

Majid for integrated use of pesticides

Agriculture Minister Major General (retd) Majid-ul-Haq yesterday underscored the need for integrated use of chemical pesticides with other traditional and indigenous method to minimise dependence on pesticides for reduction of crop losses and elimination of pests, reports BSS.

He said for the last couple of years agricultural extension department was working in conjunction with FAO on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and use of pesticide was one of the elements of that programme.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a three-day Asia working group meeting of Pesticide Association of Bangladesh (PAB) and International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agro-chemical Products (GIFAP) held at a hotel here.

He suggested taking extreme care in using chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides to avoid creation of a problem while solving the other.

He said farmers should be given on the field training on observance of safety measures in the use of pesticides in agriculture with the ultimate goal of its least use.

He said minimum use of

chemical pesticides was very important to ensure no toxicity of agricultural produce and non-pollution of environment.

Referring to foreign industrial investment in Bangladesh Majid-ul-Haq said agro-chemical industry would also develop in the country on a scientific basis within the internationally accepted tolerance limit to ensure safety of life and cleaner environment.

The inaugural session was also addressed by the Director General of Agricultural Extension Dr M Ayubur Rahman, GIFAP Asia Working Group Director Claude Pretot, Asia Working Group Chairman Eugen Dieterle, PAB, chairman M H Khan and General Secretary F H Ansary.

He also suggested chemical control of pests only when it reaches the economic injury level. He said conservation of natural enemies of insect pests, growing pest resistant varieties, use of modern cultivation practices should be considered before applying any chemical control measure.

FAB Chairman M H Khan said in terms of active ingredients the total quantity of pesticides used in Bangladesh presently did not exceed the quantity used 20 years back.

Indian investors urged to take part in industrial projects

Local business leaders yesterday called upon the Indian investors to participate in Bangladesh's industrial projects through equity investment with appropriate technology support, reports UNB.

They made the call at a meeting between the visiting 13-member delegation of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) of India and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at the Federation Bhawan.

The delegation, led by President of the Calcutta-based BNCCI Samir Kumar Ghosh, had a wide range of discussion with the FBCCI leaders on possible cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

"The visit of the BNCCI delegation will help the country's business community to identify possible areas of joint venture and investment," said the FBCCI Secretary.

Referring to the existing huge trade imbalance between the two countries, he requested the delegation members to import more items from Bangladesh to reduce the gap.

Samir Ghosh reciprocated the sentiment, saying that there is a prospect of joint venture industries in different fields, including cement, ceramic, rubber plantation, paper and pulp.

The BNCCI President stressed the need for frequent interaction between the business community of the two countries for promotion of trade in each other's markets.

Time is now conducive for further strengthening the Indo-Bangla trade relations and industrial cooperation, Ghosh said and invited the FBCCI members to participate in the industrial trade fair scheduled to be held in Calcutta from December 21-31.

Ghosh noted that the FBCCI has been taking keen interest in the working of the Indo-Bangla Joint Business Council and also in the functioning of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce.

The SAARC Chamber at present is formulating a five-year action plan to expedite promotion of intra-regional trade and economic cooperation.

The BNCCI President observed that the intra-regional trade in this region has remained only two to three per cent of the region's total trade.

Japanese banks' bad debt totals \$45b

TOKYO, May 3: Disposals of bad loans by Japanese banks for April amounted to 65.1 billion yen (640 million dollars), bringing the total disposal so far to 4.585 trillion yen (45 billion dollars), an official said Monday, reports AFP.

Cooperative Credit Purchase Co., set up by Japanese banks last year to clean up their balance sheets, said it paid 22.9 billion dollars for the non-performing loans last month, representing 35 per cent of the face value.

Non-performing loans are defined as those on which interest has not been paid for six months or more.

Vast tract of Jum land turns into tobacco field

By Asiuazzaman, back from Lama, Bandarban

A vast area of the "Jum land" has turned into the "tobacco land" bringing good fortune for both the tribal and Bengali-speaking settlers in Bandarban district.

The unusually high yield and a heavy profit buried the rivalry and acrimony between the Muslim settlers and Buddhist tribals in Lama thana where more than 7,000 people are engaged in tobacco cultivation.

An economic solvency is evident among the tobacco growers. Dilapidated thatched houses were replaced by semi-pucca buildings while unhygienic katcha latrine replaced by sanitary latrine at the grower's residence.

Even the death from malarial diseases has come down because we can afford treatment," Chinglamo, a 33-year old grower from Murma tribe told this correspondent.

The Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC), after a year of experiment and consultation with the law enforcing agency officials expanded its project areas in Lama thana in 1985 when only 13 acres of land were brought under tobacco cultivation.

The fertile land enriched with alluvial residue from the river Matamuhari, showed a 'miracle production' in the Lama area where the BTC took some 2,000 acres of land under tobacco cultivation over the past several years.

The average production is recorded at 650 kg per acre in Lama area which is only 500 kg in Kustia and Rangpur region. Fifty per cent of the total production is high quality variety and the BTC paid a high rate of Tk 49 per kg. The government fixed maximum rate is Tk 46.25 per kg and most of the tobacco companies purchased the best quality tobacco within this price limit.

The BTC have 750 registered farmers to whom the company provide cent percent logistic support including seeds, fertilizer, low-lift pumps and cash money for constructing curing houses.

Production cost in a three-acre plot is about Tk 30,000 from where a farmer can earn Tk 30,000 to 35,000 in one season.

After the September to

70 thousand last year and this year he just started curing and selling his tobacco.

He said from the six acres of land he would earn previously Tk 10 to 12 thousand

which provide pre-cultivation interest free loan to them.

The farmers said that they informed the problem to the local BTC official seeking help. "If the problem is resolved



Members of Murma Tribe engaged in processing tobacco.

— Star photo

April tobacco season, a farmer can produce paddy in the same land.

The Lama and the nearby Alikadam areas are free from Shantibahini insurgency for a long time but still the law enforcing agencies are vigilant to avert any trouble.

The BTC took the project at a time when the settlers were planning to pull out from the region because the forest resource was almost exhausted. So far the BTC invested Tk one crore and 40 lakh in the Lama area as loan to the farmers.

"I went, below the poverty level and leased out 12 kanis of land to a neighbour which I released recently by the money I earned from tobacco cultivation," Chinglamo said.

Chinglamo, who has two schemes (six acres) earned Tk

from rabi cultivation.

Because of lucrative tobacco farming, the price of land soared high. Even one can earn Tk 3,000 to 5,000 by leasing out three acres of land for tobacco cultivation in one season.

Hakim Ali, Abdur Rashid Farazi, Ful Mia and Mohammad Mostafa who all are settlers, voiced positive outcome of the tobacco farming in the region.

But some of the other farmers pointed out one problem and alleged intimidation by some hoodlums who forced the growers to sell BTC's tobacco to rival companies.

The gang usually coming from nearby Rangunia area sometimes offer higher price but insists on selling their tobacco to other companies.

Most of the farmers signed an agreement with the BTC

we can do our farming and business peacefully," one farmer said requesting anonymity.

BTC's regional manager Nazmul Islam Chowdhury told The Daily Star that they informed the matter to local police and were awaiting adequate measures.

He said that the BTC had plan to expand their project area up to 3,000 acres by 1996 but if the company faced such problem they had to think twice before any expansion.

He said that "possibly the rival companies are jealous over the high quality and maximum yield."

The BTC official said that it was an export quality tobacco which is now imported from India.

Govt – private sector jt venture vital to promote investment

By Staff Correspondent

Labour forces won't be a problem in privatising the public enterprises of the country if good management in the private sector can be ensured by the government.

This was viewed in Monday's sessions of the workshop on privatisation organised jointly by the World Bank Resident Mission and the Privatisation Board of the government at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Noted economists, civil servants and businessmen also stressed the need for complete transparency in the process of privatisation to avert confusion and suspension about the matter.

The three sessions of the workshop were chaired by Railway Secretary Mashur Rahman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Morshed Khan

and former chairman of the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan Saeed Qadir respectively while Prof Shamsul Haque of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University, Davit Levintov of the World Bank, Dr Prathap Ramanujam of Sri Lanka, Dr Tawfik-e-Elahi Chowdhury of the Planning Commission, John Speakman and Helen Nankani of the World Bank presented papers on the session.

Morshed Khan said initiatives for joint venture of the government and the private sector are needed to promote the private sector investment. The mere Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept would not help promote the private sector, he observed.

Criticizing the opposition political parties, he said they

are involved in jeopardising the economy by calling indiscriminate haltals in the name of democracy.

He was also critical about their role of the Board of Investment (BOI), saying that no representative from the board attended the workshop on such an issue.

Emphasising the need for unity among the businessmen of the South Asian region, he said they need to be united to combat the discriminatory measures being taken by the industrially developed nations. The businessmen would have to be united to remove the irritants and increase economic cooperation among the countries of the region, he maintained.

Morshed Khan alleged that the developed nations have

been insisting on the environmental issues to frustrate the industrialisation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) although it was evident that they are mostly responsible for environmental degradation.

Taking part in discussion in yesterday's second session, former President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Bangladesh Jamaluddin Ahmed said privatisation schemes are being frustrated mostly for the wrong reports published in newspapers and these are taking place due to lack of transparency in its process.

He said most of the state owned enterprises (SOEs) owe a huge amount of money to various government sector departments including the gas and power sectors.

BNCCI team meets Tourism Minister

The visiting 13-member trade delegation of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) of West Bengal, India, had a meeting with the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation discussed with the State Minister matters relating to development of tourism both in Bangladesh and West Bengal and the tourism potentialities in Bangladesh. The BNCCI delegation offered to introduce package tour between India and Bangladesh by air and road. They also proposed to increase the number of Bangladesh Biman's daily flights to Calcutta for transportation of tourist.

The State Minister informed the delegation that Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation (BPC) had taken up various activities to promote tourism in the country. He said BPC has undertaken projects to popularise riverine tourism in the country.

In this context, Mannan said that BPC was going to introduce "Boat" (boat-cum-hotel) service between Mongla Sea Port and the Sunderbans. It is also setting up watch observation towers in the Sunderbans.

The State Minister welcomed the delegation's proposal to joint venture project in hotel industries.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Aminur Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation, Managing Director of Biman Abubakar Ahmed, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Air Commodore Shamser Ali from Bangladesh side and D S Bose, H Chakravarty, B N Bhattacharya, Indranil Biswas, Baskar Sen, A K Chandra, S K Roy, PK Das Gupta of BNCCI took part in the discussion from the Indian side. Indian High Commissioner K Raghunath was also present.

IFPRI DG praises food policy

The visiting Director General of International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) has praised the food production, food price and distribution system of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen also expressed satisfaction over the government's food policy during a meeting with Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali at the latter's office Tuesday.

Food Minister apprised him of the price support given by his Ministry to the farmers, government food security stock position and public food distribution system, said an official handout.

The IFPRI Director General also praised the existing situation of competition and participation by the private sector in the food market in Bangladesh which, he said, he did not see in any other country to work so well.

Japan's forex reserves rise by \$2.83b

TOKYO, May 3: Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose 2.83 billion dollars in April to a record 104.56 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said Monday, reports AFP.



CIVIL Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
P&D/QS Circle, Kurmitola, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed Tenders are hereby inviting from the Enlisted Civil Contractor's of CAAB up to 12-00 hours on 10-5-94 and will be opened on the same date at 12-30 hours in the office of the Undersigned in presence of the Contractor's if any, as mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender paper (Non-Refundable)	Eligibility of Contractor
1.	Construction of Residential Quarter at Osmani Airport, Sylhet (SH-Construction of two Rooms on 1st Floor of existing P-2 type quarter).	Tk. 250/-	'B' Class (Civil) & Above.

Tender Documents can be had on all working days from the office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Division-3, Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, & Cash Section of CAAB H.Q., Kurmitola, Dhaka, Earnest money @ 2.50% of total quoted amount should be deposited along with the Tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour for the Superintending Engineer, P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Intending Tenderer shall have to show the VAT Registration Certificate before purchase of Tender papers.

Other Terms & Conditions may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Division-3, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. No Tender form will be sold on the date fixed for opening of the Tender. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject part/whole of the Tender without assigning any reasons.

DFF(G) 8067-24/4
G-759

Superintending Engineer
P&D/QS Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

China's video makers vow to obey copyrights

BEIJING, May 3: China's video and cassette makers, whose widespread piracy of international copyrights is a major trade issue with the United States, have vowed to obey the law, the China Daily said on Monday, reports Reuters.

More than 60 firms, "have united to combat copyright infringements," the official newspaper said.

"These firms entrusted each other to deal with the copyright issues in their local markets, including illegal duplicating, copyright piracy, selling fake tapes and forging trademarks."

The United States on Saturday put off an expected decision to brand China as a major pirate of US books, music, movies and computer software for 60 days until June 30.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the postponement was to give more time for negotiations.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor told reporters the delay was to avoid complicating President Bill Clinton's

separate decision on whether to downgrade China's access to US markets.

Clinton must decide by June 3 whether Beijing has improved its human rights performance enough in US eyes to warrant extending its trade privileges, known as most favoured nation (MFN) status.

Throughout the US administration, China is considered a top-league pirate for its widespread and illicit copying of compact discs. Chinese officials say the allegations of piracy are not disputed by any one of the government agencies that compile the trade review, but how to proceed most definitely is.

China has repeatedly vowed to crackdown on the compact and laser disc pirates whose copyright-busting ways have earned Beijing the anger of US and other Western governments.

In a recent sweep against South China's Guangdong province, the capital of the illegal trade, inspectors closed 400 shops and confiscated more than 50,000 discs.

RHD Short Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed Tender Invited in BD Form No. 2911

1. Tender Notice No	142/RDD/1993-94 (2nd call)
2. Name of work	Construction of Road Divider (concrete median) in 2 (two) groups at different Km. of Polder Road during 1993-94. Ch to 168-RBF.
3. Name of offices of availability of tender documents	Office of the EE RHD, Road Divn. Dhaka/Manikgonj/Munshigonj/Narsingdhi/Narayanganj/Gazipur/Planning Divn./Planning & Design Divn. Dhaka/SDE, RHD, Road Sub-Divn I/II, Banani, Dhaka.
4. Name of officers to receive tender bids	SE RHD, Dhaka Road Circle/ Planning & Monitoring & Eval Circle/Monitoring & Eval. Circle (P&D), Dhaka/EE RHD, Road Divn. Dhaka/SDE, RHD, Road Sub-Divn. I/II, Banani, Dhaka.
5. Last date of receipt of tender	The concerning officer after receiving tender bids will open the same at the schedule time & send to this office after sealed cover.
6. Date & time of opening of bids	Up to 12-30 PM on 8-5-94.

Group No	Location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
I.	3rd (p) & 4th Km of Polder Road	Tk. 17,74,300/-	Tk. 35,486/- in BDT/CNDS certificate in fav. of EE RHD, Rd. Divn. Dhaka from any schedule bank.	60 (sixty) days	'A' to 'C' class enlisted contractor of RHD of general category
II.	5th Km of Polder Road	Tk. 15,70,600/-	Tk. 31,412/- do	60 (sixty) days	'A' to 'D' do

DFF (G) 8112-25/4
G-761

Fakhrul Alam Talukder
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Divn. Dhaka