complex where the doctors referred him to Magura sadar hospital. He succumbed at the hospital on January 31.

A case was filed with the police but none was arrested so far.

Local people alleged that the outlawed activists have been collecting tolls both from the rich and poor people for a long time and Fazlul became the victim when he tried to resist them.

They urged concerned authority to look into the matter and take necessary steps to nab the miscreants without further delay.

Discussion meeting on AIDS.

PATUAKHALI, Feb 6: A discussion meeting under the title of "social consciousness can prevent AIDS" was held at paurashava auditorium here recently, reports BSS.

Eyaheya Molla, Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali attended the function as chief guest while Advocate Sultan Ahmed Mirdha was the special guest.

The meeting was presided over by the Civil Surgeon of Patuakhali. The meeting was addressed among others by Bajlur Rahman, District Information Officer, Dr Barun Kanti Biswas, Advocate Ramajan Ali, and K M Enayet Hossain.

The Deputy Commissioner in his speech gave importance on social consciousness to prevent AIDS. He also said, "If we follow religious commands we can avoid the killer disease AIDS."



CHANDPUR: Instead of going to schools, the poor boys are to work for earning livelihood. — Star photo

Better communication in tea estates soon

From Our Correspondent

MALVIBAZAR, Feb 6: The work on Taka 3.50 crore scheme for the development and reconstruction of roads in tea garden areas is on full swing.

The European Economic Council (EEC) allocated the amount to improve the communication system in 14 tea garden areas under Srimongal and Kamalganj thanas of Maulvibazar district.

The Tea Gardens Road Development Committee, has been supervising the scheme under the Internal Road Development Programme. According to reports, development work of the Balishira-Monu-Dhalai Circular Road has already been started and the work is expected to be completed by September next.

It may be mentioned here that the Staff quarters of the hospital was built only 12 years ago.

On the other hand, the ministry has also taken a scheme to repair Kulaura and Rajnagar Health Centres under Post-Flood Health Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme.

The ministry has sanctioned Taka one crore to 10 lakh for this scheme and it is expected to be completed by September next.

The Monipuri Community of Moulibazar district observed their annual festival, Sri Sri Krishnaras Uthsav recently.

Ras Uthsav Ujapan Committee of Madavpur organised a 3-day-long programme at Madavpur Jura Mandap and the Monipuri Sangskritik Pa-

rishad at Adampur Bazar chalked out an another cultural programme.

The programmes included Sri Krishnaras Ujapan, Ras Nritya, Rakhal Nritya, discussion on the life and teachings of lord Sri Krishna, book fair and fair of Monipuri handicrafts.

The traditional Ras Festival is being observed by the Monipuri generation after generation.

The Honorary Consular General of Bangladesh to Edinburgh in UK Wali Tasaruddin Ahmed JP, and the Assistant Director of Education Wing of Commonwealth Institute in Scotland, W. Norman Henderson visited Rajnagar Degree College recently.

In this connection, a reception meeting was held at the college auditorium with Gurush Khan, Principal of Rajnagar Degree College in the chair.

The reception function was addressed among others by Students Akmal Hussain, AKM Nizamul Hoque Bipul, Fahimida Begum and the member of the college governing body Dr. A K M Zillul Haque, Prof. M A Gafur, Prof. Habibur Rahman, Prof. Rajat Kanti Goswami and Vice Principal Zillal Uddin Ahmed.

Another report says: Police arrested six alleged inter-district dacoits from Shibpur and Tongi thanas.

Acting on secret information, Shibpur police raided

154 people committed suicide last year

DINAJPUR, Feb 6: At least 154 people allegedly committed suicide in the Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts last year, reports UNB.

According to police and hospital sources, of them, 80 were male and the rest 74 were female.

Poverty, family feud, failure in love and demand for dowry were said to be main reasons behind the suicide.

Another report adds: A baby was taken away and killed by a pye-dog at Debiganj thana in Thakurgaon district last week.

Local people said, the pye-dog took away the child of Abdul Karim of Tekrabasha in Debiganj thana when his mother went to bath leaving the child alone in her house. The body was later recovered.

Local people alleged that the pye-dogs are moving freely in the town and elsewhere in the district causing inconvenience to the dwellers.

They also alleged that after repeated appeal no step has yet been taken to eliminate the pye-dogs by the concerned authorities.

A young housewife died due to faulty treatment of a village quack in Nawabganj thana of

the district on January 31.

Family sources said, the quack of Patikpara of the same thana was called when the five-month pregnant housewife Parveen Begum (27) was suffering from serious complications. The quack performed abortion on January 18 but could not stop bleeding.

Later, she was rushed to Dinajpur General Hospital where she succumbed due to massive bleeding.

Another message from Magura adds: A boy was brutally killed by his step-mother on January 31.

According to Salikha police, the step-mother, Rahima Khatoon (25) threw the five-year-old son, Tariqul Islam into a nearby pond after killing him.

Later, the villagers recovered the body from the pond and informed the local police.

Police later arrested Rahima and sent her to the court. She confessed her guilt to the magistrate saying that she took away her step son's life in collusion with her father Babar Ali. Babar is now absconding.

A case was filed with the police.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

Efforts underway to ensure health for all by 2000

Feb 6: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali Saturday said that all out efforts were being made to ensure health for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

He was presiding over Patuakhali district health service development committee meeting here.

The minister said, the government with the limited resources was keen to ensure health services for the overall benefit of the common people.

He said, in each district the government have set up district health service development committee to achieve that goal. The minister said, with the introduction of the system the people would be benefited and would get timely health service in the hour of need.

Speaking about government's effort for formulating a new health policy, the minister urged all concerned to contribute for successful preparation of the health policy to be announced soon.

He also urged concerned officials of the district health service development committee to work sincerely and devotedly for rendering service to the common people.

Earlier, the minister laid foundation for re-construction of Patuakhali town old Jam-e-Mosque.

SIRAJGANJ

2 minor girls killed in road mishap

Feb 6: Two girls were crushed under the wheels of two speeding trucks on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway Saturday, reports UNB.

Their identities, however, could not be ascertained immediately.

Police said a minor girl, aged about 8, was killed at Boalia in Ullapara thana at noon while another, aged about 9, ran over at Bhulyangar in Rayganj thana, also at noontime.

Two cases were filed with Ullapara and Rayganj thanas.

BARISAL

138th birth anniversary of Kumar Dutt

Feb 6: The 138th birth anniversary of Aswini Kumar Dutt, the founder of Brojmonohur College was observed here with due respect on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Organized by the Brojmonohur School, the function was attended, by M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal, as chief guest.

Presided over by Mamta Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, the function was addressed, among others, by Noor Mohammad Howlader, Headmaster, Brojmonohur School, Pankaj Roy, Mihir Dutt, M A Gafur, Prof. Hossain Ali, Nikhil Sen and Debendra Nath Ghose.

MYMENSINGH

Int'l agri workshop

Feb 6: Dr Shah Mohammad Farooq, Vice-Chancellor of the Mymensingh Agricultural University, has said the farmers can ensure the country's socio-economic development by utilising their own resources and facilities in cultivation, reports UNB.

The Khamarbari research associates can help the farmers in achieving the goal as the farmers are beset with manifold problems," the Vice Chancellor said while addressing the concluding session of the international workshop on "Farming System Research and Environmental Studies" at the University Graduate Institute (UGI) on January 30.

A skilled research associate can contribute to the country's agri-economy by identifying the farmers' problems and resolving them properly, he said.

Presided over by GTI Director Prof Dr M Tajul Islam, the concluding session of the workshop was addressed, among others, by A K M Nuruzzaman, Prof Dr Mohammad Shahidullah Talukder, Dr Amanullah Chima of Pakistan and Dr Indira Debi Bhattachary of Nepal.

A total of 13 agriculture scientists from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

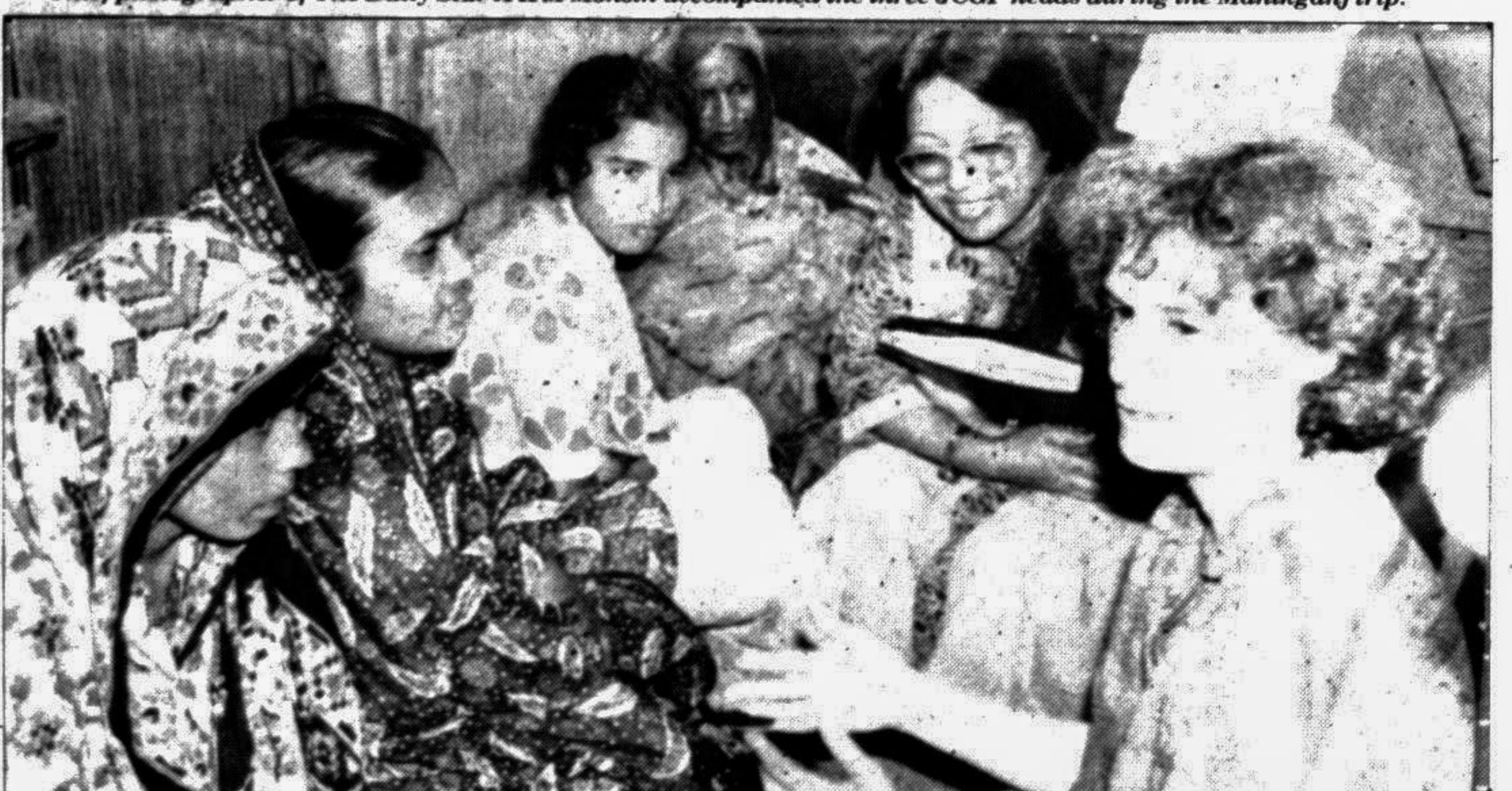
TOP UN EXECUTIVES SEE DEVELOPMENT AT WORK

UNICEF Executive Director James P Grant, UNDP administrator James Gustave Speth and WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini yesterday made a field trip, organised by the United Nations Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UNJCGP), to Manikganj, about forty miles from the capital.

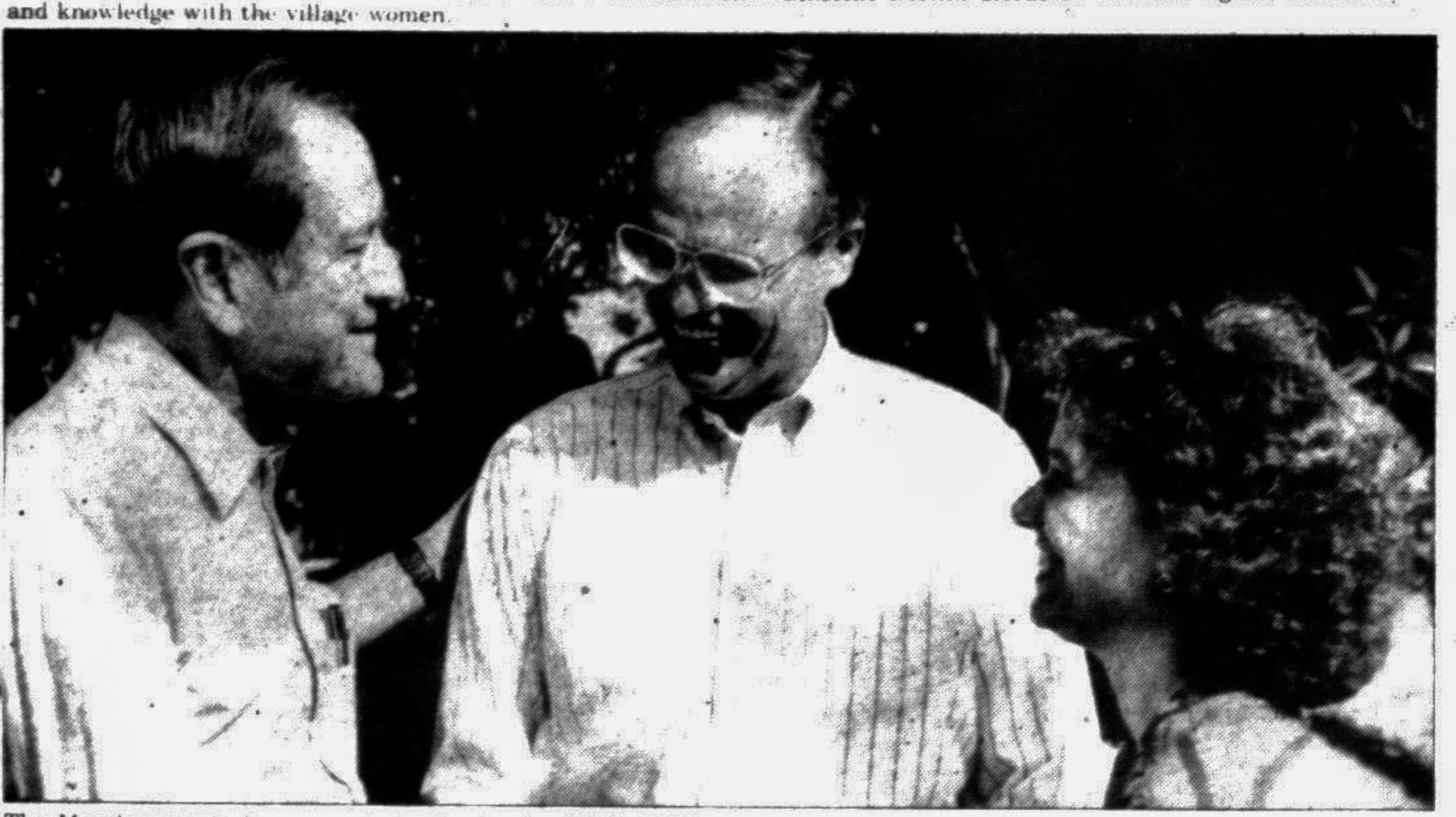
The heads of the UN organisations have arrived in Dhaka to participate in the JCGP's annual meeting.

The purpose of the field trip was to enlighten the JCGP heads with the practical examples of development activities which might be supported by the JCGP organisations.

Chief photographer of The Daily Star A K M Mohsin accompanied the three JCGP heads during the Manikganj trip.



YOU SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS ABOUT YOUR OWN RIGHTS: Catherine Bertini discusses women's rights, education and knowledge with the village women.



The Manikganj trip brings smile to the heads of UN JCGP organisations. Seen from left: UNICEF chief James P Grant, UNDP chief James Gustave Speth and WFP head Catherine Bertini.



LEARNING A LITTLE ABOUT THE WAY OF LIFE IN BANGLADESH: James P Grant meets women and children in a typical rural surrounding in Balia village of Manikganj district.



LISTENING TO A BANGLA SONG: James G Speth listens attentively as these children sing a song at a village school.