

FOCUS

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Fifth Prosecution Witness

Defence counsels continued cross-examination Naeb Subedar (ret'd) Abdul Gani, prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, on Wednesday, July 7.

Following are excerpts from cross-examination by state defence for absconding accused Defadar (ret'd) Marfat Ali:

Q: Your duty was supposed to be completed at 6 am. Why did you want to hand over the charge one hour before?

A: Nayeb Subedar Abul Moteb told us in the night that Bangabandhu would go to university on the following morning. So he asked us to hand over the charge one hour before.

Q: Where did you meet Captain Abul Bashir at 11 am on August 15?

A: He had come to the house of Bangabandhu before the Jumma prayers. I met him there.

Q: Did Captain Bashir ask you to file an FIR?

A: No, he didn't.

Q: Didn't you feel the necessity of filing an FIR?

A: No, I didn't as I was not an heir of that house.

Cross-examination by advocate Krishnapada Bhoomik, state defence for absconding accused Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin:

Q: Did you make any statement to police before giving deposition to the court?

A: I made a statement to IO of this case.

Q: What do you mean by the word IO?

A: Police investigator of this case.

Q: Did the IO go to you or

you went to him?

A: I went to him after I was informed by police.

Q: What did he want to know from you?

A: He wanted to know what had happened at the house of Bangabandhu.

Q: Was it not enough to describe the incidents that occurred at that house from 4 am to 7 am on August 15?

A: He wanted to know everything that happened until I went to Comilla after the incident.

Q: You did not come from Pakistan army on leave, rather you fled and never joined Bangladesh army.

A: This is not true.

Q: You couldn't recognise the attackers as they were masked with black clothes.

A: Not correct.

Q: You didn't know any army officer named Mohiuddin.

A: I knew him. Mohiuddin of the Lancer had briefed us on our duties at Ganobhaban.

Q: You gave a false witness against him.

A: Not true.

Examination by advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence for absconding accused Major (ret'd) Shariful Haq Dalim:

Q: To whom you had surrendered the weapon used during the Liberation War?

A: Lt Col Gias saheb.

Q: When were you promoted to havildar?

A: In March, 1972.

Q: Was Subedar Major Abdul Wahab Joardar an officer of your 105-men company?

A: He was not an officer of our company.

Q: Who had come to the house of the President from 6 am on August 14 to 6 am on the following day?

A: I didn't see any outsider when I was on duty. I didn't see any civilian coming there.

Q: Did you see you renowned personalities from home or abroad during the time?

A: I didn't see anyone excepting those who had come for the killings.

Q: You mentioned that two force personnel were killed on the day. Can you mention their names?

A: Killed Shamsuddin and injured Mofazzal.

Q: When were you promoted to nayeb subedar?

A: 1.1.1976.

Q: You were awarded the promotion for your role in the incident on August 15?

A: This is not true.

Q: Who did discharge the charge of one field regiment in absence of the CO?

A: The next senior officer.

Q: If he was not available?

A: The next senior officer.

Q: Is it called the chain of command?

A: Yes.

Q: Who did command the company in absence of Captain Bashir?

A: Subedar Gani saheb.

Q: Obeying orders of any officer outside your company is the violation of rule.

A: We were used to carry out the orders of any senior officer if he came.

Examination by the state defence for absconding accused Lt (ret'd) Nazmul Hossain Ansari:

Q: When did you join the Liberation War?

A: I can't recall the exact date.

Q: When did Captain Bazul Huda come to Dhaka?

A: I don't know the accurate date. However, it was after Major Shariful Haq Dalim was out from the service.

Q: When was Major Dalim out from the service?

A: I can't remember the date, but before Bangabandhu was killed.

Q: Did you receive any bullet wound during the incident?

A: No.

Examination by state defence for absconding accused Capt (ret'd) Kismat Hashem:

Q: Was there any rule under which you had to stay even after handing over your charge to the next man?

A: No. We left the place after handing over the charge.

Q: Then why did you stay there after handing over the charge to Havildar Quddus?

A: I couldn't hand over the charge.

(This concluded cross-examination by state defence).

Cross-examination of PW 5 Naeb Subedar Abdul Gani by Abdur Razzak Khan, defence counsel for Hon Capt (ret'd) Abdul Wahab Joardar.

Q: You live in village. Do you read newspapers?

A: Not regularly.

Q: Did you learn that

Bangabandhu murder case is to be filed?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you discuss with other guards at the CID office where and how to make deposition?

A: On being informed, I gave my statement at the CID office.

Q: Those of you claiming as guards who had been posted at the Bangabandhu's residence did not discuss among yourselves.

A: No.

Q: Havildar Quddus lives at Mirpur section-13 and he has a house there.

A: I don't know.

Q: How did CID come to know that you were a guard at the Bangabandhu's residence?

A: How can I say anything about which I have no knowledge.

Q: When you came to Dhaka to join the duty at Bangabandhu's residence, did you bring your ammunition from Comilla or those were supplied from Dhaka Cantonment?

A: The NCO in charge of ammunition brought those from Comilla and he also came along with us to Dhaka.

Q: Was the NCO in charge of ammunition under Ali Ansari, the CO in Comilla?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you ever fired? Do you have any experience about ammunition?

A: I've fired many a time — during training, test firing and during the War of Liberation, but I don't have experience about ammunition because that's a technical matter.

Q: Do you have experience about firing?

A: Yes.

Q: When ammunition were distributed to individual soldiers as per army rule, you need to take the ammunition signing on a register.

A: We need to put signatures on the register whenever we receive ammunition.

Q: Did you say to the IO that you had 1,000 rounds of bullet with you on the day of occurrence?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you say to the IO that the ammunition were kept in the guard room at the Bangabandhu's house and never taken to Road-31?

A: At this stage, the prosecution side raised objection saying that there cannot be any cross on the cross-examination.

Q: Did you tell the IO that you narrated the incident to Capt Bashir and Subedar Moteb on August 15 morning?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: How many magazines remain with each guards on duty?

A: One magazine remain fixed with the arms, but ammunition kept in pocket.

Q: Each guards have twenty bullets with them.

A: No, each guards have 10 rounds of bullet with them.

Q: At the time of incident, you were in total eight people. How many were there till 6 am on August 15?

A: All eight of us were together till 5 am on August 15, but one went inside the Bangabandhu's house out of fear

when the firing started.

Q: Naik Afzal Hossain was in charge of distribution of ammunition at the road-31 camp.

A: Yes, he was in charge of distribution and also used to take deposit.

Q: You have said that Subedar Major Abdul Wahab Joardar came at around 4:15 am and the situation was clam at that time.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you tell him that the ammunition were new and those were issued from Comilla only 14/15 days back?

A: I didn't tell him that. He wanted the ammunition and said he would replace those by new ones.

Q: He (Joardar) took the ammunition about an hour before the firing started. Did you contact Naik Afzal for ammunition before the incident?

A: I didn't do so and also didn't feel it necessary as he (Joardar) had said that he would replace the ammunition.

Q: You've seen the policemen performing their duty normally at their posts during the time of incident.

A: Yes.

Q: Where you were on duty as havildar?

A: At the main gate, on the southern side.

Q: You were at that gate until the firing began. Who was with you?

A: I was there till 5 am and sepoy Rustam Ali was with me.

Q: Who was on duty at the northern gate?

A: There was a sentry post on the northern side of the house and one sentry was on duty there.

Q: You joined your duty at 6 pm on August 14.

A: I joined the duty at 6 am on August 14.

Q: Your duty went like this: four hours duty and four hours rest. On this count, you were resting from 2 am till 6 am on August 15.

A: There was nothing rigid. We used to make the duty arrangement among ourselves.

Q: You were in rest from 2 am till 6 am on August 15.

A: No, I was not resting. After going to duty, we the guard commanders used to make self-arrangement of our duties. From 6 pm till 10 pm on August 14, I was on duty; from 10 pm till 2 am, I was in rest; and from 2 am till 6 am (August 15), again I was on duty.

Q: There was no coordination between the police and army guards.

A: There was joint responsibility.

Q: Did you inform the DSP of police or the SB officer that Joardar had taken away the ammunition.

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you tell Capt Bashir, Naik Subedar Moteb, or ammunition in charge Naik Afzal or anyone else that Joardar had taken away the ammunition.

A: I reported to all of them.

Q: Did you inform them verbally?

A: Yes.

Q: It is a tale concocted by you that Joardar came to check the guards and took away the ammunition. He (Joardar) was not authorised to go there or to take away ammunition from

the places.

Q: Did you seek any help from the police during or after the firing?

A: I was confined in the guard room, so I did not have the scope.

Q: Did you seek police help after you came out from the guard room?

A: Coming out of the guard room, I did not see any policemen.

Q: Police fled passing by the guard room. Which way they fled?

A: I didn't see the police as I was inside the guard room.

Q: What type of arms were carried by the Lancers who confined you?

A: Rifles.

Q: What type of rifle?

A: Can't say.

Q: You were not on duty during the incident.

A: It is not true.

Q: You fled away before the police did and it was Capt Bashir who brought you back from different places before the jumma prayer.

A: Not true.

Q: You didn't hand over charge to Quddus because he did not come.

A: Quddus came, but I couldn't hand over the charge to him.

Q: You're making a false statement against Joardar as the guards did not perform their duty and you also didn't open fire. Also, you have concealed the register and all other related documents.

A: Not true.

Cross-examination by advocate TM Akbar, defence counsel for Col (LPR) Muhiuddin:

Q: How many JCOs and NCOs were there in the 25-member group that came from Comilla?

A: The NCOs were — I, nayek Gani, havildar Quddus, nayek Jalil, nayek Hafizur Rahman and nayek Afzal. There was only one JCO — nayeb subedar Abdul Moteb.

Q: Where the rest sepoy?

A: Yes.

Q: How many?

A: Take the count.

Q: This is not I who will count, you are to do it.

A: 19 sepoy.

Q: Besides security personnel at the sentry posts and the guard room, there was also regular patrol.

A: Yes.

Q: By army?

A: Yes, by the army.

Q: When did the patrolling start and end?

A: From 6 pm to 6 am.

Q: How many hours between 6 pm and 6 am?

A: 12 hours.

Q: How many patrol groups were there?

A: Three.

Q: How many personnel in a group?

A: Two to three.

Q: Where did they give patrol duty?

A: Around the house of Bangabandhu. They also went upto Ganobhaban.

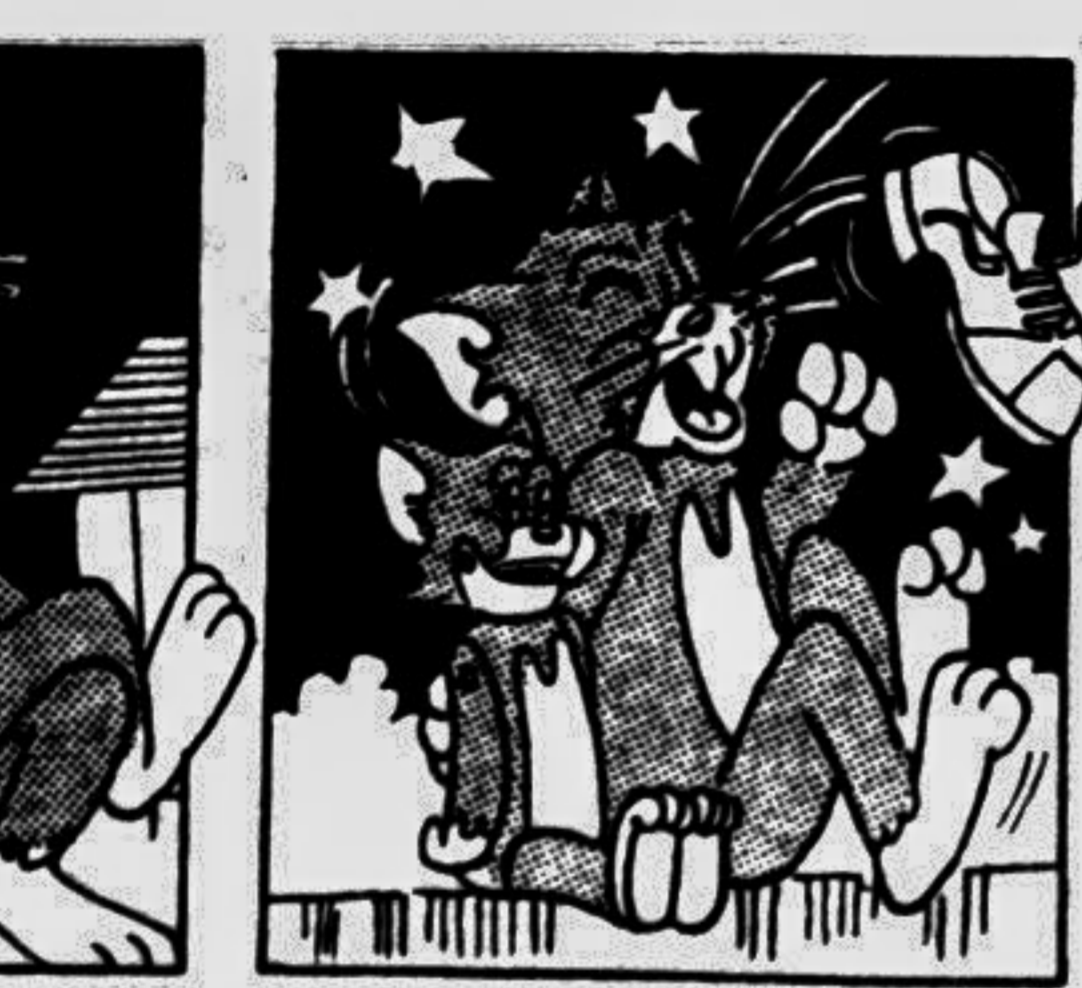
— UNB

Verbatim texts of further cross examinations shall be published as and when they are received.

Tom and Jerry



James Bond



Metropolitan



Study on crop damage says

Dependence on flood-season crops should be reduced

Dependence on flood-season crop should be reduced in the country's very high and severe crop damage areas to avoid the magnitude of damage caused by floodings every year, reports UNB.

This was recommended by a study on crop damage in flood, which also suggested increased cultivation of dry-season crops along with crop-diversification and adequate government assistance for farmers to promote it.

The study on Flood Plain Zoning Based on Analysis of Flood Damage to Agricultural Production was carried out under the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Study Project.

A team of the Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), led by Mir Shahidul Islam, presented the study report at a two-day seminar that concluded here on Wednesday.

It was found that "high, very high, and severe crop damage areas" are located on both banks of the river Jamuna, on both banks of Padma at downstream at the confluence of Padma-Jamuna, and on the bank of Old Brahmaputra.

The research was conducted among all types of small, medium and big farmers in 10 thanas of Manikganj and Kurigram districts where crop damage in flood is a regular feature.

It identified the areas of different types of crop damage, that is relevant to national and regional level priority areas for agricultural development.

The study assessed micro-level crop damage due to flood of various magnitude and suggested mitigating measures with appropriate agricultural practices to withstand flood risks.

There was an overwhelming response among farmers to increase cultivated areas in the cropping season subsequent to

BNP promoting communal forces: Amu

Awami League presidium member Amir Hussain Amu yesterday criticised the main opposition BNP for promoting the anti-independence and communal forces to destabilise the country's democratic process "now wants to return to power toppling the elected government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by any heinous means and to do that they are trying to use religion as a weapon," he said while addressing a rally of MuktiJoddha Punarban Sangstha at the national Press Club auditorium, reports BSS.

But, Amu said, their evil efforts would lay no egg as people of the country know what is the purpose behind their campaign.

"They (the people) are a religious minded but they understand it very well who is using the religion for what... they know to what they should respond and to what they should not," he said.

A K M Zahangir, MP, attended the function as the special guest while Iqbal-e-Kamal, president of the organisation, was in the chair.

Amu said those who were in power in the past 21 years tried to destroy the spirit of the independence war by dividing the pro-liberation forces and reorganising the anti-independence quarters through state patronisation.

'Ruposhi Bangla' photo exhibition begins in Kathmandu Aug 9

By Staff Correspondent

A 13-member team of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) leaves today for Kathmandu, where a three-day photo exhibition — 'Ruposhi Bangla' — will begin tomorrow under the aegis of the association.

Prem Bahadur Bhandari, Minister for Agriculture of Nepal, will inaugurate the exhibition, while Mohiuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal, will be the special guest, says a press release.

The team will also visit Calcutta, where the same exhibition will be held.

Mohammad Salahuddin, president of the association, will lead the team and its general secretary A K M Mohsin will coordinate the visit.

Other members of the team are: Aftab Ahmed, Nuruddin Ahmed Nuru, Sheikh Enamul Huq Enam, Shahabul Hossain, Asaduzzaman Asad, Abdul Wasey Ansari, Shaifuddin Ahmed, Bitu, Mahbub Hossain Khan Nabin, Mir Mohiuddin Sohan, Nurunnabi Robi and Mohammad Sanaul Huq.

Directive to bring offices of R&H directorate under computer network

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Wednesday directed the chief engineer of Roads and Highways (R&H) Directorate to bring its district and divisional offices under computer network and extend the network up to Sarak Bahan and the Ministry, reports BSS.

The minister gave the directives during his visit to the modern technological system at the highway design maintenance circle of the directorate, an official handout said.

Expressing his satisfaction at the making of modern road map through geographical information system and computer system, the communications minister said this data collection and its preservation should be improved and modernised.

He also directed to build a new building equipped with all modern technologies to speed up the activities and quick implementation of foreign aided projects.

Banking sector plays significant role: Razzak

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak has said the banking sector is playing a significant role in economic and industrial development of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing the inaugural function of the newly elected central council of Sonali Bank Officers' Welfare Association at the BCCI auditorium yesterday.

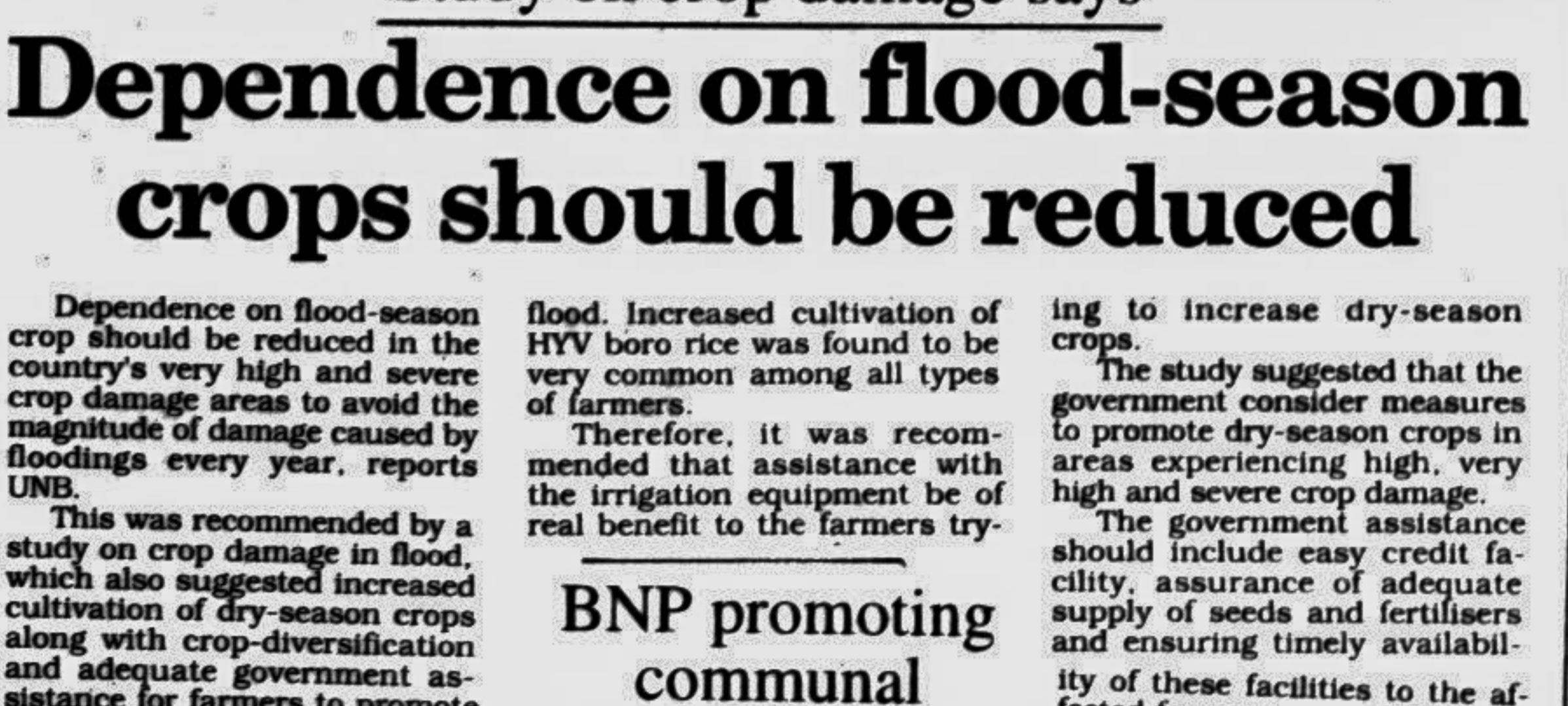
The minister urged all concerned to help restore fairness and discipline in the sector to make it dynamic and profitable.

Emphasising the need for loan recovery, he asked the banking authorities to monitor whether the bank loans are being used in development projects or not.

Razzak instructed the bank officers and employees to help implement the reform programmes in the banking sector undertaken by the Awami League government.

Among others, Sonali Bank MD Khondaker Ibrahim Khondaker addressed function. Association president Shamsul Huq presided.

Amra MuktiJoddha



A 13-member team of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association leaves for Kathmandu today. —Star photo

HERE and THERE

Amra MuktiJoddha

"Amra MuktiJoddha", a new organisation of the freedom fighters, emerged yesterday with formation of a 45-member central committee headed by BSCIC Chairman Md Abdus Samad, reports BSS.

Director of the Family Planning Directorate Md Habibur Rahman and secretary of the BSCIC Md Badruzzaman Mia, Bir Pratic, were elected secretary general and treasurer respectively of the new organisation.

The committee was formed for two years at a meeting held at the conference room of BSCIC, the press release said. The committee will identify neglected and deprived freedom fighters who were living in far-flung areas of the country and take up programmes for their proper rehabilitation, the press release added.

The committee will also work for upholding the spirit of the War of Liberation to the new generations of the country.

ACI Animal Health, Dabor Ayurved

A workshop on use of ayurvedic products in veterinary treatment was held at Planning and Development Academy Monday, reports UNB.

Director General of Livestock Directorate Dr Qazi Abdul Fattah inaugurated the workshop, jointly organised by ACI Animal Health and Dabor Ayurved.

It was also addressed by sales manager of ACI Animal Health Dr Selimul Haq Siddiqui and Director of ACI Agrobusiness FH Asari.

UNESCO

A senior UNESCO specialist, Rupert Maclean, chief of Asia Pacific Centre of Educational Innovation for Development, conducted a two-day workshop for the faculty members of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), last week. It was held at BRAC's Centre for Development Management (CDM) at Rajendrapur in

Report

A two day workshop on Total Quality Management (TQM) began Wednesday at a local restaurant. Sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited, the workshop will be conducted by Dr Jamshed Hassan Khan, Associate Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and an expert of TQM, says a press release.

The workshop is being participated by 20 senior managers representing Rupantarika Prakritik Gas Ltd, Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitaryware Factory, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Renata Limited, BIWTA, AVSC, Al-Baraka Bank, Rahimafroz Batteries Limited, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Petro-bangla, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd.

New committee of C' Nawabganj BNP formed

A new convening committee of BNP's Chapainawabganj district unit has been formed with Syed Manjur Hossain MP as its convener, reports UNB.

M Shahjahan Mia MP and Harunur Rashid MP have been made joint convenors of the committee.

The committee has been asked to hold councils of thana and poura committees and form an executive committee for the district unit by three months, said a party press release here yesterday.