

3 missing as boat capsizes in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Aug 14: Three persons were found missing when a boat having mechanical engine (trawler) drowned in the river Padma recently.

It was reported that the trawler with passengers coming from Bagmati to Philpina-gar capsized and drowned. No trace of Rafiqul, 35, Ziaul, 45, and Anarul, 25, could be found while other passengers were rescued and swam ashore.

Contrabands worth Tk 20 lakh seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 14: A huge quantity of contrabands were seized from Uzipur Bazar in Kaliganj thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

A contingent of BDR jawans led by Sector Commander of Khulna raided the Bazar and recovered the smuggled Indian goods worth about Tk 20 lakh.

The contrabands included 125 bags of sugar, 300 bags of salt, 100 bottles of phenisidyl, sarees and cosmetics.

They picked up one Babar Ali from the spot. A case was filed with Kaliganj police in this connection.

Another report adds: Dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from several houses in Assamuni thana of the district on Sunday night.

The armed dacoits entered the houses of Sattar, Sobhan, Prasanta and Dipankar of Agordari village and decamped with the booties.

Housewife allegedly chopped to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 14: A housewife was allegedly killed by her husband at a village in Moheshpur thana of the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Ayesha Khatun, 35, wife of Afazuddin of the village Milebaria, was chopped to death by her angry husband in a nearby field of their house when she was cutting grass.

Earlier, Afazuddin got furious due to the absence of his wife in the house.

Police sent the body to the Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed but Afaz remains absconding since the incident.

Smuggled steel materials seized

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Aug 14: Daulatpur thana police in a special raid seized 1300 kg of stolen steel materials recently.

Police sources said, on getting tips SI Akram Hossain of Daulatpur thana recovered 500 kg smuggled Indian steel materials from Hatishalar Square of Mohiskundi union and conducted another raid in an inter-city luxury coach and recovered 800 kg Indian smuggled steel materials.

The cost of the goods was estimated to be Taka 15 thousand.

Traditional oil mills on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 14: For want of working capital, patronisation and non-availability of necessary inputs the bullock-driven mini oil mills, locally known as 'Ghani' in Kishoreganj district are on the verge of extinction rendering unemployment to many families engaged in this traditional profession for generations.

Meanwhile, being unable to cope with the problems, a large number of oilmen of all the 13 thanas of the district have already given up their profession while others are in search of jobs.

It was gathered that oil production by drawing ghanis has been the main occupation of some 5000 families throughout the district. Most of them are oilmen by birth and earn their livelihood on oil. These oilmen locally known as 'kolu' reside in groups in different villages of the district, but now-a-days they are hardly able to carry on their profession due to scarcity of inputs as well as fund constraint.

While talking to this correspondent, some oilmen informed that prices of oilseeds, bullocks and other materials for making ghani had increased several times during the last few years. At present about Taka 10,000 is required to run a ghani. But the poor oilmen can hardly invest this sum since there is no provision for loan disbursement for this cottage industry. Some of the oilmen, however, borrow money from the money lenders at a higher rate of interest. As such they attain little benefits from their products.

Besides, the rapid extinction of mini oil mills was attributed to flourishing of a large number of power-driven oil mills in different parts of the district which are able to produce oil at a lower cost than those of ghani owners. A huge quantity of imported edible oil including soyabean and palm has also flooded in the local markets. As a result, the demand of oil produced by ghanis has come down considerably.

It is widely felt that the authorities concerned should expedite loan sanctioning for the oilmen of the district to save their hereditary profession from extinction.



RAJSHAHI: Trees on vast tract of land have been cut off but no compensations are being made. As a result soil fertility is decreasing alarmingly. Deforestation is considered as the main cause of environmental imbalance and climatic changes.

— Star photo by Tareq Chowdhury

Survey report reveals

10pc of Sundarban's Sundari trees vanished in 38 years

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Aug 14: Thousands of Sundari trees in the Sundarbans, the biggest mangrove forest of the world are being destroyed on account of diseases due to adverse effect of the Farakka barrage every year. The number of Sundari trees have drastically fallen by about 50 per cent to 40 per cent due to top dying disease which is increasing in gradual course. Unless immediate measures are taken to prevent the disease, it is apprehended that most of the Sundari trees, the most valuable trees of forest resources from the Sundarbans will vanish, experts said.

According to a forest official source, due to adverse effect of the Farakka salinity in the Sundarbans has increased abnormally. As a result, the Sundari trees of the Sundarbans

have been attacked with the top dying disease.

According to a recent report, for the normal growth of Sundari trees, the water must contain 12 ppt and soil must contain between 8 to 10 ppt but experimental study shows that at present water in the Sundarbans contain 28 ppt while the soil contains between 18 to 22 ppt, an amount of salt being too high for the trees to survive. In addition to this, fresh growth of Sundari trees have been greatly threatened due to this salinity, the experts observed.

According to the concerned sources, despite government ban on cutting of Sundari trees from the compartment with effect from 1989 with a view to keeping ecological balance, cutting of these variety of trees

from different compartments could not be stopped. As reported by the concerned official sources, generally the Sundari trees attacked by top dying disease are being cut down and extracted.

For prevention of this injurious top dying disease, a team led by Dr Gibson conducted a research in 1985 under Forest Research Centre Chittagong but he could not identify specific cause of this disease for prevention of top dying disease in the forest. He advised to cut off the trees already attacked with top-dying disease.

According to Dr Gibson, repeated natural calamities, excessive salinity and massive siltation in and around the forest could be the cause of top dying disease.

As per recommendations put forward by Dr Gibson since

1991-92 financial year about 30 lakh cubic feet Sundari trees affected by the disease, from compartments of 32, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 under 55 coups of the Sundarbans have so far been cut off.

According to a survey conducted in 1956 by the Forest Department, it revealed that the Sundari trees covered 60 per cent of the total area of the Sundarbans. In 1983, the percentage of Sundari trees decreased to 53 and it further decreased to 50 per cent in 1994.

As informed by the same concerned sources, still there are thousands of top dying diseased Sundari trees in Shyamnagar Range, Nalian Range, Chandpai Range and Khulna Range of the Sundarbans.

UGC donates Tk 15 lakh to install computer in all university offices

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 14: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has donated some Tk 15 lakh to Rajshahi University to install computer in all offices of the university.

This information was disclosed by Prof M Eusuff Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University last Sunday at a press conference held at his official residence.

Vice-Chancellor said the process to implement the project will soon start.

Dacoity committed, one arrested in Chandraghona

From CHT Correspondent
CHANDRAGHONA (Rangamati), Aug 14: A dacoity was committed in the house of a returned from abroad last Sunday night, at East Kodala-Khandakata village in Chandraghona thana of the district, police sources said.

A gang of bandits with lethal arms numbering about 10-12 entered into the house of Yasin Miah by breaking the door of the house suddenly in the dead night and assaulted the inmates of the house mercilessly, police quoted the FIR as saying.

The bandits looted away cash, gold ornaments and valuables worth over Taka one lakh creating a region of terror in the house, FIR added.

Yasin worked in the middle-east and returned home recently.

Chandraghona thana police rounded up a person, identified as Nurul Islam in this connection police added.

Workers Party leader, his wife brutally murdered

MEHERPUR, Aug 14: A local leader of Workers Party and his wife were killed by the miscreants at Juginda in sadar thana on August 4, reports UNB.

According to police, an armed gang numbering about 40 attacked Rafiqul Islam, 35, and his wife Nasima when they were gossiping in front of their house at 9 pm. Sensing the arrival of the gang while trying to flee away Rafiq was caught by them.

The miscreants shot Nasima to death first and slaughtered her husband on the spot.

After the murder, the terrorists left the spot raising slogans in favour of outlawed Purbia Bangla Communist Party, police added.

A case was filed with the police.

Timber worth Tk 18 lakh confiscated in CHT

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 14: Authorities have recovered about 2,500 cubic feet (CFT) of valuable timbers worth about Taka 18 lakh from different places in the district, rounded up five persons and seized five trucks in these connections, within last seven days till Sunday, officials said.

A quantity of 1,200 cft of valuable timbers worth about Taka nine lakh loaded in four trucks was recovered from Alutilla and Matiranga areas of the district in a surprise raid led Sunday night by the Deputy Commissioner of the District Mohammad Ismail.

The timbers loaded in the trucks were being transited at night violating the restriction imposed recently by the district administration in a bid to contain the illegal extraction of forest products.

The trucks seized in connection with alleged illegal transit of timbers were Chatta Metro TA-020784, Chatta Metro TA-9712, Chatta Metro TA-020505 and Feni TA-020120.

The drivers and the helpers assigned to the trucks seized reportedly managed to escape. The timbers and the trucks were handed over to police for taking necessary action as per rule. Deputy Commissioner said.

Forest officials of Jamtali Forest Check and Tolls Station of Rangamati Jhoom Control Division, stationed at Jamtali

in Dighinala thana of the district have recovered about 300 cft of valuable teak timber worth over 2.5 lakh, seized a truck and arrested four persons while passing illegally through the check post on Friday last, August 9. The illicitors rounded up while were in a bid to hoodwink the forest officials by loading the truck with timbers under the cover of banana, officials said.

The timbers recovered were illegally extracted from the government reserved forest by an organised group of illicitors.

Hawker robbed of Tk 3 thousand in Baghaichhari

From CHT Correspondent

BAGHAICHHARI, Rangamati, Aug 14: A cloth hawker was reportedly robbed of his commodity and cash allegedly by a group of armed tribal youths at Marishya in Baghaichhari thana of the district on Sunday evening.

A group of armed tribal youths allegedly snatched away a bale of cloth and Taka three thousand in cash from a hawker at gun-point at Marishya while he was returning from there after day-long hawking, Baghaichhari thana police said.

A case was lodged in this connection, sources added.

When contacted the Divisional Forest Officers of Rangamati Jhoom Control Division, M Altaf Hussain Khan told this correspondent that he had requested the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari hill district not to grant early bail to the arrested person and seized trucks to enable in containing the illegal extraction of forest products from the government reserved forest.

The arrested persons were sent to Khagrachhari jail hazat, confiscating the recovered timbers, sources said.

Meanwhile, members of the Bangladesh Rifles stationed at Polashpur in Matiranga thana of the district have recovered 400 cft of Indian smuggled timbers, found abandoned at Shantipur of the same thana, on August 7 last, officials said.

One person, identified as, Dulal was rounded up in this connection, sources added.

Earlier, on August 5 last the members of Bangladesh Rifles stationed at Jaminipara in Matiranga thana of the district also recovered another 400 cft of valuable teak smuggled from India. The timbers recovered were stacked at jungles of Tabalchhari and Kadamtali in the same thana of the district.

No body was arrested in this connection.

The timbers were handed over to Matiranga forest range for taking necessary action.



BTMC's International Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Manufacturers/Indentors/Suppliers for the supply, installation and commissioning of Brand New Machinery (Ring Spinning Frames) of latest technology against the following International Tenders on FOB(c) & C&F(c) Chittagong liner terms basis against Cash Resources (under ADP)/SEM. The tender in question to be submitted on 2(two) Envelope system. One for Technical Offer & another for Price Offer. The Technical Offers will be opened first and after Technical Evaluation, Financial Offers of the Technically qualified Offers will be opened only and the rest Financial Offers shall be returned unopened. The Tender schedule along with the detailed terms & conditions, requirement, technical specifications etc can be obtained from the Chief Accountant, BTMC Head Office, Dhaka on Cash Payment of Tk 500/- per set (Non-refundable) on all working days. The tender is scheduled to be closed on 23-9-96 at 12-00 Noon and the same will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM. No tender schedule will be sold on the closing date. In case of any technical query related to the tenders the prospective bidders may contact the Chief Engineer (Maintenance), BTMC, Dhaka. BTMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sl No	Tender No	Name of the Mills
1.	530 : BMR(E)/96-97/RE/Dinajpur	Dinajpur Textile Mills.
2.	530 : BMR(E)/96-97/RE/Kokil	Kokil Textile Mills.
3.	530 : BMR(E)/96-97/RE/Rangamati.	Rangamati Textile Mills.

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S A Momin

General Manager (Proct)

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed Tenders Inviting in BD Form No. 2911

- Tender Notice No : 04/RDD of 1996-97.
- Name of work : Making hard shoulder at 13th KM to 18th KM of Banani-Tongi-Joydehpur in 2(two) groups during the year 1996-97 (Ch to 168-RBF).
- Estimated Cost : As per group list.
- Earnest Money : As per group list.
- Eligibility of contr : As per group list.
- Time allowed : As per group list.
- Name of offices of availability of tender documents : Office of the Ex Engr (RHD), Road Divn. Dhaka/Manikganj/Munshiganj/Narsingdi/Narayanganj/Gazipur/Planning Divn (R&B), Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/Planning & Design Divn Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/ SDE (RHD), Road Sub-Divn I/II Kallyanpur, Dhaka.
- Name of Officers to receive tender bids : SE DRC, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/SE Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/SE, Monitoring and Evaluation Circle (P&D) Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/Ex Engr (RHD), Road Divn Dhaka/ SDE (RHD), Road Sub-Divn I/II/Kallyanpur, Dhaka.
- Last date & time selling tender : 27.8.96 during office hours.
- Last date of receipt of tender : Up to 12.30 PM on 28.8.96.
- Date & time of prepa- : At 12.45 PM on 28.8.96 (The sealed envelopes shall not be opened by the respective receiving offices. Those will be opened in this office after collecting all the tender papers from all receiving offices on 31.8.96).
- Date of Lottery : 1.9.96 at 11.00 AM on this Divn office.
- Group list of work:

Gr No	Name of work with location	Estimated Cost Tk	Earnest Money Tk	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
I.	At 13th KM to 15th KM of BTJ Road	Tk 99,71,668/-	Tk 1,99,434/= in BD/TC/ NDS certificate in fav of EE (RHD), Road Divn Dhaka from any scheduled bank	75 (Seventy five) days	'A' to 'B' class enlisted contractor of RHD of general category.
II.	At 16th KM to 18th KM of BTJ Road	Tk 99,71,668/-	Tk 1,99,434/= -do-	-do-	-do-

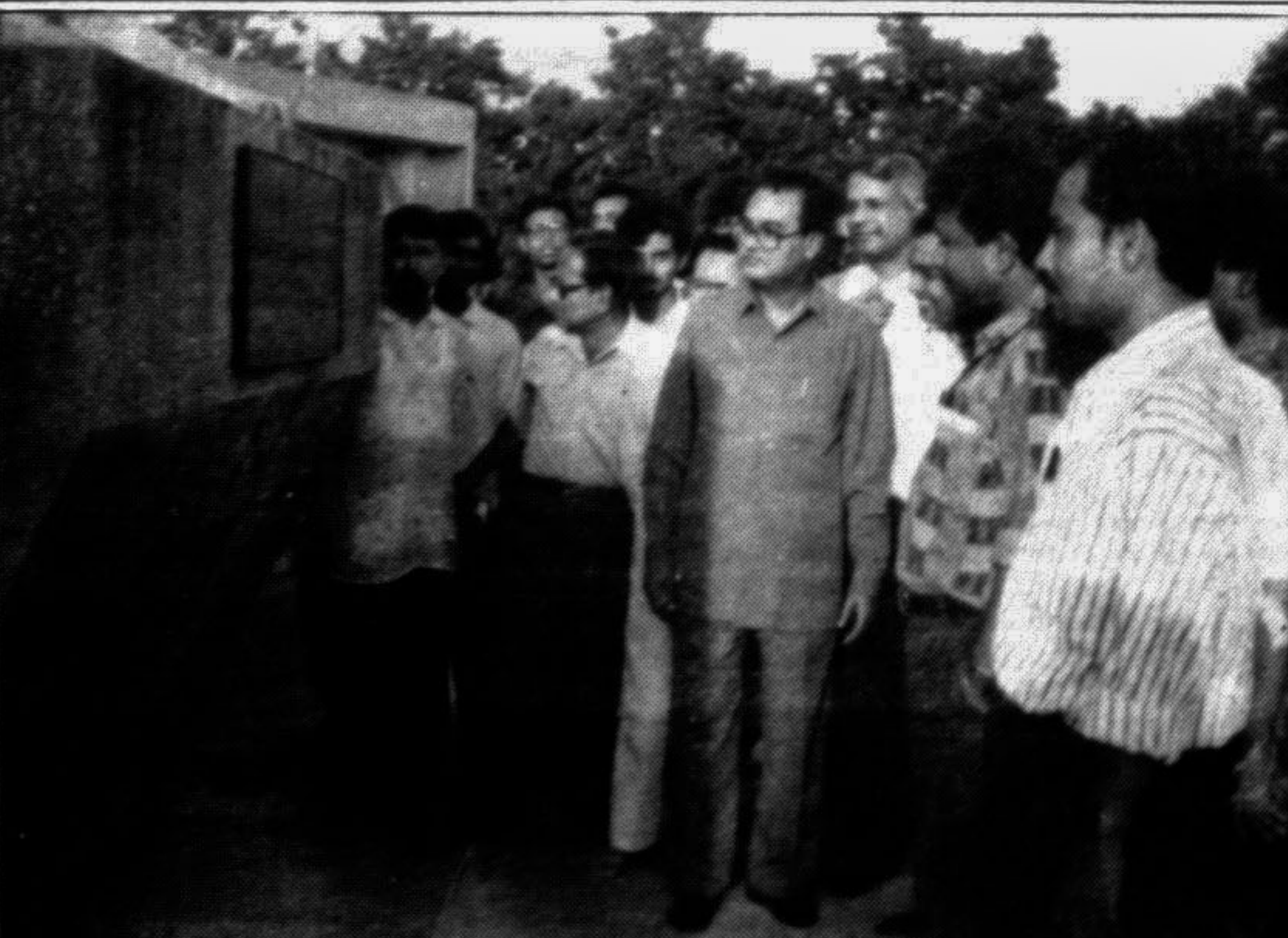
Fakhrul Alam Talukder

Executive Engineer (RHD)

Dhaka Road Divn Banani, Dhaka

DFP-17727-12/8

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RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: RU VC Prof M Eusuff Ali apprising the journalists at the altar of 'Shabash Bangladesh' that the nameplate of the sculpture remains intact on August 4 last. Recently a section of newsmen reported that the nameplate was broken.

— Star photo