

## 'Intensive cropping leaves soil bereft of nutrients'

By Staff Correspondent

The current practice of intensive cropping and harvesting pattern, which leave little crop residues in the fields, has left the soil bereft of the nutrients in the country as well as in most other Asian countries. This was observed by Dr J D Beaten, President of the Potash and Phosphate Institute (PPI) at a seminar on "Sustainable Development in Agriculture" held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) yesterday.

"Nutrient balancing is the key to sustainable agriculture," Dr Beaten said. "Agriculture has to be made sustainable to provide food for 60 million additional Bangladeshis in the next 20 years."

He also stressed the need for crop residue management

to keep the soil fertile. "All the residues are taken out from the fields for use as fuel or fodder," Dr Beaten said. "Moreover, with three or four crops a year, the land gets no time to break down the residues into the soil."

### Power failure

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Suggesting a number of short and medium-term measures to reduce the loss of production of the industrial sector, Latifur Rahman said there could be better cooperation between the utilities and industries through mutually agreed load-shedding.

The MCCI president also urged the Minister to reactivate the National Consultative Committee on Power, which included private sector participation. The MCCI had requested a reactivation of this committee in May '92 but no step had since been taken, he noted.

"In May 1992 we explained (to the Energy Minister) that trying to recoup the system loss through higher tariffs was counter-productive. It is of some concern to us that we have not yet had a favourable response from the government," Rahman said.

Suggesting incentives to encourage self-generation of power, he said, "The PDB is still able to procure gas at a considerably lower rate than that required for self-generation equipment. We reiterate that the cost of fuel for self-generation should not be higher than that for the public utilities."

Suggesting co-operative power generation to augment the country's total power generation capacity, Latifur Rahman said there was still scope for considerable investments in the scheme by the private sector.

To encourage the private sector, adequate credits should be made available for such large-scale nature of these investments, he said.

Energy Minister Mosharraf Hossain, painting a gloomy picture of the existing power generation structure, informed that the peak demand for power in 1995 would be 379 MW more than the PDB could supply. The country would continue to face power shortages till 1999, according to the government's estimate.

In 1999, the peak demand would be 3621 MW while the PDB would be able to supply 3653 MW.

"At the present trend of power consumption, the chief resource of power generation — natural gas — will be finished totally by 2012," the minister added.

### Makhan

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their final tribute to the late hero.

The body was then taken to the Aparajeo Bangla statue and thence to the FH Hall where student leaders addressed a brief meeting.

BSS adds: The body of Makhan was then taken to the Awami League Central Office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 12:30 pm where hundreds of mourners had their last glimpse of the leader.

Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Zohra Tajuddin, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofoel Ahmad, Kamruzzaman, Abdul Jalil, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mohammad Hanif, Obaidul Quader, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Ashiqur Rahman, Sudhangshu Sheikh Halder, Iy Rahman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur and many others placed wreaths on the coffin.

Then, the body was taken to the National Eidgah for namaz-e-janaza. People from all walks of life, political leaders, ministers, members of Parliament, leaders and workers of different students' organisations and freedom fighters and his close associates attended the janaza.

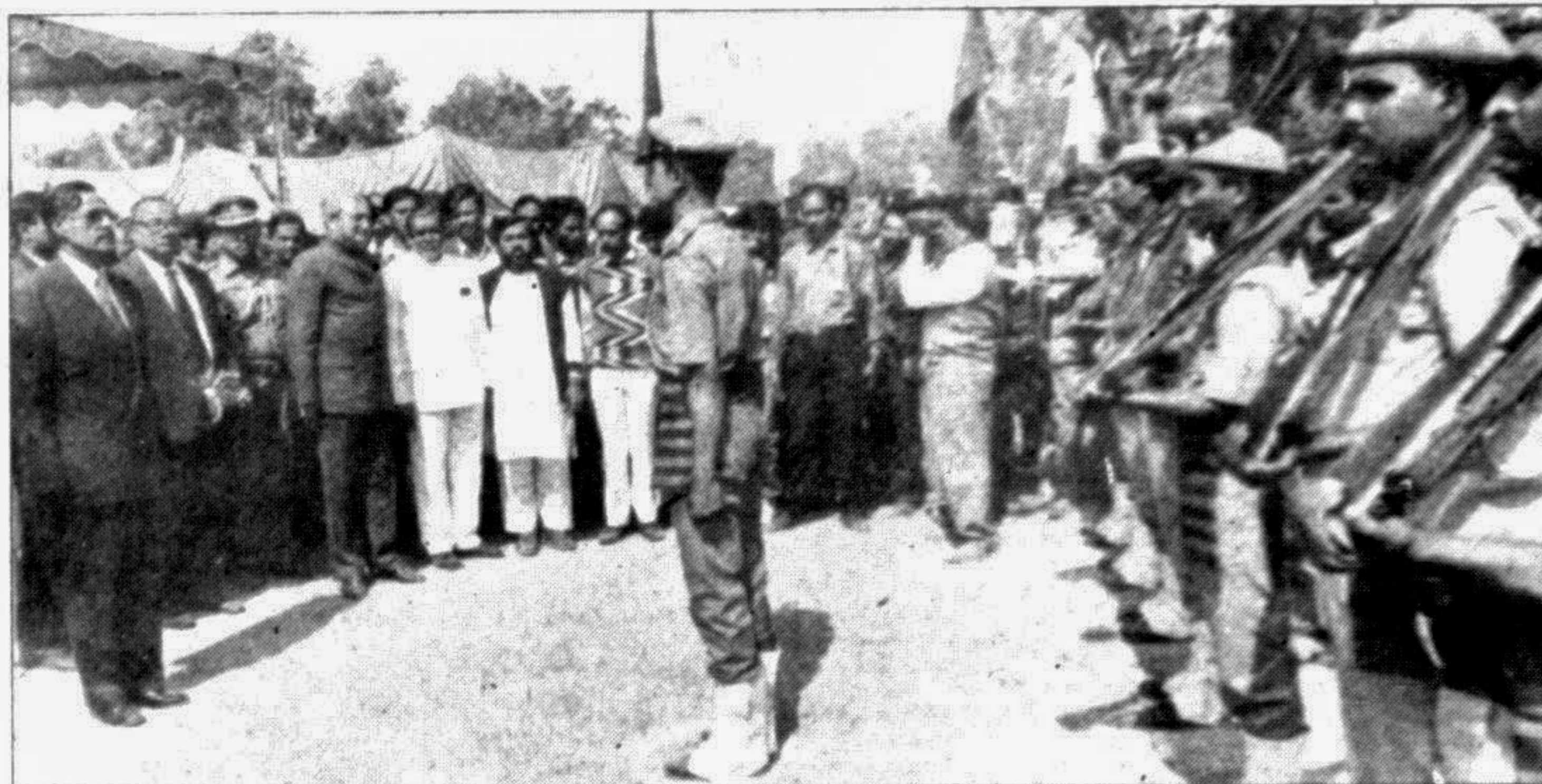
Makhan's closest political associates — Nure-e-Alam Siddiquee, Shahjahan Siraj and Tofoel Ahmad, in emotion-choked voices, recalled the turbulent days of 1969 and the Liberation War in 1971 when they fought hand-in-hand with thousands of others for the independence of the country.

They praised Makhan's dedication to the struggle for independence and prayed for the peace of the departed soul. Then the body was taken on a truck to the Mirpur freedom fighters' graveyard for burial.

Leaders of various political parties, including the Awami League and other organisations placed wreaths on the grave of Makhan. They stood in solemn silence and prayed to Almighty Allah for granting him eternal peace.

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Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed being given a military guard of honour at Sabroom in India during his visit there yesterday in connection with the beginning of the repatriation of the Chakma refugees. — Star photo

## Chakma refugees return home

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any problem if it tries hard with sincerity."

Welcoming the homecoming of tribal refugees, Oli assured them "We are prepared to do everything possible for your smooth and proper resettlement."

The Indian State Minister for Home PM Sayeed said, India had so far spent 45 crore rupees for the maintenance of the Chakma refugees.

Romesh Bhandari urged the Bangladesh government to fulfil the assurances made for resettlement of the tribal refugees.

Later, the Indian team arrived at Ramgarh accompanied by Oli, Ahmed and other Bangladeshi dignitaries. The Indian leaders also spoke at a meeting organised at the Ramgarh reception camp.

The reception camp was colourfully decorated with arrangements — to receive the Indian leaders. Similar arrangements were also made at the transit camp on the Indian side.

Thousands of people and relatives of the returning refugees gathered on the banks of the Feni river to witness the repatriation.

Three other batches of refugees are scheduled to return home through the

Tabalchhari reception camp on February 17, 19 and 22. About 405 families are expected to come back in the first phase.

But most of returnees are harbouring mixed feelings of happiness, worries and tension as they appear to lack confidence after years of camp life in India.

Talking to this correspondent, 35-year-old Biguranjan Chakma, who was the first to return home crossing the 225-foot long wooden bridge over the river Feni separating India and Bangladesh, said "I am happy to come back to my home but I have doubts as to whether we would be rehabilitated in a proper way."

As Biguranjan came back with his five family members, the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari welcomed them to the temporary shelter camp in this border town Ramgarh. Biguranjan said he had crossed over to Tripura from his home at Bagaichhari in 1989 in the face of what he called torture by the Bengali settlers and others.

Jyoti Chakma, 17, another returnee, also echoed similar sentiments on return to Bangladesh from the refugee camp in Kathachhari.

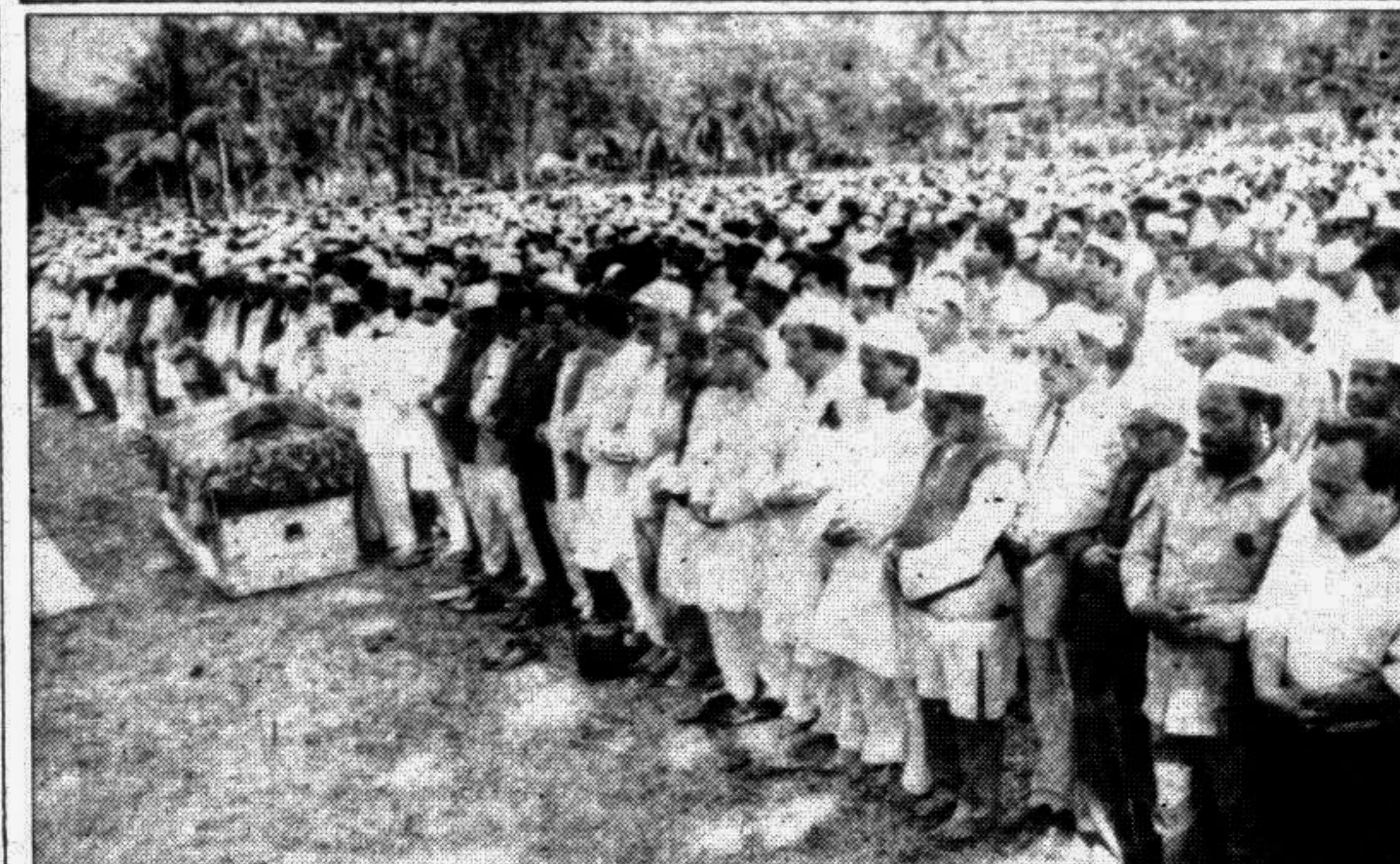
Among the refugees waiting for repatriation across the border at Mondirhat of Kathachhari village under South Tripura district of India, Kannya Chakma, an unmarried girl of 17 years, said I am not so happy because, I have doubts whether we will be allowed to live at our home in the CHT peacefully.

Kannya left her ancestral home in Dighinala of Khagrachhari district for India eight years ago with her parents.

When asked, she said, "I may return to India if our stay in Bangladesh is not safe and secure."

Meanwhile, Hongshadoz Chakma, who is heading the Liaison Committee mediating the negotiations between the Government of Bangladesh and tribal rebels, talking to this correspondent said, "If the refugees returning in this first phase are not rehabilitated and allowed to live in peace and full security, this will be the first and last batch of repatriation and the refugees again may cross the border in to India."

Replying to a question, Hongshadoz said: "The repatriation of Chakma refugees does not mean that the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts have been solved. The insurgency problem will remain until and unless the government resolves the issues through negotiations."



Leaders and a large number of people attending the namaz-e-janaza of Abdul Qudus Makhan, one of the organisers of the War of Liberation and former DUCSU-GS and Member of Parliament, at the National Eidgah in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Political resistance reason for slow pace

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At the meeting even Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman pointed out the importance of taking into account the political support for reforms while reviewing the progress of implementation.

"I must point out that measuring progress in implementing structural reform against a check-list of actions can be a trivial exercise if conducted without reference to political support to reforms," he emphasised. "In a democratic society political acceptance" of reform is a basic pre-condition for it to be implementable and successful."

Implementation of the reform programme, the report said, have had mixed results with progress being made on further liberalisation and de-regulation, strengthening of the privatisation Board, extension of the financial sector reform, further improvement in the quality of public expenditures, expanding the public sector retrenchment programme, starting to address the difficult issue of administrative reforms, implementing the new structure of elected local government, introducing reforms of the education sector and instituting transparent and less burdensome arrangements for supervising NGO operations.

"However, the pace of reforms remains unsatisfactory. More and faster reforms are needed, if (the government's) high investment and high exports strategy is to succeed and have a significant impact

on poverty alleviation," it added.

On the negative side the report noted that actions for private sector development have fallen short of expectations in three areas: Liberalisation policies are still not fully effective at the level of the individual entrepreneur; very few privatisation operations actually took place; and Bangladesh's competitiveness is not being enhanced.

To make the liberalisation and de-regulation policies more effective, it suggested "urgently" reforming the Tax Department, Board of Investment, Export Promotion Bureau and the Duty Drawback Department.

Additional reforms should also include abandoning the use of tariff values in calculating import duties, the announced privatisation drive should be expedited and the economy should be made at least as competitive as that of the neighbouring countries, to attract foreign investors and expand exports, the report recommended.

"Production costs must not be allowed to increase beyond those prevailing in competing countries. This implies that great importance must be attached to exchange rate management, as well as to policies that aim at linking wages to productivity and improving industrial relations."

Implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) during the first six months of the current fiscal

year, the report said, continues to remain slow in project execution and aid utilisation, similar to the extremely low rate of ADP implementation during 1992-93.

However, it noted that ADP implementation rates in the social sectors have improved tremendously, and nearly 30 per cent of the shortfall in execution is due to a few self-financed projects of 'doubtful' quality.

"Urging the government to redouble its efforts aimed at increasing the volume of public investment, the report said that the government should: Ensure implementation of the procedural reforms initiated earlier to improve/execution and aid utilisation; seek greater private investment in the infrastructure sectors and make more use of the private sector in implementing ADP projects; and start introducing administrative and civil service reforms."

Reforms affecting the management of human development programmes, the report further pointed out, have fallen short of target in two areas: Administrative improvements in the health sector; and social safety nets for the most vulnerable groups in society.

It emphasised the need for better integration of relationship between health and family welfare services to strengthen supervision and to secure more community involvement in the management of field-level facilities, at present so frequently under-



### Best award for Mansurul in Delhi Triennial

Eminent Bangladeshi artist Mansur-ul-Karim will be given one of the best awards at the 8th Triennial Art Exhibition beginning in New Delhi today, a press release of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Mansur-ul-Karim left here yesterday for New Delhi as the commissioner representative of Bangladesh to receive the award from the Indian President at the inaugural function of the international art exhibition.

He is one of the six participants from Bangladesh whose art works will be on display. Other participants are Abu Taher, Mahmudul Huq, Hamiduzzaman Khan, KM Qayyum and Mohammad Younus.

### Murdoch to open another TV channel in India

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: Rupert Murdoch, whose Hong Kong-based satellite TV network reaches 15 million Indians, plans to broaden its appeal by adding another channel in Hindi and other Indian languages, reports AP.

"Our plan is not just to beam signals into India but also to take part in Indian films, make television programmes, and broadcast them," Murdoch told a news conference Tuesday.

Murdoch's News Corp, which operates STAR TV, recently acquired the Hindi-language Zee-TV, which has turned out to be STAR's most profitable venture.

"We think we should broadcast more in this language... When we bought STAR, we thought of India as half of that equation."

## The Midnight File

### US trade sanctions against Japan likely in Spring

WASHINGTON, Feb 15: In the wake of failed US-Japanese trade talks, the Clinton administration said Tuesday it will begin proceedings that could lead to trade sanctions against Japan in early Spring. A White House official said US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor was preparing to announce that Japan had failed to live up to the terms of a 1989 trade agreement in which it had promised to open its lucrative cellular phone market to American firms, reports AP.

### UN reinforcements head for Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Feb 15: UN reinforcements headed for Sarajevo on Tuesday to bolster troops monitoring compliance with a NATO deadline for freeing the battered city from deadly artillery fire. Questions remained about whether the deadline could be met, and how or when NATO air attacks on gun positions would occur if it is not, reports AP.

## Anwarul Islam Bobby dead

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Unit of the hospital at 9:15 BST.

His wife Leena Islam and youngest daughter Samreen Islam were at his bedside when he breathed his last.

His relatives are rushing to Dubai to bring his body home, according to the Morning Sun sources.

Anwarul Islam, popularly known as Bobby, was a man full of warmth and humour. His readers came to admire him for his often bold and courageous writings which bore the mark of his subtle wit.

Son of late Sirajul Islam, Member, Railway Board, Anwarul Islam Bobby had his schoolings in Darjeeling and Chittagong and later graduated in English from the Dhaka University.

Except for a short stint with a shipping company, his entire career was closely associated with the newspaper industry, where he left an indelible mark.

He joined the Bangladesh Observer in the late Sixties and was its West Pakistan representative based in Karachi till 1969 when he returned to Dhaka and joined the paper as the Managing Editor. He was the Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) for two terms.

Bobby was involved with the publication of The Bangladesh Times and Banglar Bani and was the first Managing Editor of both the newspapers.

He founded The Daily Life, a newspaper in Chittagong, and later brought out The Pulse, a medical journal.

Anwarul Islam Bobby launched The Morning Sun in July, 1990 as the Editor and Publisher.

Besides his wife Leena Islam, he leaves behind two daughters Narguen Islam and Samreen Islam and a son Anil Islam, who is studying in the USA.

### Condolences

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night expressed her profound shock at the sudden death of Anwarul Islam Bobby.

In a condolence message, she recalled his contributions in the field of journalism during the last three decades.

The Prime Minister conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved members of the family and staff of The Morning Sun. She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda expressed deep shock and said his death is a great loss for journalism in Bangladesh.

Paying tributes to the late editor, Huda said he had made significant contributions in journalism through his candid views and constructive criticism. The Bangladesh Sangbad-patra Parishad (BSP) has condoled the sudden demise of Anwarul Islam Bobby.

### Press Council for professional editor in Ittefaq

By Staff Correspondent

A special committee of the Bangladesh Press Council set up to investigate the problems existing at The Daily Ittefaq, has recommended that a full-time journalist should be appointed editor of the newspaper.

At a meeting late last month presided over by the Chairman of the Press Council, it was suggested that the Printer and Publisher of the Daily, in accordance with The Printing Press and Publication (Declaration and Registration) Act 1993, should inform the District Magistrate of the appointment of the new editor.

The six-member committee, in an official letter to the Executive Director-1 of the Ittefaq Motul Hossain, Bar-at-law, said, the Ittefaq Group of Publications should be run according to the decisions of the Board of Directors, as per the Company Act.

The committee appreciated the way the journalists and the employees' union of Ittefaq have maintained their professional neutrality amid the crisis at the paper.

In a message, BSP president Kazi Shahed Ahmad and secretary general Enayetullah Khan said the nation suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Bobby, a dedicated journalist.

Ahmedul Kabir, Chairman, and ABM Musa, Secretary of the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), Bangladesh Section, expressed their deep shock and sorrow at the demise of Anwarul Islam Bobby.

They recalled the contributions of Islam in organising the Bangladesh Section of the CPU and creating understanding and relation among the members of this Commonwealth organisation.

### We mourn

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comparison to the papers in circulation at that time. Bobby, as he was called by all, and Bobby Bhai, by his juniors (like myself) really won everybody's appreciation, and in some cases admiration, for his bold, direct, and no-nonsense front page columns, in which he would write what he felt without fear or favour.

He had a unique way of dealing with people. He would say, on the face, what he felt like, and sometimes say it in an uncommon, and almost offensive manner. Yet he would do so with a flair of warmth, friendliness and affection that, instead of minding for his style, people would grow closer to him for his forthrightness. His could not care-less journalistic style won him many friends, and admirers. Even his critics grudgingly admired him for his uncanny style, resourcefulness, tenacity of purpose and determination.

With his passing away we lose a most creative newspaper entrepreneur, a powerful commentator and a genuine friend of the newspaper industry, who spent his lifetime in this profession to improve the quality of the print media. We deeply mourn his demise, pray for the salvation of his soul, and extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved members of his family. —Editor

### Osmany

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lights of the programmes taken separately by different organisations.

The Jatiya Janata Party will hold a discussion at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra at 3 pm in observance of the anniversary. The party, which was formed by General Osmany, will also keep party flags halfmast at the central and other unit office buildings. The leaders and workers will also lay wreaths at the portrait of General Osmany.

The Bangabir Osmany Smriti Parishad has chalked out an elaborate programme including Gurankhwani, offering fatiha at the major of the general, placing of wreath, milad mahfil and 'kangali bhog' (feeding of the destitutes).

Besides, the parishad will also hold a seminar on Osmany in search of building national character and economic emancipation" in the Jatiya Press Club auditorium today at 2.30 pm. Country's eminent politicians, intellectuals and educationists will take part in the seminar.

The Bangabir Osmany Samajseba-o-Gabeshana Sangsad will hold a discussion on February 28 at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra in observance of the anniversary. The sangsad will also place wreath at the portrait of General Osmany and arrange milad mahfil and after party at the Baitul Mukarram Jatiya Masjid this evening. The sangsad will also publish a souvenir on life and activities of Bangabir Osmany.

In a message on the eve of the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas paid his deep respect to the memories of late MAG Osmany and opined that the General would be remembered for ever for his virtues. "We can take lesson from the democratic ideals of General Osmany to remain tolerant to other's opinion, he observed.

In a similar message the leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep respect to General M A G Osmany.