

# Language hero Ziaul says youths can change nation

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

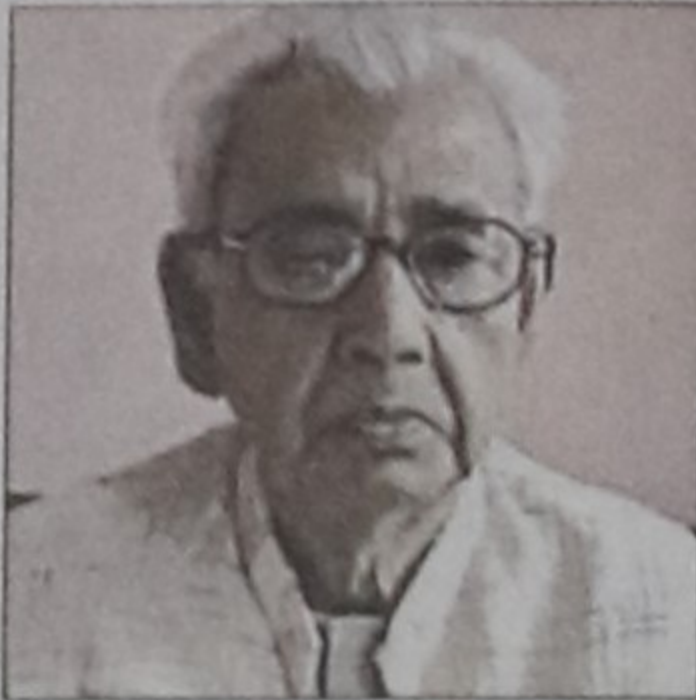
Language movement veteran Khan Ziaul Huq at eighty now works to contribute to nation-building and still dreams that Bangla will be used in every sphere of national life in near future. He also likes to dream a better future for the nation.

"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



Khan Ziaul Huq

positive changes and turn the society into a better one.

On February 21, 1952, Ziaul Huq along with another language veteran Aminul Islam Chaudhury was picked up by police when they brought out a procession from Nomani Maidan area and moved towards Chourangi Square in the town. Yet they continued to mobilise support in favour of the movement to establish 'Bengala' as the state-language of the then Pakistan.

He feels proud now because February 21 has been observed as International Mother Language Day. "Every year February 21 is

observed but no political or socio-cultural organisation look for the people who did a lot for the dignity of the mother tongue", he said. "Our new generation should be kept aware of the glorious history of the nation", he said.

After doing his B.A. from M.M. College in Jessore, Khan Ziaul Huq started his career as a journalist and joined the then Daily Azad and subsequently worked with some other dailies.

He then took to teaching profession and served Magura Model High School and Abdul Gani Academy as assistant headmaster and headmaster respectively.

Latter, with help of local people, he founded several educational institutions like Adarsha Degree College, Dud Mallick Girls High School and Profulla Chandra Ayurvedic Medical College.

He has also been involved with local Lalitkala Academy, Shilpokala Academy, Naboganga Sahityo Goshthi and Shishu Academy.

"I have been able to do whatever I have done or trying to do. I hope the younger generation will do the rest", he said.

## 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) Towfiq Mahub Chowdhury, Shakiluzaman, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Jhalakati Sadar circle, Safizul 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, Nayek Bachchu Mia and constable Rafiqul Islam Raju of the same camp in Gournadi upazila.

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

When asked, Patuakhali SP Asraful 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, B'baria

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, Railways 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

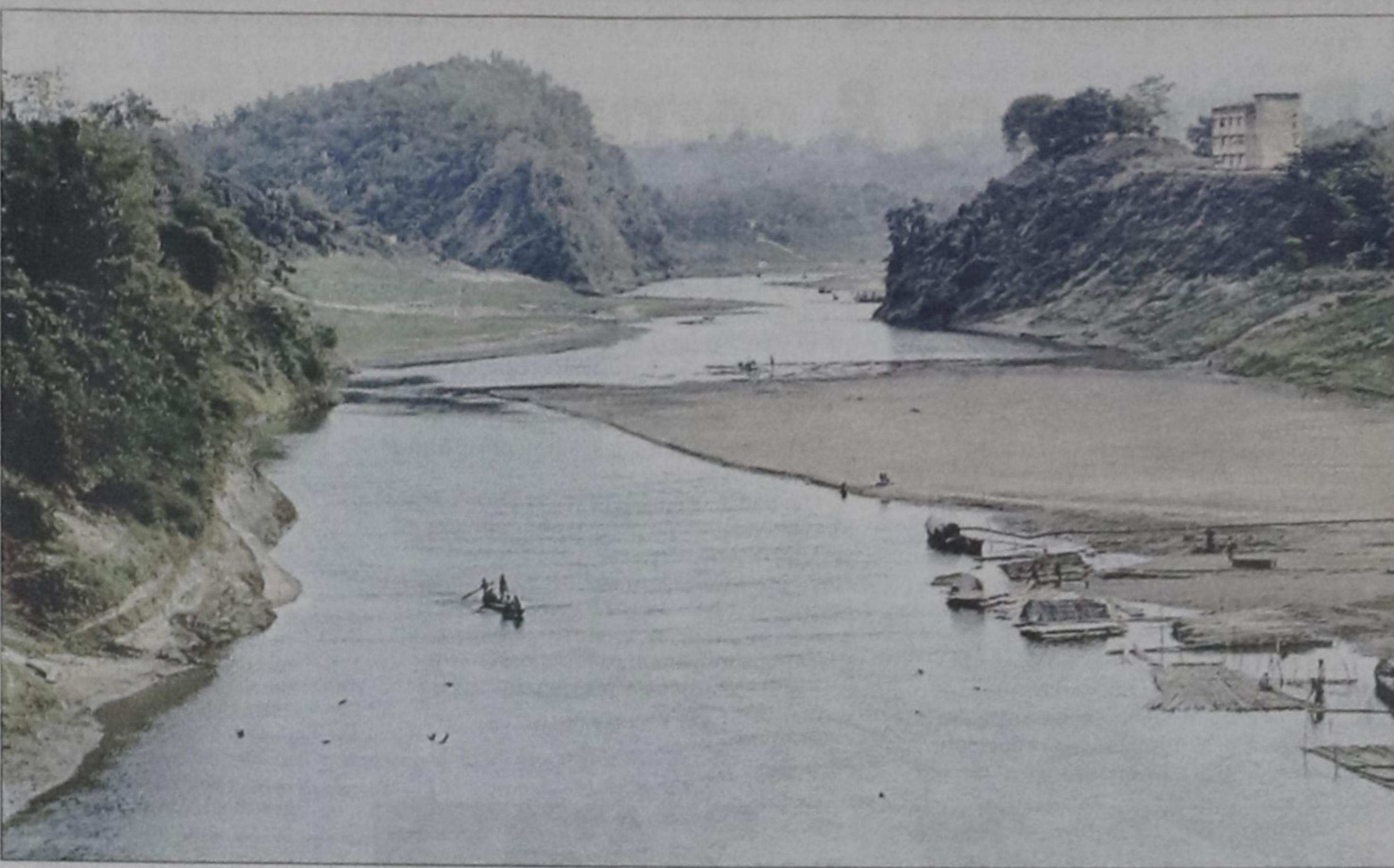
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

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 Choudhamli 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, Parbotiya Bangali Chhatra Parishad secretary Md Solaiman, Shahid Chowdhury and Piyar Ahmed Khan spoke at the press conference.



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

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

# 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 462.30km 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-Longudu and Rajsthal-Farua-Barkal roads are now suspended due to unavailability of funds from the government, sources said.



A canal threatened by grabbers at Bagbari in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: STAR

## 6 widows of Liberation War martyrs demand allowance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six widows who lost their husbands during Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 have appealed to the caretaker government to provide them with monthly allowance needed for their survival.

The widows are Khuku Rani, wife of Binoy Krishna Joarder, Chhabhi Mondol, wife of Jagannath Mondol, Shabita Joarder, wife of Bimol Krishna Joarder, Amela Mondol, wife of Nalini Mondol and Sarojini Biswas, wife of Prafulla Biswas, all hailing from Gangaampur union in Batiaghata upazila.

They said at a press statement issued here yesterday that they are now reeling under extreme poverty. They further said their husbands were gunned down by Pakistan occupation forces, with the help of peace committee member at Chuknagar in Dumuria upazila. At that time, their husbands were on way to India to join the liberation war. Later, the Pakistani forces threw their bodies in the Bhadra.

However, they said they forgot the exact date of the murders.

## Jute workers continue agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Aggrieved casual workers of six state-owned jute mills yesterday burnt effigy of BJMC Chairman Ataharul Islam at on the compound of Eastern Jute Mills at Atra industrial belt.

At a rally held there in the evening, they expressed determination to continue work abstention till their five-point demand is met.

Earlier on Saturday evening, 15 casual workers were injured as police charged them with batons when they brought out a procession after a meeting on Mashiali Primary School compound at Atra in the city.

Seven seriously injured workers are undergoing treatment at neighbouring Phultala upazila hospital, said Shahidul Islam Gias, convenor of Casual Workers' Action committee. He demanded investigation into police excesses.

Police have started search for those who threw human excrement at the offices of four project directors of jute mills on Saturday morning.

Official work of six jute mills came to a halt after the incident as all officials and employees left their offices under police escort.

## 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, BDR sources said.

The bodies were of Afaz Uddin, 35, son of Rahim Uddin of Ratni village under Baliadangi upazila and Faruk Hossain, 25, son of Saikat Ali Of Rasulpur village under Kaharol upazila in Dinajpur.

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

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

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

## 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 of urea. Besides, rice production will increase by 30 lakh tonnes annually by proper utilization 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 Shafiqul Alam attended the programme as chief guest. Rajshahi regional DAE additional director Abdul Matin presided over it.

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

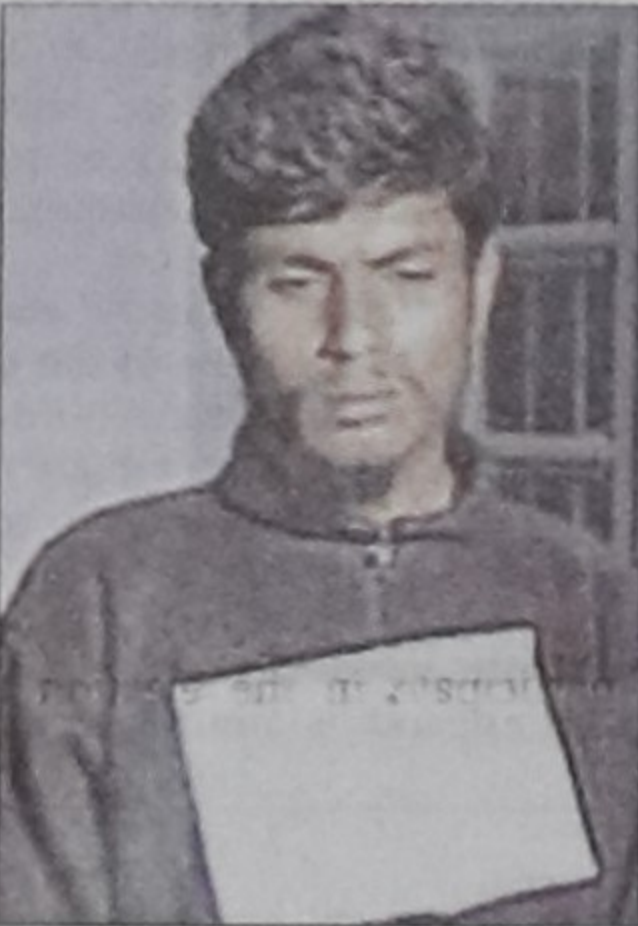
OUR CORRESPONDENT, TANGAIL

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 Shajahan 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 Yunus 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



Habibur Rahman Habib

Tangail police station in connection with August 17 bomb blast in 2005.

"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 the men 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 Plasma 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

within three months of plantation of saplings. On an average, a small tree yields 8 to 10 kilograms (kgs) of Kul that is sold Tk 80 to 100 per kg in local markets.

From the second year, the yield will be 40 to 60 kgs per tree and will go on increasing every with maturity of the tree. The seedling can be planted in tub for raising a rooftop garden, Dr. Rahim said.

The fruit has also medicinal value. It is rich in Vitamin-C, Vitamin-A, iron, phosphorus, calcium, protein, and carbohydrate.



PHOTO: STAR

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