

Experts suggest collaborative study to boost region's vegetable output

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a four-day joint planning meeting of South Asia Vegetable Research Network (SAVERN) stressed the need for collaborative research and exchange of information to boost production of vegetable in the region.

The meeting held at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the capital is being attended by 40 vegetable scientists from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The scientists will draw up a programme for activities for SAVERN which has been launched by Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC).

The Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC, Dr M. S. Ullah Chowdhury, while inaugurating the meeting, said if the country's food production should match the current growth of population, then the

crops production should grow 2.5 per cent while the vegetable and fruits production should grow 12 per cent.

"For this we need to reduce wastage of food and increase production", he said.

Dr Chowdhury said improved technology, suitable to the country's reality, should be introduced for better production as the productivity of soil is diminishing. He welcomed the SAVERN intervention in changing agricultural input and output.

Dr Chowdhury also stressed the need for transfer of suitable technologies to the farmers for their adoption and linking the NGOs in marketing of farm products as well as integrating the women folk in the production process.

The Director of AVRDC, Dr Sannugasundaram, addressing the session, said the countries participating in the meeting

should work together to reach the common goal of increased sustainable production.

He said each country, big or small, has its own natural specialties and variations of species which should be shared for improvement of vegetables production.

Dr Sannugasundaram also said exchange of germplasm would help avoid the weaknesses and share the strengths of the countries in a positive way. He stressed the need for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for insecticide-free vegetables.

The Director General of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Mohammad H. Mondal outlined the constraints to vegetable production in the country.

He said lack of varieties suited to agro-environment of the country, good quality

seeds, fair prices of products, technology for harvest and storage of products are the main causes of poor production of vegetables.

He viewed the government should come up with appropriate policy measures in connection with vegetable production.

He said these obstacles should be removed to overcome to achieve the set target of vegetable consumption per person of 54.5 grams by 1995. The present consumption rate is 30 grams per person a day.

The SAVERN has undertaken a research programme to improve the production and quality of the vegetable with a view to enhancing the income and nutrition of the people in the region. The Asian Development Bank approved the first proposal for this year to initiate the SAVERN activities.



Dr B. R. Sabade, Director General, Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India, at a meeting with the Board of Directors and officials of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on February 24, at DCCI premises in Dhaka. They discussed various issues on the activities and experiences of Maharashtra Chamber especially on income generating programmes. They also exchanged views and ideas for mutual benefit. Among others, Yunus past President of DCCI, M. Azizur Rahman, Local Expert Coordinator ZDH/TA, Ismail Hossain Miah, Vice-President and S. Zakir Husain, Secretary of DCCI were present.

Bangladesh Bank Bill auction: 19 bids worth Tk 35 crore accepted

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-six bids for a total amount of Tk 51 crore were received at the 15th auction of the 91-day Bangladesh Bank Bill held on Monday.

Nineteen bids were accepted and the total face value of the bids accepted was Tk 35 crore.

The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 97.97 per 100 taka. The corresponding yield is 8.31 per cent per annum, according to bank sources.

Garment workers unite for movement

By Staff Correspondent

Different federations of garment workers' unions at a meeting Sunday in city merged all the demonstrating garment workers' groups into a greater body to embark on a united and unified movement for realising their demands.

The body named Bangladesh Garments Sramik Karmachari Samannoy Sangram Parishad will announce a charter of demands of garment workers on March 2.

The meeting also prepared the modalities and code of conduct for the united action committee to streamline the movement of garment workers.

by Alam Raza, President of the Bangladesh Garments Workers Federation, was addressed. Among others, by Khurshid Alam, President of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation, Dehwar Hossain Khan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Agro-based Programme for Rural Women

Directorate of Women's Affairs

Jirani, Gazipur

(Opposite of Bangladesh Sports Education Institute at Savar)

Notice for Admission of Trainees to Agriculture Training Course

Applications are invited from rural distressed, illiterate or half literate women from farmer family for admission of 64 trainees to 3rd phase 12th batch 4-month agriculture training course at Jirani (waterline), upazila-Gazipur sadar, district-Gazipur under 'Agro-based Programme for Rural Women' run by the Directorate of Women's Affairs.

Terms & conditions and other informations:

- Should remain present with application in plain paper stating (A) Name of applicant, (B) Father's/Husband's name, (C) Educational qualification (if any), (D) Age, (E) Present and Permanent address, (F) Marital Status, (G) Number of children, (H) Quantity of land/homestead for interview at the training centre on 29-02-92 (Faigun 16 BS) at 10 am. Willing applicants may collect the admission form free from the training centre. No allowance is admissible for the interview.
- Duration of the training is 1-3-92 to 30-6-92 when trainees will be required to attend the Training Centre on their own and at their own expenses everyday at 9 am except on government holidays. Theoretical and practical training will continue from 9 am to 2 pm. There is no provision of lodging and fooding for the trainees at the Training Centre.
- Trainees should be desirous of practical learning. They will be imparted training on poultry rearing, vegetables, fruits and crop production, pisciculture, family planning, maternal and childcare, health and nutrition and adult literacy.
- Rural women in the age range of 16 to 40 years, distressed, literate or half literate and at least having a homestead will be considered as eligible for admission. Candidates from Savar, Kaliakoir, Gazipur sadar and Dhamrai upazilas will be given preference.
- Allowance of Tk 10.00 per day i.e. Tk 300.00 per month will be provided during the training period. Government certificate will be given after completion of the training. Those who have already acquired training from this project need not apply.
- Trainees must abide by all the rules & regulations and restrictions of the Centre.

Dr. Nizamuddin Al-Hossaini

Additional Director (Agril)

Directorate of Women's Affairs

and

Project Director

Agro-based Programme for

Rural Women

DFP(G) 2543-17/2
G-198

Money rates 10pc to 11pc

By Staff Correspondent

Money rates in the Call Money market during the week ending 19.2.92 ranged from 10.00 per cent to 11.00 per cent. During the week interest rates offered by the Bangladesh Bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from 11.00 per cent to 13.50 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.25 per cent, according to official sources.

BKB disburses Tk 3.26 cr farm loans in Tangail

TANGAIL, Feb 24

Bangladesh Krishi Bank Tangail region has disbursed farm loans amounting to Taka 3.26 crore through its 30 branches during the first half of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The bank source said that in the current fiscal year target was fixed at Taka 8.93 crore.

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Dhaka PWD Division-III, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tenders

- Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Special Class-I (One) and Class-II (One) approved Bldg. Contractors under PWD and Class-II approved Bldg. Contractors under PWD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Divn-IV/Eden Bldgs. PWD Divn/Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka in their respective office chamber up to 12-00 Noon of 4-3-92 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 pm in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. No tender form will be sold after 2-3-92.
- Name of work: Construction of Sishu Paribar Prakaipa (Single storied Building for Accommodation of 25 Children) within the compound of Sarkari Sishu Paribar at Tejgaon, Dhaka.
- Estimated Cost: Tk 13,29,395/-
- Earnest Money: Tk 26,588/-
- Time allowed for completion of the work from the date of issue of the work order: 90 (Ninety) days.
- Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, Schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No-III/IV Eden Bldgs. PWD Divn/Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka on payment of Tk 750/00 (Non-refundable) per set of the notice inviting tenders. Schedule of items, Additional terms and conditions and a sum of Tk 25/- (Non-refundable) per copy to tender Form No. 2911. The tender form may be purchased by the Contractor on production of Registration Book of Enlistment during office hours on all working days.

Md. Shamsur Rahman

Executive Engineer

Dhaka PWD Division-III, Dhaka.

DFP (G) 2703-19/2
G-197

Commentary

Let the promotions bring dynamism

By Shahabuddin Mahtab

The Government announced a list of promotion of four Secretaries, 32 Additional Secretaries, 1991 Joint Secretaries and 427 Deputy Secretaries on the 10th of February. Never in the history of Bangladesh, Pakistan or India promotions in such large numbers were made.

There are many silver linings in this case. It was reported recently that most of the senior government officers would be retiring by the turn of the century. The announcement of the promotions is a very welcome step in this context. The newly promoted Joint Secretaries who are large in number will be able to give a fresh impetus to government activities in policy matters because of their relatively young age. Similarly the promotion of a large number of officers to the grade of Deputy Secretary would allow them to gain experience at this level, and thereafter earn their next promotion in a few years' time.

All the promoted Joint Secretaries and Addl Secretaries have been serving the Government for 20 to 25 years and already gained enough experience. It may be mentioned in this connection that a government servant is able to contribute his best when he is in his forties to early fifties. He has got enough vigour, and required experience at this level.

The senior administrators of the country were suffering from frustration for the last few years. These generous promotions, therefore would hopefully bring dynamism and innovation in all areas of government activities. Bangladesh has provided its civil servants with all the facilities, even though it is one of the poorest countries of the world. It is therefore the bounden-duty of the promoted officers to give their best to common people who are groaning under multifarious problems.

(Shahabuddin Mahtab is a guest columnist for The Daily Star.)

IDB will aid three rural projects

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman Monday said three rural development projects will be taken up shortly with assistance from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), reports UNB.

The area-based projects are designed for rural electrification, primary and secondary education and development of rural infrastructure, he told newsmen at the airport on his return from Tripoli after attending an IDB Board meeting.

One of the projects will be started on May 4, said Rahman, who attended the 16th meeting of the IDB Board of Governors held in the Libyan capital on February 19-20.

The Finance Minister said IDB will increase its capital to enable the bank conduct smooth functioning of its overall activities. The amount of the authorised capital will be six billion US dollar and the present issuance capital of two billion US dollar will be increased to 4 billion dollar, he added.

Rahman said the bank will form an investment gathering forum aimed at strengthening the existing cooperation among the 44 Islamic countries in the field of trade and investment.

He said the meeting had accepted Bangladesh's proposal for a review of the disbursement procedures for speedy implementation of the projects.

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