

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Golden Fibre's Golden Days are Back!

by Raffat Binte Rashid

No longer does the traditional, century-old idea of jute serving only as a packing material hold good, rather it is time this changed and changed to keep pace with the developments taking place. The cash crop's multifarious uses, still unknown to many should be made public. Because now jute has been responsible for developing a totally new concept, with its sphere expanded to a number of diversified areas.

Almost all the various accessories needed for daily life can be made from jute. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) a pioneer jute goods manufacturer and supplier is working tirelessly to upgrade jute products and introduce the golden fibre, in a whole lot of different shapes, to the local consumers.

The natural, lustrous, meshy network of this fibre can easily be blended with other man-made synthetic fibres. This quality in jute gives it a leap forward, because almost all products starting from furniture to toys to garments can be manufactured from it.

BJMC's display centre in Motijheel is exhibiting all such products, traditional to recent additions. The positive transformation, diversity, in the jute sector can easily be discerned. It's a mini world, within its own parameter.

"Jute can cover you from head to toe and our main objective at the display centre is to attract and encourage small handicraft entrepreneurs to take part in this jute revolution," Belal Beg the PRO of BJMC said.

"It's our materials, designs, (for which we appoint professional designers) samples, and their labour only. We have carried out research, experimented, tested and tried all products in the local market as well in foreign markets. Their response was good. Jute felt, door mats, bags, shawls, coats, carpets, toys, chairs, tables, just name it, we've tried everything. Rayon, cotton, plastic, blended with jute fibre has added a new dimension in the jute sector. With the right kind of exposure, jute could now encompass your entire life," he informed.

Over the last two decades synthetic petrochemical-based substitutes have replaced, natural jute. Nowadays the traditional jute bags for daily bazaar (shopping) or ropes have been completely pushed out by polythene bags and nylon ropes. These not only hamper the jute

market, but also pose a threat to environment. The use of synthetic substitutes is directly related to environmental pollution and even ecological imbalance. Polypropylene synthetic fibres have an increasing demand and thus becomes the cause of petro-chemical hazards to environment.

Jute being natural, has no adverse effect on environment. It is still incomparable, having many advantages over man-made fibre.

Biodegradable, organically perishable, it replenishes the earth with invaluable productive nutrients. Environmentally friendly, jute is non-pollutant. It produces no toxic gases or harmful chemicals as by-products. It emits the same fame as burning wood which is not dangerous. Jute can also be used as geo-textile and soil saver for erosion control.

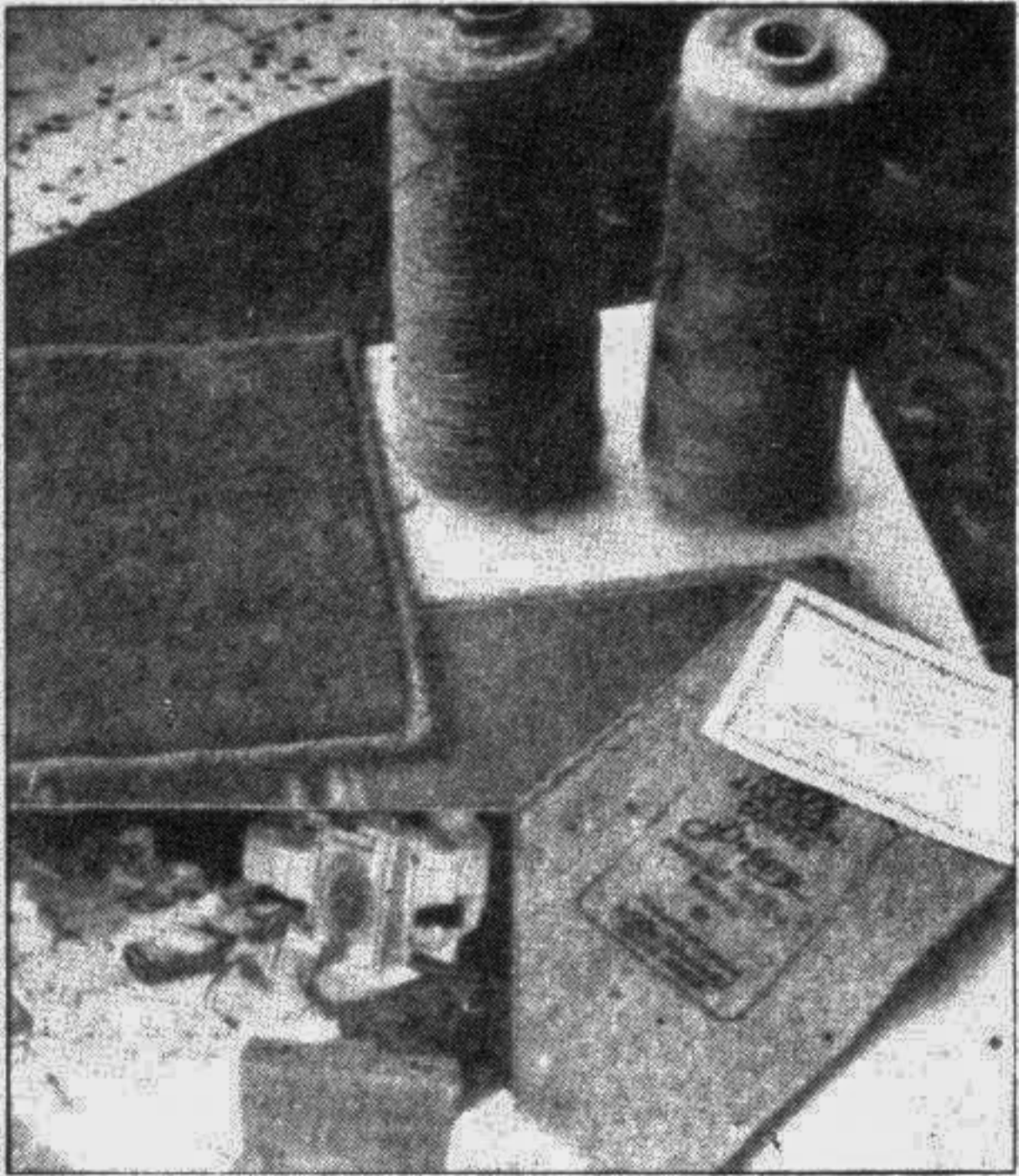
Besides all these qualities, it can extend .5 per cent to its stable form and give a wonderful dimensional stability. It is hygroscopic and aeriscous and permits normal breathing.

humidity to the contents and ensures their storage without deterioration. Its hairy surface gives it a capacity to grip any surface it comes in contact with. Above all it beautifies the earth with vegetation and can prevent further climatic damage.

With all these rich qualities jute should reign the market; instead it became a 'polythene world'. A simple example, should give a clear picture and an understanding why the nature's gift is unmatched. Nursery pots — a sapling, in any nursery or at home, is first planted in a polythene bag. Instead of this, a jute bag could be used, it is thin, light, porous allows space for growth, the roots could come out as desired. And while planting it could be placed in the soil. Without disturbing the sapling's growth. The pot rots and gives a natural fertilizer.

Jute also provides valuable by-products. For each ton of jute fibre harvested, upto two tons of jute sticks are produced. These are extensively used for rural fences, walls for low cost housing and also as essential cooling fuel. Further more, the tender leaves of the jute plant provide edible food.

Jute has now broken the traditional concept, its new usage should be properly promoted to give it a further chance for realisation of its potential.



Wide range of eye-catching jute goods.

'Modern pisciculture method can help meet nutrition requirements'

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah urged the people to adopt modern scientific pisciculture method to meet the country's nutrition requirements, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a private sector agriculture and fisheries farm in Kapasia yesterday.

The function was also addressed by Advocate Momtazur Rahman, Managing Director of the newly established farm.

Hannan Shah urged the people to establish this type of agricultural and fisheries farm

through private initiative. The minister unveiled the plaque of the farm and planted sapling in its premises.

There are six tanks on 17 acres of land in the farm.

Later, the Jute Minister visited and witnessed fishing in a tank under a project in Kapasia where the government has undertaken a fisheries development project with the technical assistance of Manila based International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in 1990-91 financial year.

There are 605 private tanks

on 13571 decimal of land under this project in six different unions of Kapasia thana. The project experts offer both technical and marketing support to the tank owners.

In the afternoon, the Minister inaugurated a three-day long "Leadership training seminar" jointly organised by Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association and Education International at Kapasia thana auditorium.

Presided over by Nuruddin Solaiman, the function was also addressed by some local educationists and social workers.

Discussion on poverty and environment Population boom threatens ecological balance

The issue of environmental protection no more remains an aspect of "luxurious talk", rather it has become the question of human survival on earth particularly in a poor country like Bangladesh.

This was observed by the speakers at a discussion yesterday on "Poverty and Environment" arranged on the occasion of the World Environment Day by the Bangladesh 2000 in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), reports BSS.

President of Bangladesh Society of Economists and Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed presented the key-note paper at the discussion held at the UNIC auditorium here.

Former Executive Director of ESCAP S A M S Kibria, former Minister R A Ghani, and Information Officer of UNIC Kazi Ali Reza spoke while, Engineer M Shahjahan

Khadem, Chairman of the Bangladesh 2000, presided.

In his paper, Dr. Ahmed identified poverty, environmental degradation and population boom as three major problems in the context of Bangladesh. He said the rapidly expanding population in the poor countries like Bangladesh implied rapidly increasing demand for natural resources threatening the ecological balance and obstructing economic growth.

Dr Ahmed said, the three problems feed upon one another in a variety of complex ways and none of them could be addressed in isolation. Their solutions must be sought through an integrated approach, he said.

Kibria said there was no doubt that over the years the advanced world caused severe damage to ecology. But now we have to find out the ways to get rid of the consequences of environmental degradation for our own survival side by side

keeping pressure on the first world countries, he said.

Environmental problems are the urgent issues of life. We need to protect environment for the sake of our economy, agriculture and public health, he said.

Ghani urged the authorities to take sustainable development initiatives taking the issues of society, economy and environment in consideration.

He also urged the government to reconsider the implementation of FAP studies so that ecological process might not be obstructed.

SAARC states urged to make agreements on environment issues

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on the World Environment Day yesterday called upon the governments of the SAARC and other Asian countries to make agreements on important environment issues immediately for a better future.

The seminar organised by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission and United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) said that a better environment in Bangladesh would only be created by eliminating poverty.

The seminar chaired by Chairman, Ahsania Mission Environment Conservation and Development Programmes, Prof Mafizuddin Ahmed was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Environment Goezwar Chandra Roy as chief guest, UNDP official Christine Sporel, Executive Director of Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Prof Abu Taiyab Abu Ahmed, Dr Nazrul Islam and

Antisuzzaman Khan. Prof Kazi Zaker Hossain presented the key note paper.

Prof Zaker Hossain in his paper said that progress of civilization was achieved by random destruction of environment and presently the rich nations blame the poor nations for the environmental degradation.

The State Minister for Environment said that plantation by the sides of one lakh 96 thousand km of roads of the country could at least produce resources worth Tk 2500 crores annually and could provide job for one million people.

Plea to step up anti-smuggling operation

The BDR chief yesterday urged border guards to intensify further the anti-smuggling operation for safeguarding independence and sovereignty and achieving economic prosperity of the country, reports UNB.

Maj Gen Muhammad Anwar Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, made the call while visiting the 10 rifle battalion at Nihongchhari and the 39 battalion at Cox's Bazar, according to a BDR press release issued here.

He also called upon the BDR men to be more regimented through skill development by means of training, sports, ethics and discipline.

General Anwar visited the Quarter Guards of the battalions.

Mostafiz greets Moustapha

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday congratulated Moustapha Niasse on his assumption of the office of the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the governments of the Republic of Senegal, reports BSS.

In a message Rahman wished Moustapha every success in his office and hoped that during his tenure the existing close and fraternal ties between the two countries would be further consolidated.

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M. V. FONG YUN V9315 IMP. ROT NO. 452/93 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 6TH JUNE 1993 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE. THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 440/93 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDT FAREAST/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

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Attack on Morning Sun condemned

Various organisations and individuals in separate statements yesterday condemned the attack on The Morning Sun by unknown miscreants who forced into the office on Thursday night, destroyed properties and set fire to printing machines, reports BSS.

In a meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) yesterday at its Kakral office expressed its resentment over the incident and urged upon the authority to immediately identify the miscreants and give exemplary punishment.

In a resolution the meeting called upon the government to take appropriate measures to stop recurrence of such incident in newspaper industry.

Presided over by Parishad Chairman Kazi Shahed Ahmed the meeting was addressed, among others, by immediate past President of the BSP Barrister Moinul Hossain, Mahfuj Anam, Anwarul Islam, Enayetullah Khan and Anwarul Islam Bobby.

In a separate press release BSP Chairman Chowdhury Mohammad Faruque and Secretary General Prof Majedul Islam expressed their deep shock and anger at the attack

by the miscreants at the office of the daily.

Terming newspaper as the carrier of opinion and expressions they said that such an attack on newspaper could not be accepted by the conscious people.

Demanding inquiry into the incident the BSP leaders called upon the democracy-loving people to be vocal to protect the freedom of press.

In another press statement DUJ President M Shahjahan Meah and General Secretary Altaf Mahmud condemned the attack on the daily calling it a naked attack on the freedom of press. They demanded stern action against the offenders.

The leaders said that such attacks were made on a number of newspapers in the past but no action was taken against such acts. Terming such attacks as a treat to the press they called upon all freedom loving people to rise against such vicious activities.

In another statement DUJ President Jahirul Haq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi expressed their deep concern at the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

Noor Uddin leaves for China

An Armed Forces delegation led by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan left here yesterday for a goodwill visit to China, reports UNB.

During his stay in China, General Noor Uddin will call on senior commanders of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

He is also scheduled to visit military training institutions and military establishments of the country.

Adhunik for increased taxation on tobacco

Adhunik, a national anti-smoking organisation, has appealed to parliament to take legal measures against all categories of tobacco, reports UNB.

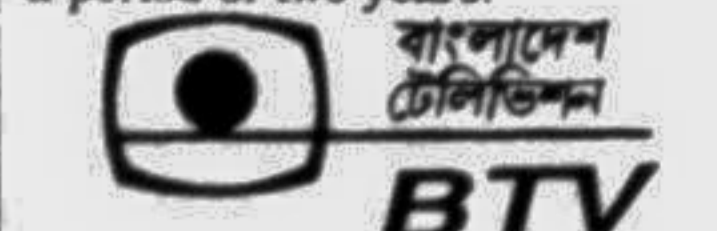
The appeal, on the eve of parliament going into the budget session today said increased taxation on tobacco of all categories — cigarettes, bidi, zarda — may help elimination of its use by the people.

"Let not our poor people spend money on poison and ruin themselves and their family", said the appeal to the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and members of parliament.

New DG of BARD

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed has been appointed the Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) at Comilla, reports BSS.

Dr. Ahmed, former Programme Officer of CIRDP, was appointed on contract basis for a period of two years.



Sunday

5:00 Opening announcement
Al-Guran
Programme summary
Cartoon: John Wilson
5:25 Sports programme:
Crickit
6:20 Mayeder Jonny
6:45 Open University
7:20 Tager's songs
7:30 News in Bengali
8:00 Special programme on the occasion of Education Week
9:00 Film show: Raven
10:00 News in English
10:30 Sur Lahari
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
Closing

What's on today . . .

Deptt of Environment, WHO
Department of Environment in association with the World Health Organization will hold a workshop on the 'Management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes' today (Sunday) at Hotel Sheraton at 9 am.

Prof J M Dave, WHO consultant on toxic chemicals will deliver the key note address.

Abdullah Al-Noman, Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister will remain present as chief guest.

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka

A fellowship meeting of Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will be held today (Sunday) at 7:30 pm at Sajna Restaurant, Gulshan-1.

Rotary District Governor L K Siddiqui MP will be chief guest at the meeting.

Bangladesh-Australia Student Assoc

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh-Australia Students' Association will be held today (Sunday) at 10 am at the Arts Faculty Building of Dhaka University.

All members of the central executive committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

Seminar on Imam Khomeini

A seminar in observance of 4th death anniversary of Imam Khomeini will be held today (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at 234/1, Sultanganj, Rayerbazar in the city.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will be the chief guest.

. . . and tomorrow

Zahir Raihan Film Society
Zahir Raihan Film Society will present the 'Kaukasian Trilogy' by Sergej Paradzhanov tomorrow (Monday) at 6 pm at the German Cultural Centre.

Comilla Zila Janakalyan Samity

A meeting of the executive committee of Comilla Zila Janakalyan Samity will be held at its Santinagar office tomorrow (Monday) at 7:00 pm.

Painting show at La Galerie

A seven-day painting exhibition of Saleh Md Nazib will begin tomorrow (Monday) at La Galerie.
Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the show at 5 p.m.
It will remain open everyday from 9 am to 8 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Moderate rain or showers may occur at a few places over the Chittagong division and the regions of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Dhaka and weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours from 6 am today.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The country's maximum temperature yesterday (Saturday) of 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the minimum 22.4 degree was recorded in Sylhet.

Rainfall recorded in day time yesterday across the country was: Penti 12 mm, Sylhet 10mm, Rangpur 7mm, Kutubdia 5 mm, Bogra 3mm, and Sandwip 2mm.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.44 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.10 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	33.4	24.2	78	72
Chittagong	32.5	23.5	82	81
Rajshahi	35.6	23.6	82	68
Khulna	34.8	25.3	78	67
Barisal	33.5	24.4	86	81
Cox's Bazar	32.4	26.0	78	86
Sylhet	27.2	22.4	77	97
Dinajpur	32.6	23.4	87	74

4-member team in UK to study public service reforms

Cabinet Secretary M Ayubur Rahman is leading a four-member delegation to Britain from June 4 to 17 to study public service reforms, reports UNB.

The other members are Establishment Secretary Hasinur Rahman, Secretary Post and Telecommunications Dr AMM Shawkat Ali and Dr Kamal Siddiqui, Secretary, Prime Minister's office. The visit is sponsored by the Aid Management Office of the British High Commission and organised by the British Council.

The delegation will first attend a seminar in Oxford entitled "Towards better government: Principles into practice". Seminar speakers include the British Cabinet Secretary and head of the British Prime Minister's Policy, Unit, says a press release.

Neurosciences confce tomorrow

The third national convention and international scientific conference of the Bangladesh Society of Neurosciences will be held from June 7 to 9 in Dhaka at a local hotel and IPGMR (PG Hospital), says a press release.

Eminent neuroscientists of Bangladesh as well as five eminent neurosurgeons from Japan will take part in the scientific conference.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf will inaugurate the conference as chief guest.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haq, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed and the Director General of Health Directorate Moshir Rahman will also remain present.

Death anniversary observed

The 4th death anniversary of noted litterateur Prof. Nazir Ahmed was observed here yesterday, reports UNB.