

Housewife beaten to death, 3 held

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 6: Police arrested three persons on charge of murdering a housewife in village Charrupsa under sadar thana early Thursday, reports UNB.

Roushan Ara Khatun, 25, a housewife was allegedly killed for dowry money of Tk 2000 by her in laws and husband Abdur Rahim when she refused to oblige them.

It has been alleged that Abdur Rahim along with his brother-in-law Abdus Salam, 37, sister Fatema Begum, 20 and brother Jomoti Ali Sk, killed Roushan Ara and hanged the body from a tree near their house.

Police later recovered the body. Abdur Rahim remain absconding.

Roushan Ara was beaten to death, doctors at the Sirajganj General Hospital said.

Lawyers demand removal of Mymensingh DC

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: The District Lawyers' Association here today demanded removal of the Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh and a magistrate for alleged harassment of a lawyer, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference, the association president advocate Manjurul Huq warned of tougher programme if the authorities did not remove DC A S M Matur Rahman and magistrate Jahanara Parveen immediately.

The association has already begun boycott of all the seven magistrate courts from Tuesday protesting the trial of a lawyer for contempt of court.

The lawyers earlier started boycotting the court of magistrate Jahanara Parveen after it had tried a case on October 23 asking the lawyer to pay a fine of Tk 200 or suffer 15 days' imprisonment.

Advocate Huq said bench clerks of the magistrate courts had filed several cases against the lawyers at the 'institution of the district administration' to foil their (lawyers) programme.

This prompted the association to go for boycott of all the magistrate courts, he said.

Huq said they also demand the removal of DC as he had failed to take any action against magistrate Jahanara.

'Closure of industries won't be allowed'

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Industries said here Saturday that the BNP government will not allow anybody to close down any industry, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the opening ceremony of sugarcane crushing of Kushtia Sugar Mills.

He said conspiracy is going on to close down industries. He also said that no loss on the part of the industry will be tolerated by the govt. If there is any loss the government will be compelled to hand over industry to private sector.

Migratory birds start coming in coastal areas

PATUAKHALI, Nov 6: Migratory birds have started coming in the coastal areas of the district from cooler regions, including Siberia, reports UNB.

Like previous years, thousands of migratory birds of different species are assembling here in search of food and shelter.

Being chased by shivering cold, aves of numerous colours, shades and tunes, fly towards the countries of tropical zone for their survival, and return home when the chilly wave of winter is over.

Usually, many species of migratory birds are seen in the coastal areas of Kalapara and Dashmina thana of the coastal district. Such birds also take shelter are also available in the *chir* areas of Barguna.

However, some cruel hunters are active with the appearance of these birds and victimise some of these guests birds ignoring international ban on it.

Contraband seized in Feni

FENI, Nov 6: The District Task Force has seized Indian turmeric worth Tk one lakh from a godown at Taki road in the town last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the godown and seized the contraband item. One Manik, owner of the godown, managed to escape arrest.

The seized goods were deposited to the district Customs office and a case was filed with sadar police station.



SYLHET: Iranian Ambassador Mahmud Bayat speaking at the publication ceremony of the mystic Poet Rakib Shah's poetry 'Kabitar Dosh' held at Sylhet auditorium recently.

Dispute over distribution of khas land in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 6: Disputes, murders, cases, counter-cases in civil, criminal and revenue courts have been continuing unabated for about long 33 years over distribution, possession and determination of title of 461.43 acres of khas land in Beelkurulia under Chatmohar thana of Pabna district.

As a result, the government decision of distribution of khas land among the landless peasants is being frustrated.

It is learnt that 461.43 acres of khas land in the Beelkurulia, 270.65 acres fall in the category of cultivable land and remaining area of 190.78 acres of land still remain marshy. Three opposing and feuding groups have been maintaining possession of these lands. These groups are: (a) Jotdars who are claiming to have taken patten from original zamindars; (b) landless peasants who took lease from the government; and (c) fishermen who also took lease from the government.

Disputes started when in 1961 distribution of khas land among the landless peasants was taken up by the concerned authorities and in view of the situation, as the above distribution was rendered impossible, the then SDO (Sub-Divisional Officer) who, exercising his magisterial powers under CrPC, imposed section 145 CrPC and appointed a receiver for looking after the land.

It is learnt that a section of local influential persons, made forged and illegal *kabuliatnamas* and other documents from the original zamindars and, on the basis of those forged documents and titles created thereby were occupying a vast portion of the Beelkurulia's disputed lands.

Murders of poor landless peasants started since the sixties under the above situation. One such landless peasant, named Abdul Wadud, was murdered in 1961 allegedly by the jotdars who were illegally claiming title and enjoying possession over some areas of the said land.

But when in 1978, permanent settlement of khas land was introduced, the above mentioned illegal occupants

(jotdars), in collusion with a section of dishonest officials of the Revenue Department, filed a number of suits in the civil courts claiming declaration of titles over the land and the court declared the distribution of land against permanent *kabuliatnama* as illegal since order under section 145 CrPC was still in vogue.

Meanwhile, there is no proper accounts of collection of money from the said land by the receiver during long 32 years, it is alleged.

In 1992, about 2,000 landless peasants of the area, organised by the Jatiyo Krishak Samity led by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, took possession of the entire 461.43 acres of land following this, new incidents of murders, loot, rioting cases and counter-cases were filed started afresh.

New administrative problems cropped up meanwhile over the said lands. Out of the entire 461.43 acres, an area of 300 acres have been recorded as government khas land during the recent R S operation and the remaining 158 acres of land

have recorded in the names of different jotdars who allegedly claim title over them on the basis of false and forged documents. But the possession of these lands were still with the landless peasants. 'The *Bhumitheen Unnayan Sangstha*', an organisation of the landless peasants, have filed objections against the illegal recording of khas land in name of so-called private owners during the R S operations.

To resolve the above complication over the Beelkurulia lands, the *Bhumitheen Unnayan Sangstha* has submitted the following recommendations before the appropriate authorities, it is learnt.

The recommendations are: 1) the entire land should be recorded as government khas land; (2) stay order issued in view of actions taken under section 145 CrPC should be vacated; (3) quick disposal of the civil suits filed by jotdars and (4) distribution of the entire khas land among the landless peasants who were in possession.

Regional confce of SCEMRB

'Mentally retarded should enjoy equal human rights as others'

COMILLA, Nov 6: Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain recently emphasised the importance of upholding rights of mentally retarded persons in society and work out realistic programmes for their welfare and rehabilitation, says BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the regional conference of the Society for Care and Education for Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB), the minister said the mentally retarded are unfortunate victims of fate and are the most innocent persons.

The meeting, presided over by Dr AKM Quamruzzaman MP, was addressed, among others, by DP Barua, President of SCEMRB, Karl Johan Haanes, NPPU Adviser from Norway in Asia based in Dhaka and Dr Glasuddin Molla, Secretary General of SCEMRB.

The keynote paper on 'care of Mentally retarded' was presented by Shafi Majumder, Treasurer, Comilla branch.

The minister in his speech said, these unfortunate persons should enjoy the same human rights as other citizens of the country. He praised the work of SCEMRB which has been functioning as an important pressure group to champion the rights of education, training and rehabilitation of mentally retarded in Bangladesh.

He assured that he would endeavour to allot a plot of land in Kotbari area of Comilla from his ministry for the SCEMRB.

Dr Quamruzzaman, MP, in his presidential speech said the rights of the mentally retarded could be upheld through formulating a national policy for their education and welfare.

DP Barua, emphasised the importance of identifying the mentally retarded in rural areas and work out home-based programmes for them through its 27 branches. He said, the SCEMRB was endeavouring to incorporate the rights of handicapped including the mentally retarded in the national strategy for universal education of all citizens by 2000 ad. He

said, the SCEMRB will participate in the forthcoming world congress on mental retardation in New Delhi from November 22 to 27.

Delegates from six branches of Sylhet, Feni, Chittagong, Comilla, Chandpur and Nangolkot rural branch of Comilla district participated in the regional conference in addition to a large number of social workers, parents and teachers of the mentally retarded.

The second session of the conference presided over by DP Barua in the afternoon discussed the issues relating to care and rehabilitation of mentally retarded. Karl Johan Haanes, AKM Quamruzzaman, Dr Glasuddin Molla, presidents of SCEMRB branches from Sylhet AFM Kamal, from Chittagong Mohammad Moslem, from Feni Kamal Hasan Chowdhury, from Comilla, Ashraf Ali Chowdhury, from Dhaka Metropolitan branch, Aminur Rasul and First Vice-President from Chandpur Zakir Hussain Majumder took part in the discussion.

Among others who took part in the discussion included GWH Chowdhury, vice President of SCEMRB, AJM Hamed Hossain, First Joint Secretary General of SCEMRB, JI Mamun, Second Joint Secretary General, M Faizullah.

Girl students urged to avail stipend programme

NARSHINGDI, Nov 6: The Minister of State for Planning, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan Sunday called upon female students to avail themselves of the opportunity of the Taka 400 crore stipend programme, initiated for them at secondary and higher secondary levels by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

The state minister was distributing stipend money among the students of Panchdona High School and Atpara High School.

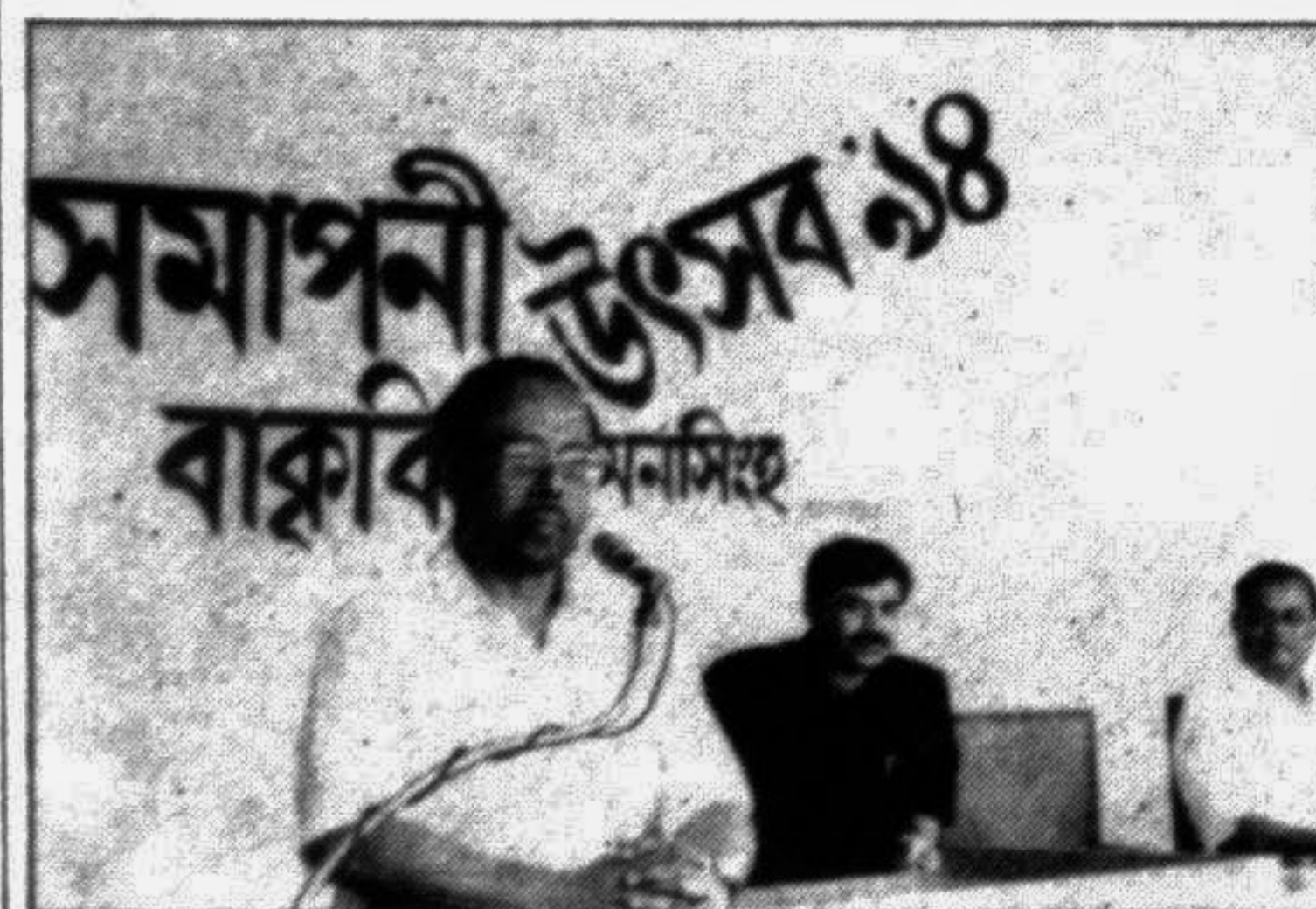
He said that the present democratic government was aware of the socio-economic condition of the people. So the government has undertaken the stipend programme to help the poor parents in providing education to their daughters.

The state minister also distributed sanitary latrines free of cost among the distressed families of Panchdona, Meharpara.

Andia Union parishes of sadar thana of the district.

He said that the finance minister had sanctioned Taka 20 crore for the distribution of ten lakh sanitary latrines among the people. Such a programme would help strengthen the primary health care system in the country, he added.

Originally Taka 500 was allotted for each of the distressed families in Narasingdi as gratuitous relief. But since it appeared that Taka 500 would not provide a permanent solution to the problems of the distressed families, the state minister for planning directed the district administration to distribute sanitary latrine instead of cash money. Building permanent infra-structure with gratuitous relief money would remain as gearing example in Bangladesh, Dr Khan said.



MYMENSINGH Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of a two day *Samapani Utsav* 94 of the graduates of the university held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium recently.

Ganges Kobadak project faces serious setbacks

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: The operation in the Ganges Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation project in the country, has been facing serious setbacks this year because of the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India through construction of Farakka barrage.

The Farakka issue has already been discussed in many forums including Zia Parishad where speakers blamed India for economic and environmental aggression on Bangladesh and demanded increase of supply of Ganges water.

On the other hand, local leaders through public meetings raised their demand for construction of Ganges Barrage Project. Late President Ziaur Rahman initiated it order to overcome and face the adverse affect of Farakka.

The work of the project began in 1980-81 through laying of foundation stone at four kilometre downstream of Hardinge Bridge near Talbaria at a cost of Taka 1131 crores.

The project was initiated by the then govt in the backdrop of the unilateral withdrawal of water of the river Ganges in the upper stream by India through Farakka barrage. The aim of the project was removal of water scarcity for irrigation, flood control and improvement of irrigation in 25 south western districts of the country.

The districts are Pabna, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Natore, Nawabgonj, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Narail, Chuadanga, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalokati, Sariatpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Madaripur.

In 1980-81 Project Implementation Cell was formed under the auspices of Water Development Board and later in 1984 a separate office was established under the name of Ganges Barrage Project for its implementation.

At present progress of work of the project is negligible. Till now about four crore taka has been spent and only a portion of survey work is done. To complete the first phase of the pro-

ject an amount of Taka six crore is required, an informed source said.

Surprising by no substantial progress is done so far and no fund has been allocated. The future of the project remains uncertain with small water in the river Ganges and as a result process of desertification has already begun in the northern regions.

It may be mentioned that a team of experts have visited the Ganges Kobadak Project recently to survey the present condition of the river and to determine future course of action.

The project includes the

construction of three pump houses having lifting capacity of 16000 cusecs of water each, three main regulators and 775-kilometre long flood control embankment and these will facilitate preservation of water throughout the year.

The three proposed pump houses will ensure adequate water lifting for irrigation. These will also be helpful for the Ganges Kobadak Project area which suffers a setback every year during dry season for want of adequate water. The total expenditure of Taka 1131 crores includes Taka 220 crores in foreign exchange.

Multiple use of molasses can play vital role in our economy

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 6: Multiple use of molasses can play a vital role in our national economy, it is hoped according to a source related Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), about 90 thousand metric tons of molasses is produced in 16 sugar mills in the country.

These molasses are being used as only animal feeds. But Ethyl Alcohol, Lactic Acid, Oxalic Acid and Cytric Acid may be produced if molasses can be used as raw materials, source said.

The source disclosed that 25 litres to 28 litres of molasses is procured from one metric tons of sugarcane and one thousand litres may be collected from 5 tons of molasses.

In developed countries even in India it was proved that substitute fuel may be produced if Ethyl Alcohol is mixed with petrol which is lesser than petrol and does not cause environmental pollution.

The developed countries have been gaining by using the

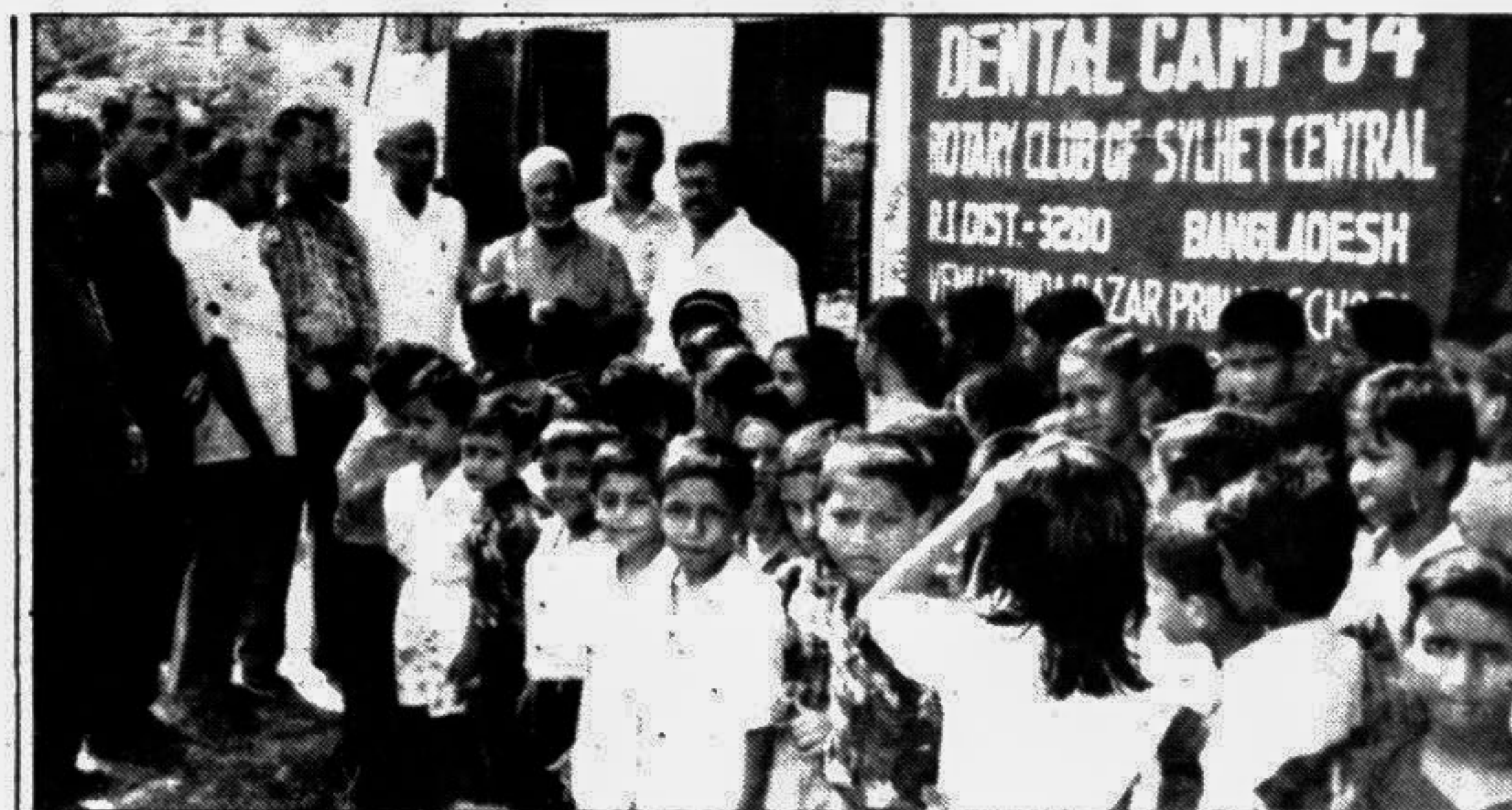
fuel procured from molasses, it was told.

Carew and Company a sugar mill possess an independent unit but Lactic Acid, Oxalic Acid or Cytric Acid is processed from molasses here the source added.

As a result government has been spending huge amount money to import related chemicals for alcohol production. The independent unit might not meet the necessity of alcohol required in the country.

An expert of BCIC expressed hope that if multifarious use of molasses can build a valuable Ethyl Alcohol production unit in government sector on commercial basis. Substitute use of petrol may be installed on the basis of molasses which might play role in national economy, the source said.

Higher authorities have been urged to take necessary initiatives to utilise properly 90 thousand metric tons of molasses in 16 sugar mills in the country.



SYLHET: A dental camp was organised recently at Zindabazar Government Primary School by the Rotary Club of Sylhet Central.

Tungra, majra destroy huge aman crops

BARISAL, Nov 6: Standing aman crops on vast tract of land in six southern districts of Barisal Division have been attacked by *tungra*, *majra* pests, says BSS.

According to an official source, pests locally known as *tungra* damaged standing aman crops on 9,932 hectares of land.

On the other hand, *majra* attacked aman paddy on 10,194 hectares of land in these districts.

According to unofficial sources, *tungra* attacked aman paddy on over 30 thousand hectares of land while *majra* in-sects damaged crops on over 50 thousand hectares of land.

41 non-govt schools to be developed in greater M'singh

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: Forty-one non-government high schools in Mymensingh, Kishoreganj and Netrakona districts of greater Mymensingh have been brought under development schemes by the facility department of education ministry at a cost of Tk 3 crore 20 lakh and 21 thousand in the first phase of current financial year, says BSS.

Of the total 15 schools have been taken up from Mymensingh district, 16 from Kishoreganj and the rest from Netrakona district.

An official source said, out of the forty one non-government high schools, 20 will be financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Biswas urges lawyers to strengthen protection system of law

BAGERHAT, Nov 6: President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday urged the Lawyers to play their due role to strengthen the protection system of law to ensure human rights and individual freedom in society, reports BSS.

'Our constitution guarantees the rights of people and therefore wherever justice is hampered law must take its due course to redress that and uphold the rule of law', he said.

The President said this at the foundation laying ceremony of the Bagerhat District Bar Library Building here, to be built at a cost of Taka 35 lakh.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

President Biswas, himself a noted lawyer and jurist, said the basic foundation of rule of law is respect towards law. He cautioned all concerned to be alert so that no one can use law to serve his vested interest.

He said 'in a democratic society the lawyers hold a very prestigious position and at the same time they have very important responsibilities to shoulder'.

The President urged the lawyers to make the people aware of laws to ensure the rule of law effectively.

'Everybody is presumed to know the laws of the land as the country is run by law', President Biswas said adding, 'it is the noble responsibility of the lawyers to help the people learn about the laws of the country'.

President of Bagerhat District Bar Association advo-

cate Mohammad Shamsul Haq chaired the function. General secretary of the bar advocate Fariduddin Ahmed also spoke while Syeda Nargis Ali, MP was present.

Oldest member of the bar advocate Binod Bihari Sen who is in practice for the last 62 years garlanded the President on the occasion.

Earlier, the President visited the mazar of eminent philanthropist, religious leader and social reformer of the 14th century, saint Khan Jahan Ali and offered munajat there. He also visited the historic Shat Gambuj Masjid (the mosque of 60 pillars), unique for its architectural design, which was built by saint Khan Jahan Ali

Discussion on holy Quran held in Tangail

TANGAIL, Nov 6: Dhulcherar Madrasa and Yatim Khana held a discussion meeting on the holy Quran at its campus recently, reports BSS.

Maolana Md Abul Bashir pir shahib of Shahtali (Comilla) was the main speaker and Mufti Mohamad Meheruddin presided over the function.

Maolana Abul Bashir quoting the verses of the holy Quran explained the duty of mankind towards creator Allah. Islam is peace and its implementation will ensure peace. Among others principal Md Abdul Aziz spoke on the occasion.