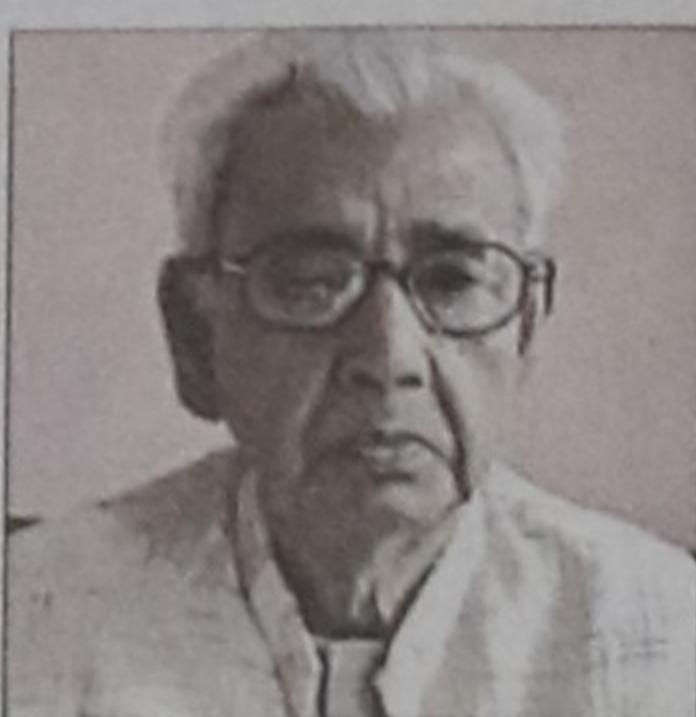


Language hero Ziaul says youths can change nation

HOSSAIN SERAJ, *Magura*

Language movement veteran Khan Ziaul Huq at eighty now works to contribute to nation-building and still dreams that Bangla will be used in every sphere of national life in near future. He also likes to dream a better future for the nation.

"I firmly believe that the new generation will be able to free the country from illiteracy, poverty, exploitation, corruption, anarchy and militancy", said Huq, a life-long dedicated teacher and social worker while talking to The Daily Star.

Octogenarian Huq is vice-President of Patient Welfare Association, life member of Red Crescent Society, an executive committee member of Magura Foundation.

One of the student leaders of the Language Movement, Huq has kept his home town Magura pulsating with life by his energetic presence and endless dreams for about fifty years.

Now in his old age, he feels pained at the state of anarchy he sees around him. But he still believes in the 'power of youths' who will definitely bring about

proper use may save 30 lakh MT urea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Agriculture experts at a workshop here yesterday said proper utilisation of urea fertiliser can cut agricultural expenditure by about Tk 630 crore as it would save 3 lakh tonnes tons of urea. Besides, rice production will increase by 30 lakh tonnes annually by proper utilisation of urea.

They said, improper use of urea is gradually damaging soil fertility, reducing the gradual increase in production and creating scope for pest attack, which also poses threats on human health.

The workshop on Popularising Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) and Using proper Urea' was held at NCDP Training Centre. The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) organised it.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Shaiful Alam attended the programme as chief guest. Rajshahi regional DAE additional director Abdul Matin presided over.

Dr Abu Taher, chief scientific officer, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute presented the keynote paper while the district DAE deputy director Braja Hari Das, training officer Rustom Ali Mondol spoke at the inaugural session.

JMB 'second in command' in Tangail arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

An alleged cadre of Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) was arrested in Tangail Saturday night.

Basail police, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Shahjahan Miah at Habla village and arrested his son Habibur Rahman Habib, 25, an alleged JMB cadre, police said yesterday.

Police claimed that Habib is the second-in-command of JMB's Tangail district unit and also cousin of absconding JMB commander Younus Miah, who was given death sentence in Netrokona bomb blast case recently, our Tangail Correspondent reports.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Basail police station Abul Khair told The Daily Star that arrested Habib is an accused in two cases filed with Paltan police station in Dhaka and

Habib was absconding after the bomb blast incidents, he added.

Habib was being quizzed at Basail Police Station when the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

Baukul: The man behind farmers' fortune

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

Baukul, a wonder fruit, is now an agricultural buzzword and promises fortune for farmers. But few people know about them behind it.

Many farmers in different areas of the country earned fabulous amounts by raising small Baukul gardens, which were reported in the media. Among them, Moiz Uddin of Pabna expects to earn over Tk one crore from his 80 bigha garden raised on leased lands.

But neither the government nor any NGO bothered to honour the two scientists who innovated the fruit after nine years' research and opened the door of prosperity for poor farmers. Baukul may be an export item, traders involved in it said.

The project was initiated by Prof Dr AM Faruq and Prof Dr MA Rahim at the Germ Plama Center of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in 1999.

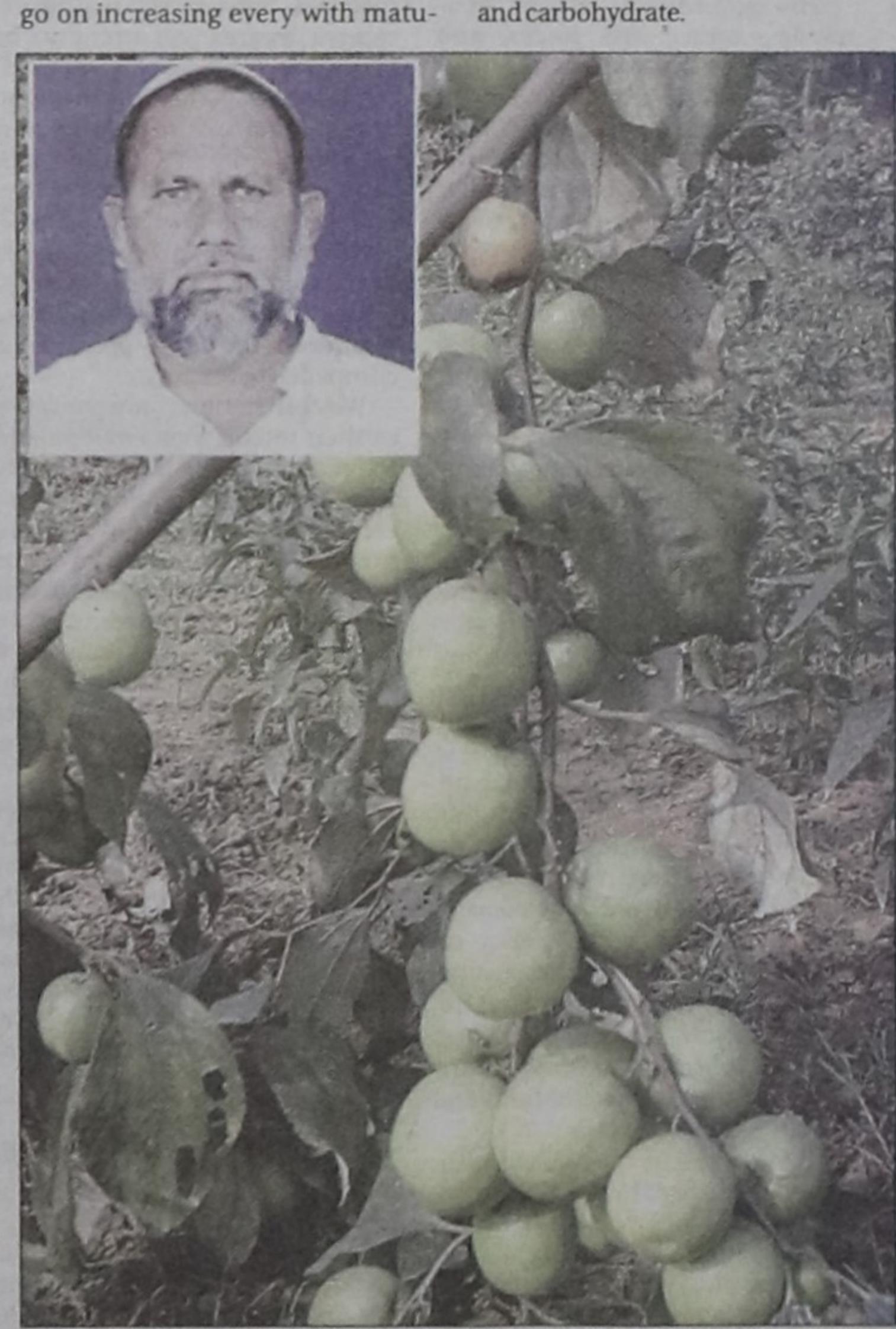
The tremendous success later brought agriculture experts from India, Pakistan, US, Germany, South Korea, Denmark, Japan, Sri Lanka and Nepal who visited the project.

After a long research from 1999 to 2003, they developed a new variety of Kul. As the research became successful, they conducted 'adaptation trials' in different districts through government and some non-government organisations.

After successful adaptation trial, National Seed Board registered the fruit as FTIP BAU Kul-1 in 2005, said Md. Shamsul Alam Mithu, senior research associate who is working with Dr. Rahim since 2000.

Dr Rahim said, they collected local varieties of Kul from different parts of the country and also from the Philippines, Somalia, Taiwan, Thailand and India. Baukul variety was evolved through tissue culture and named after Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

The fruit can be harvested



Prof Dr MA Rahim (inset) and the baukul developed by him.

8 cops punished in Barisal in three weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Police authorities have taken disciplinary actions against eight police personnel under Barisal range on various charges including that of corruption within three weeks of the current month, sources in the office of the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police said.

The actions included arrest, suspension, issuance of show cause notice and closure order.

They are Barisal superintendent of police (SP) Towfig M a h b u b C h o w d h u r y, Shakiluzaman, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Jhalakati Sadar circle, Saiful Islam, ASP of Kalapara circle of Patuakhali and Rezaul Huq, district inspector of Barisal, K M Anwar Amir, sub-inspector (SI) and second officer of Patuakhali Sadar police station, Torki police camp-in-charge and sub-inspector (ASI) Mokhtar Hossain, Nayer Bachchu Mia and constable Rafiqul Islam Raju of the same camp in Gournadi upazila.

Barisal superintendent of police (SP) Towfig Mahbub Chowdhury was asked to show cause for negligence in duty as head of the examination committee.

When asked, Patuakhali SP Asrafur Rahman confirmed the incident.

But, DIG Aminul Islam only said the actions were taken against some policemen as per directives of police headquarters.

Akhaura GRP OC closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bhola*

A police official has been closed to Chittagong range for his negligence in duty.

Md Muklesur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Government Railway Police (GRP), Akhaura railway junction, was closed on Saturday.

When contacted, Railway superintendent of police (SP) Nibas Chandra Mazi confirmed the incident, but declined to elaborate.

However, other sources claimed that the OC might have been closed for alleged involvement in Phensidyl smuggling.

Vested quarters plotting against Bangalis, alleges Somo Odhikar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Somo Odhikar Andolan (SOA), a platform for Bangali settlers, at a press conference at Rangamati Reporters' Unity office yesterday demanded immediate stoppage of alleged harassment and conspiracies against them in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Its leaders alleged that a vested quarter is hatching a conspiracy against Bengali people living here through destructive activities. As part of the conspiracy, they are destroying orchards in different parts of CHT.

They cited the example of three pineapple orchards destroyed by them at Choudhrami in Burighat union in Naniachar upazila. Moreover, killing, extortion and abduction are regular features in the region, they alleged.

Among others, Somo Odhikar district unit secretary Jahangir Kamal, organizing secretary Md Yunus, Parbottya Bangali Chhatra Parishad secretary Md Solaiman, Shahid Chowdhury and Piyar Ahmed Khan spoke at the press conference.

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Dr Nurul Islam, upazila live-stock officer of Juri upazila in Moulvibazar, said a laboratory to examine bird flu virus should be urgently set up at a place in eastern part of Moulvibazar district.

Every winter lakhs of birds from the cold region in the north come here and their number has recently increased in Hakaluki and Hail haors following environment-friendly steps taken by the Department of Environment (DoE).

Migratory birds are one of the carriers of bird flu virus but there is no laboratory in Moulvibazar district to conduct tests for detection of the bird flu virus, experts said.

Following detection of bird flu virus in a poultry farm in Kulaura upazila in January, people of the district are in panic of the virus.

Hakaluki Haor, one of the largest haors of the country, covers 20 thousand hectares of land in three upazilas of Sylhet district. Another big haor, Hail haor comprises areas



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Shankha River meandering through picturesque Bandarban hills fascinates tourists and nature lovers.

Army assistance speeds up CHT road development

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, *Rangamati*

Road development projects in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are progressing fast as Engineering Construction Battalions (ECBs) of Bangladesh Army are working with a few government departments and international organisations engaged in the sector.

ECB-16, ECB-17 and ECB-19 are working on road communication development programmes under the Special Work Organisation (SWO) in CHT under 18 projects for development of 462.30 km road at a cost of about Tk 39 crore.

ECB-16 is playing the pivotal role in implementing the road development projects that cover roads connecting Chittagong with three hill districts and other inter-

district roads.

Works under the projects are expected to be complete before the stipulated time in 2009, ECBs sources said, adding that two-thirds of the important project on widening and development of Chittagong-Rangamati road has already been complete.

Seventy percent work of 428 feet long Ranirhat bridge on Chittagong-Rangamati road is also complete.

ECB-16 is also implementing 'town beautification projects' in Rangamati with the financial assistance from concerned departments to promote tourism there.

ECB-17 and ECB-19 are working for implementation of road development projects in Bandarban and Khagrachhari

districts.

Development of road communication will ease marketing of agricultural products from the remote hilly areas.

Earlier huge amount of money were spent by different government departments for development of road communication in the CHT region but expected results could not be achieved allegedly due to corruption.

Meanwhile, the works of Baghaichhari-Naniarchar-Lonodu and Rajsthal-Farubarkal roads are now suspended due to unavailability of funds from the government, sources said.



A canal threatened by grabbers at Bagbari in Sylhet city.

Migratory birds in Moulvibazar pose bird flu threat

Experts say test lab is urgent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

in two upazilas of Moulvibazar and one upazila of Habiganj district. So the area sees large gathering of migratory birds in winter.

Dr Nurul Islam, upazila live-stock officer of Juri upazila in Moulvibazar, said a laboratory to examine bird flu virus should be urgently set up at a place in eastern part of Moulvibazar district.

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SCC drive soon to free streams from grabbers

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, *Sylhet*

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) has taken initiative to remove illegal structures along the banks of natural streams/canals. Besides, a number of private house owners laid the outlets of their toilets on the streams polluting the environment, the official said.

SCC secretary will receive the quotation proposals from contractors for removal of the illegal structures and reconstruction of the streams on February 26 and the contractors will have to complete their jobs of removing the illegal structures within 15 days of getting their work orders, SCC acting Chief Engineer Noor Azizur Rahman said on Saturday.

Tk 24 lakh has been sanctioned for the first phase work to remove structures along the watercourses -- Goalpara, Gavir Khal, Malnichara, Ratna Khal, Nohai Chhara, Mongoli Chhara, Kalibari, Haldi Chhara, Ghogini Chhara, Ratan Moni Khal and Basu Khal, Bhupi Chhara, Jumki Chhara and Dhopa Chhara.

Local people recovered the body at about 2:30pm. Rest of the works would be

done in phases as there is a sanction of Tk one crore in total, the SCC chief engineer said.

Grabbers erected illegal structures along the banks of the natural streams/canals. Besides, a number of private house owners laid the outlets of their toilets on the streams polluting the environment, the official said.

Due to indiscriminate grabbing, the streams have narrowed down and changed routes at places.

It worsens water logging in the city during monsoon. The SCC authorities and the district administration earlier failed to go ahead with their programme for removing the illegal structures due to political pressure during the last governments.

After the takeover of the present caretaker government following the declaration of emergency, the SCC identified several illegal structures and asked the owners to remove the occupied portion within a specific period but little response was made.

BSF returns two bodies

A CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned bodies of two Bangladeshis after a company commander level flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday.

The bodies were of Afaz Uddin, 35, son of Rahim Uddin, Ratna village under Balidangai upazila and Faruk Hossain, 25, son of Saka Ali of Rasulpur village under Kharol upazila in Dinajpur.

They were gunned down on Mondulmura border by BSF of Sonamoti camp in the early hours of Saturday.

The flag meeting was held at Mondulmura border near pillar no. 282/1-S under Balidangai upazila of Thakurgaon.

BDR then handed over the bodies to Balidangai police station, who gave them to their family members.

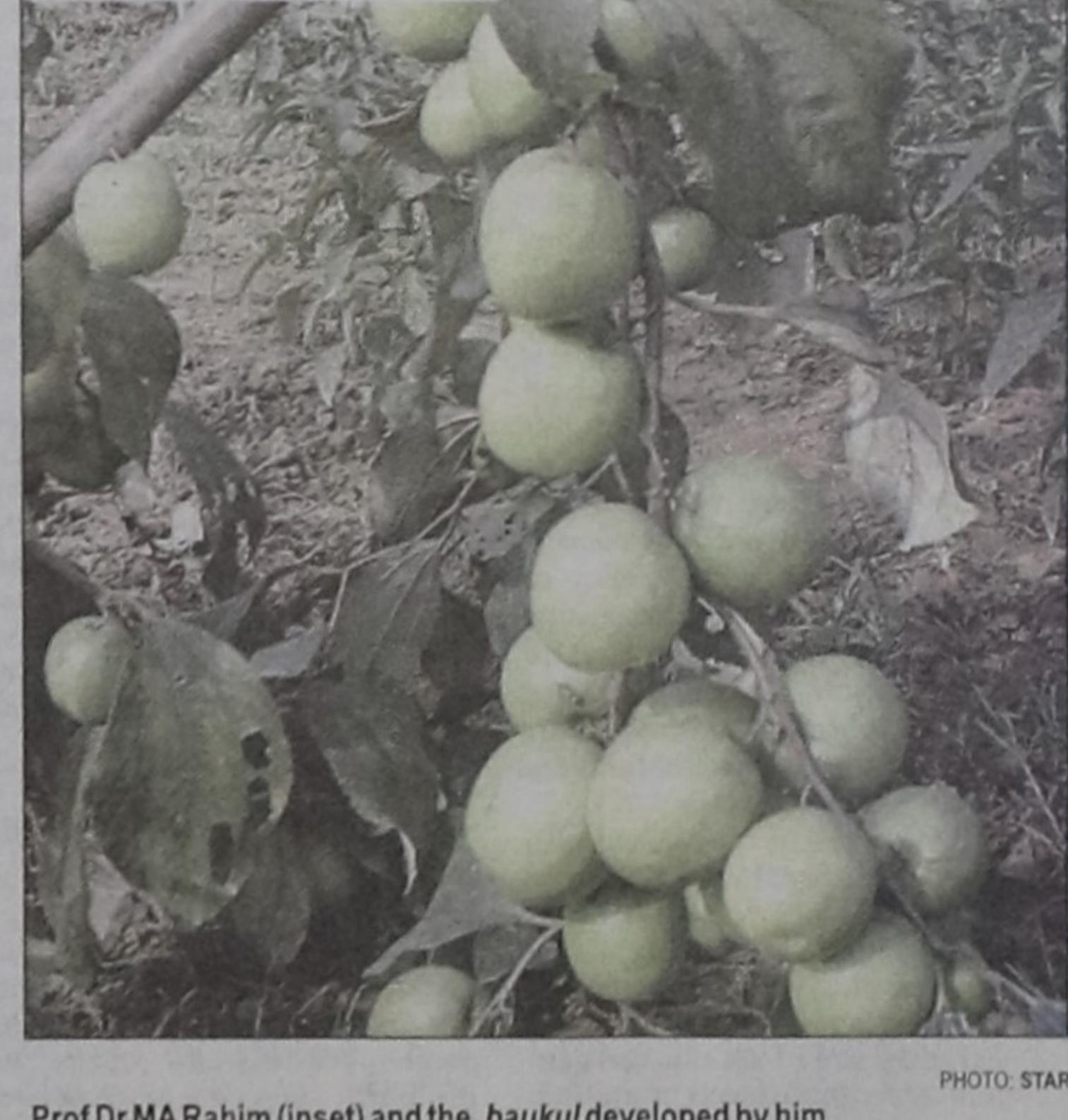


PHOTO: STAR

Prof Dr MA Rahim (inset) and the baukul developed by him.