



# The Day of German Unity



The Daily Star 6

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## Ambassador's Message

Today Germans all over the world celebrate the Day of German Unity. I include in particular the 200 German nationals working in Bangladesh and contributing to the development of the country. It gives me great satisfaction to share the joy of this celebration with the People of Bangladesh. We will not forget the sympathy and positive interest which Bangladeshis expressed for the German unification. The hopes being placed in united Germany are quite considerable. Problems will be overcome because we know that the questions of today cannot be solved with answers of yesterday.

Relations between our two countries are very warm and friendly. We have welcomed the fair and free elections of 1991 and we have pledged every support to the Government in its efforts to further strengthen and develop the democratic process. The visit of our Deputy Foreign Minister to Dhaka early this year and the visit of your Foreign Minister to Germany shortly afterwards have given our relations a new quality by confirming its high standard and encouraging new activities for the future.

Our two countries are guided by the realization that it will only be possible to address global challenges on the basis of cooperative partnership. Development assistance which is help towards self-help is the expression of this partnership and our main activity in Bangladesh. The Federal Government operates through two organizations for implementing development projects, namely the Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) which is represented by a permanent office in Dhaka. German development aid which is provided as non-repayable grants in 1991 amounted to 350 crore Taka. Non-governmental organizations also make considerable contributions towards development cooperation with Bangladesh.

Our aid as agreed between the two Governments focuses on various sectors. Given the overall importance of population programmes my Government is providing about 8 per cent of the Fourth Population Control and Health Programme which at a total cost of 600 million dollars will be implemented under World Bank auspices from 1992 to 1996. Under the Flood Action Plan we are involved with a large scale polder test programme together with the Netherlands and a test project on river bank protection and river regulation together with France. Germany reacted quickly to the necessities which arose out of the cyclone catastrophe last year with the construction of multi-purpose storm flood shelters. The railway and the energy sector have traditionally been areas of major activities. Other projects aim at increasing productivity in agriculture and raising the income of poor people. In the future the promotion of private business particularly in export industries will become more important.

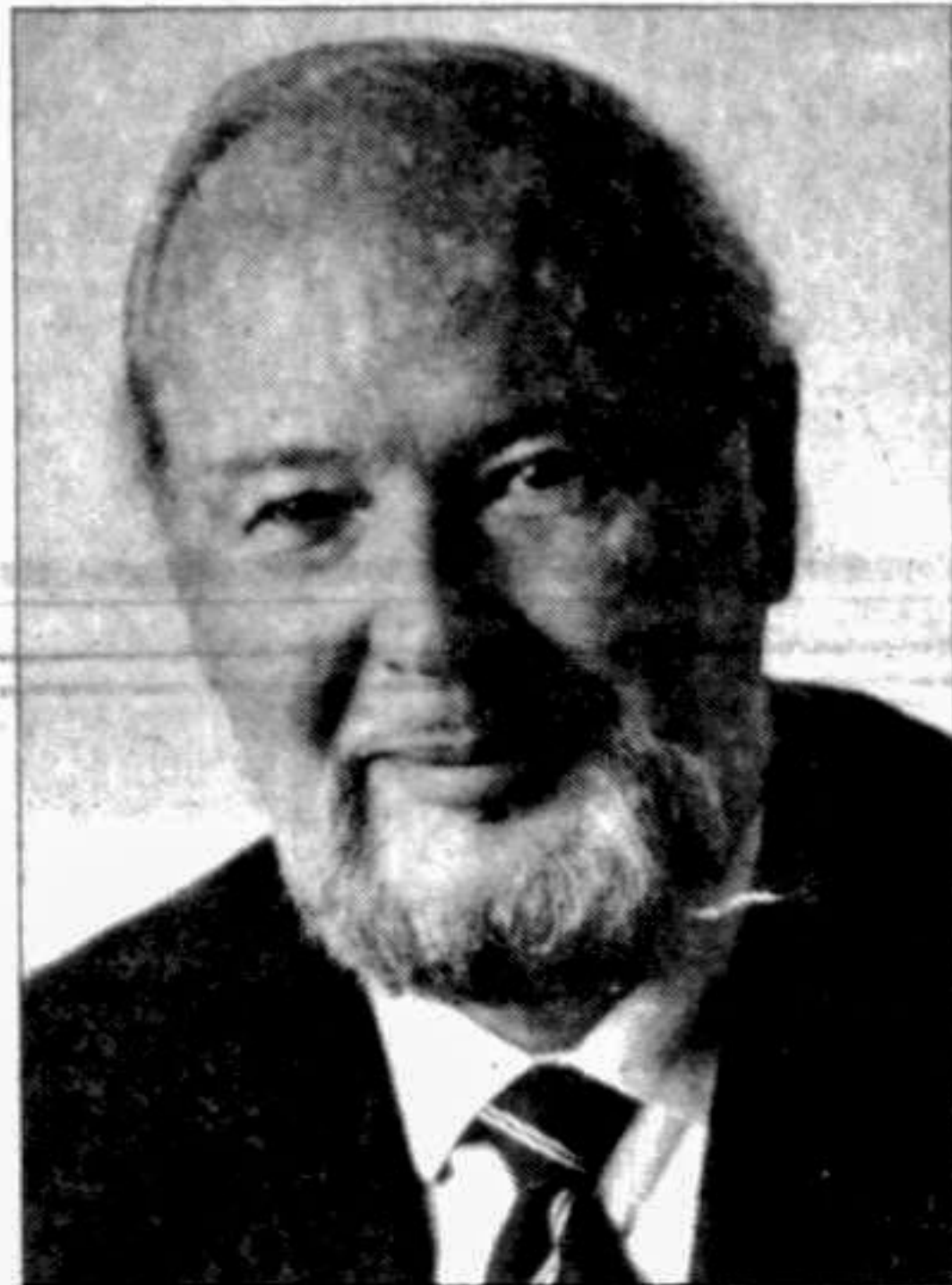
Commercial relations have expanded over the years. With 5% of Bangladesh exports going to Germany we rank fourth as market for Bangladesh products. While Bangladesh imports in the calendar year 1991 reached 166 million DM, exports to the Federal Republic more than doubled this amount with 353 million DM showing that goods from Bangladesh

are making good inroads in Germany. There is room for further development keeping in mind always that the German market is very selective and competitive.

Cultural exchange is another important element in our relationship. The Goethe Institute in Dhaka provides many services. Each year approximately 300 students register for beginning and intermediate German courses. Films, theatre performances, exhibitions and lectures attract great interest. The Institute is making efforts to reach out also to other cities in the country. Scholarships are a very efficient way for students to get acquainted with the subject for their choice. Over the last few years 25 scientists and scholars from Bangladesh have received Humboldt research scholarships. 15 graduates and academic staff have studied in Germany under the "Sandwich Model" of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) involving a professor in Bangladesh and a German counterpart. 282 Bangladeshis have participated in training programmes offered by the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft, and 750 specialists have been trained under programmes of the German Foundation for International Development. I am happy to state that this is not a one-way road. Bangladeshi design and paintings find enthusiastic reception in Germany. Bangladeshi films win prizes at the Berlin Festivals.

Above all, it is the human factor which determines the quality of relations. Here we are on safe ground. Great mutual respect and sympathy characterize this relationship. The message I carry today is that Germany will also in the future be a reliable friend of the people of Bangladesh in their efforts to make life worth-while and to contribute to peace and social security in this part of the world.

Bangladesh-German friendship zindabad!



Dr. Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bangladesh

## The State of Political Unification in Germany

NOT just economic support, to an equal extent political unity will be of decisive importance for making progress in the ongoing restructuring process in the new German states. Political unity has already been achieved to a large extent. The foreign policy part of this task was completed prior to October 3, 1990, the day Germany was unified. The foreign ministers of the four countries which had been allied against Germany in World War Two and of the two German states, which still existed then, opened up the way for this with the signing of the two-plus-four treaty in Moscow on September 12, 1990.

There remained the no less difficult task of converting the structures of the socialist system to a democratic and federal system. The entire system of public administration had to



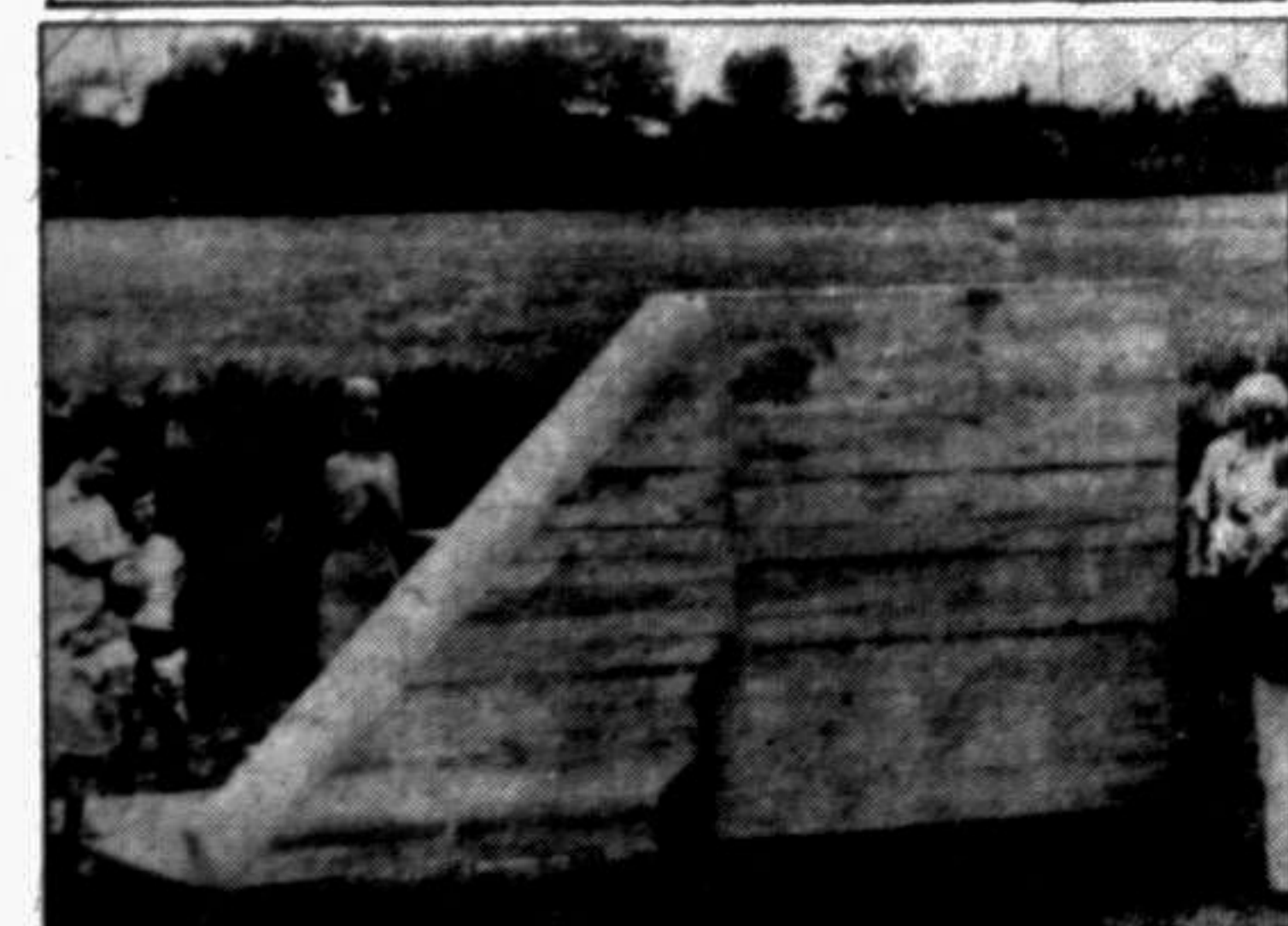
During the night of 3 October 1990 a crowd of about one million celebrated in Berlin the unification of Germany. The Brandenburg Gate can be seen in the background.

be replaced in order to guarantee a uniform legal and administrative sphere—a multi-tier system, consisting of federal, state, district and local levels, each with their own parliamentary bodies and responsibilities.

In this regard, too, an important step was taken prior to the date on which unification took place—the political division of the former GDR into the states of Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The entire foundation for public administration and the judicial system had to be re-laid. In his speech at the German lawyer's conference held in Hanover on September 15 Chancellor Helmut Kohl referred to the major effort undertaken by lawyers from the old states in connection with the reconstruction effort in the new states.

The foundation for internal political unification was laid with the signing of the unification treaty on August 31, 1990.

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The border as art: where the inhuman border was still in existence as recently as 1989 a reminder of the division of Germany has now been erected in 1992. This fragment of the Wall in Saxony-Anhalt was created by Manfred Botzner, an artist from Magdeburg.



Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker  
Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany



Dr. Helmut Kohl  
Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

## German Assistance to Bangladesh Reinforces Development

Special Report by Our Staff Correspondent  
Inam Ahmed

DEUTSCHE Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH has been providing technical assistance to Bangladesh for about two years. Its main objective is to train the local personnel for their contribution to the overall economic development of the country. GTZ is Germany's public corporation for development and operates within the scope of the German federal government's development policy.

The GTZ now operates in over a hundred countries including Bangladesh. At present it is supporting ten projects in Bangladesh—two in health sector, two in communication sector, three in poverty alleviation, two in trade promotion and one in project planning. GTZ is supporting National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) to improve its training and research activities in the field of family health. This is the largest project supported by GTZ anywhere in the world.

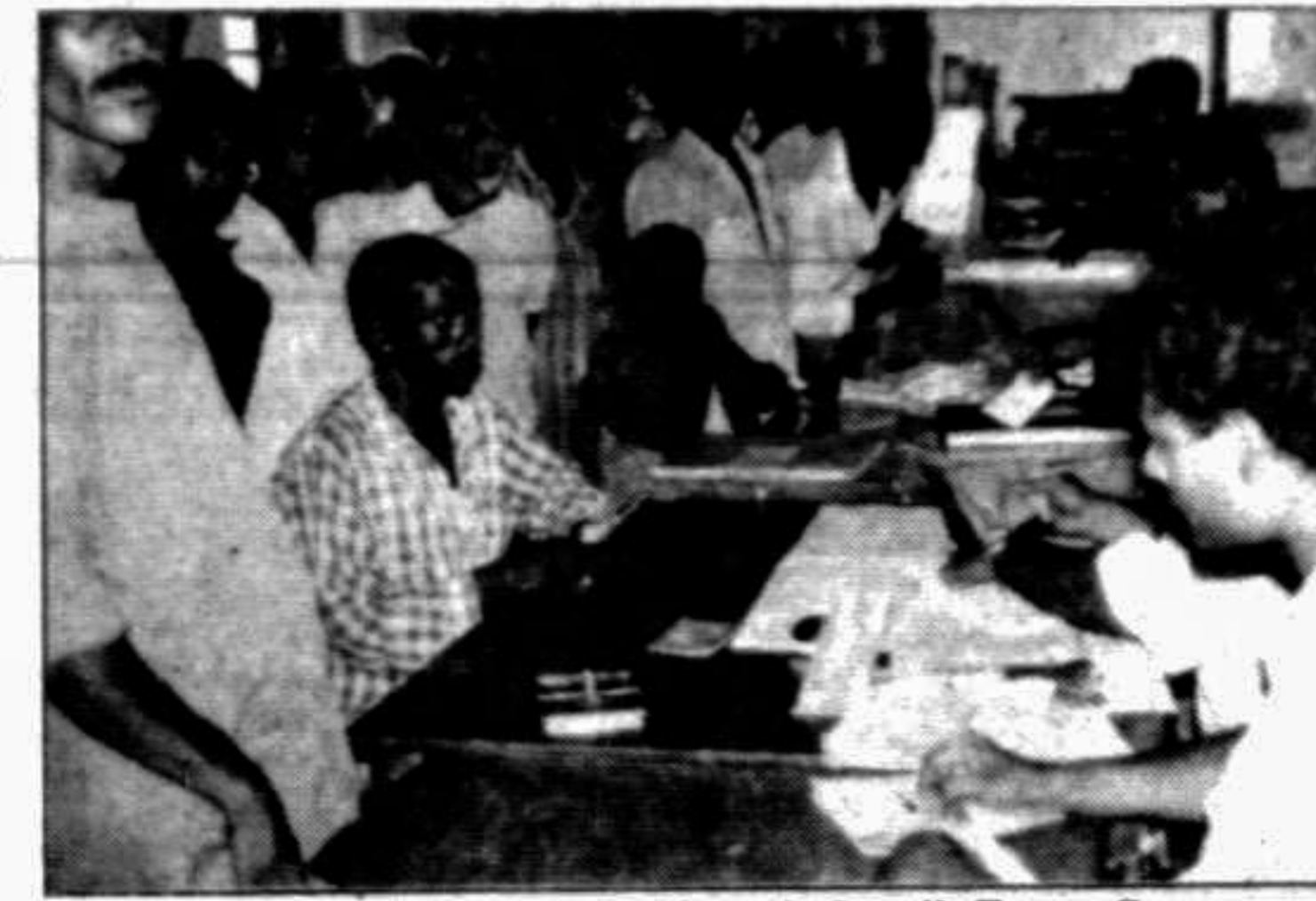
GTZ is helping NIPORT in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of project activities. It also helps NIPORT provide training to programme officials from district and thana levels. In the field of training, special emphasis is given to training of trainers (TOT), as the quality of training depends largely upon the quality of its trainers.

Another project in the health sector that GTZ supports is Comprehensive Community Family Health Project (CCFHP) which aims at reducing birth rate of the rural population by raising the acceptance of the family health services amongst the target groups, presently in three thanas of Bogra.

A major contribution of GTZ towards the communication sector of Bangladesh is its Carriage Rehabilitation Project. The objective of the project is to train the staff of Bangladesh Railway (BR) to improve the output at Pahartali and Saidpur workshops and rehabilitate 100 meter gauge and 50 broad gauge carriages during the project period. The German co-operation in this sector dates back to 1978 when a German team of experts came to Pahartali workshop to reduce the backlog of passenger carriages awaiting maintenance.

Based on the experience of this team, the present technical co-operation follows up consolidating the rehabilitation work at Pahartali workshop and assists BR in overhauling broad gauge carriages at Saidpur workshop.

The GTZ also provided training to trainers of power car operators and management training to mid-level officers. It also carried out training for maintenance of diesel generating sets, for electrical installation, for maintenance of ma-



A savings group of Marginal and Small Farm Systems Crop Intensification Project (MSFSCIP) at Kurigram.

chines and for other jobs like welding and painting.

The other endeavour of the GTZ in the field of communication is the Tangail Infrastructure Development Project. The objective of this project is to strengthen the existing transport and trading network in the rural areas of Tangail district.

The GTZ assists three projects in the field of poverty alleviation—Grameen Bank Training Programme, Grameen Bank International Training and Replicators Programme and Marginal and Small Farm System Crop Intensification Project.

## GTZ Prefers Programme to Individual Projects

THE head of Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH Technical Cooperation, Martin Mueller, observes that the contribution of GTZ in Bangladesh in the future will be more in programme rather than individual projects.

"This means to get away to more complex systematic approach in which the public sector, the private sector and non-government organisations (NGOs) are seen as a whole of the development process and that the development of one of these components alone is not enough for success," Mueller observes.

He was talking to The Daily Star over the past, present and future activities of GTZ in Bangladesh.

Martin Mueller has been the head of GTZ, Bangladesh since the operation of the organisation in Bangladesh two years back.

Basically an agronomist, Mueller also had his masters degree in communication.

Mueller started his career in the GTZ 12 years back. His first assignment was in Bolivia from where he moved on around the globe. Before coming to Bangladesh, he served in Pakistan.

"One of our main objectives in Bangladesh is to make proper use of local know-how," Mueller said, adding that policy will continue in the future.

The GTZ has been working in Bangladesh with this purpose for the last two years.

"By this time we have already tripled the number of local workers working in project and planning missions of GTZ in Bangladesh," he

The Grameen Bank Training Programme aims to train new staff members both at branch manager and desk officer level, to carry out the planned expansion programme. A further aim of the project is to train the borrowers of the Grameen Bank comprising the rural poor in the credit line activities.

On the other hand, the International Training



Satellite clinic under Comprehensive Community Family Health Project (CCFHP) at Bogra

Programme is aimed at disseminating the work methods of the Grameen Bank among other Third World countries who want to replicate the Grameen Bank model. During 1989 to 1992, 1576 participants from 69 countries have been trained under this programme.

The other poverty alleviation programme, marginal and small farm systems crop intensification project are now going on at Kurigram district, a disaster prone northern area.

The objective of the programme is to slow down the process of gradual marginalization of the rural poor and to prevent them from becoming completely landless, through providing credit support and technical assistance. This helps them to increase productivity both in on-farm and off-farm sectors.

The GTZ helps in group formation and training for marginal farmers in Kurigram. It also supports the Bank through training, planning, extension and supervision.

The GTZ plays a vital role in private sector trade promotion through two projects—Protrade and ZDH/Technonet Asia.

Protrade is a new service offered by the GTZ for trade promotion programme. Under this programme, GTZ offers highly specialized continuous advisory services for both trade promotion authorities and potential export companies. The helps come in terms of institution building and operational production and marketing of selected products. GTZ also arranges regular market presentation of Protrade-adapted products through annual participation in international sector fairs in Germany.

One thing must be mentioned, the Protrade consultancy is given free of charge.

Probably, the most significant role that GTZ plays in trade promotion is through the ZDH/TA partnership programme.

It is a partnership project of German federation of small

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