

### Metal statue of 'Shiv' disappears

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, July 9: The century old metal statue having images of the Hindu God 'Shiv' recently disappeared from the Tush Bhandar Bhabatarini Kali Mandir, according to the temple sources.

The metal statue weighing about one hundred kilograms was erected by the then landlord (samindar) of the area inside the temple. It was learnt that the statue, worth Taka one crore, was made of gold and other valuable metals. Due to lack of proper care and security the piece of the fine statue was easily stolen, alleged a local villager.

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET July 9: A total of Taka 54 lakh 71 thousand has been sanctioned for construction of new class rooms in seven secondary high schools of greater Sylhet region during the current fiscal year. The Facilities department has taken necessary steps to start the construction works.

An official source informed this correspondent that the schools selected under the project includes, Bardesh High School in Kanaighat thana of Sylhet, Adarsha High School of Sylhet sadar thana, Rautgaon High School of Kaulara thana under Moulvibazar Singapur, Aftab Uddin High School of Moulvibazar sadar, Syedpur High School of Jagannathpur thana in Sunamganj, Paharpur Basanta Kumar High School of Ajmirganj thana in Habiganj and Umriganj High School in Sylhet sadar thana.

One class room building will be constructed in each of these institutions, the source added.

An estimated amount of Taka 7 lakh 81 thousand 67 has been sanctioned for each of the schools. Construction works would be started within a month or two, the source added.

### Housewife beaten to death

DINAJPUR, July 9: A housewife of Shekura village in Kotwali thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband on Friday, says UNB.

But the husband Saiful Islam of the victim Ashera Khatun informed the police that his wife committed suicide by hanging herself in the room.

Police arrested Saiful Islam on the same day on the basis of a complaint lodged by a Union Parishad member that Ashera was beaten to death by her husband.

Another report adds: Some 30 posts of Headmasters of government Primary schools of the district have been lying vacant for a long time hampering education.

According to official sources, eight post are lying vacant in sadar thana, three posts each in Parbatpur and Birol thanas and two post each in the remaining eight thanas.



RANGPUR: The newly constructed hospital-cum-clinic, Hena Memorial Hospital at Rangapur in Mithapukur thana so far offered treatment to some 22,000 patients free of cost. The 33-bed hospital cost Taka 30 lakh to construct which was provided by a local industrialist and social worker. — Star photo

### Govt, non-govt primary schools in Kishoreganj face problems

KISHOREGANJ July 9: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district have been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like blackboards, chalk, dusters etc, paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salary.

According to district primary education department, there are 808 government and 369 non-government primary schools in the district.

The total number of the students in government schools is 2,36,937 while the non-government schools have 53,855 students. As many as 162 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Most of the non-government primary schools established under local initiatives have not yet received government recognitions although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were set up before the Liberation War and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund

constraints payment of salary of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the Universal Primary Education Programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of benches. As a result, students are to sit on bricks or mats. In some schools there is not a single chair and the teachers are to sit on benches.

The supply of necessary appliances including black boards, chalk, duster is too inadequate.

Ninety percent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most institutions have no lavatory and urinal except a few schools much to the affliction of the students. Most of these institutions do not have sufficient accommodation. Classes of those schools are being taken under the open sky but that becomes impossible during the rainy season.

On the other hand, a good number of schools are running

in dilapidated buildings. The roofs of the schools buildings soak water ever after a slight rainfall which forces the teachers to suspend classes frequently.

Due to shortage of funds the managements are not in a position to repair the schools. Shortage of teachers is another hindrance to proper education of the students. Besides dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the problem. Some of the teachers who are clinging to their jobs complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

Social leaders expressed the fear that many of the existing schools will face closure shortly if remedial measures are not taken. Moreover, some of the teachers are not discharging their duties regularly as alleged by the guardians.

The primary schools which had been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired in rural areas.

The guardians have appealed to the authority concerned to take effective steps so that the long standing problems of the primary schools are redressed.

### 50 thousand fishermen in Chandpur face unemployment

CHANDPUR, July 9: About fifty thousand fishermen of the district are facing unemployment because of abnormal fall of quantity of fish in the river of Meghna, Padma and other rivers.

The fish production in the district has suffered a serious set back due to massive siltation of rivers, canals and indiscriminate catching of fish fry this year. Fish production is also hampered due to the outbreak of fish diseases alarmingly.

Unabated catching of hilsa and pangas fries by large number of fishermen also hampered the natural growth of fish in the area.

It is alleged that a group of people living along the river-side of Meghna catch fish fry

rampantly defying the government ban during breeding time.

Fish diseases that broke out alarmingly perished about fifty percent of the total fish of the district.

Increased use of insecticides in the crop fields perished a huge quantity of fish.

Fish is not cultivated properly in the waterbodies of the district. The fishermen could not increase fish production due to their fund shortage. They neither get bank loans nor any other financial help from any source.

Meanwhile a large number of fishermen had left their ancestral profession and had taken other occupation.

About ten thousand are suffering from TB. Chandpur TB clinic has been facing numerous problems causing immense sufferings to the patients. The clinic has no medical appliances and apparatus to diagnose the TB patients.

Shortage of necessary medicines is also reported. TB patients of the clinic are not getting proper treatment due to alleged carelessness of the doctors and paramedics, staff of the clinic.

It is alleged doctors and the paramedics remain always busy with their private business. Most of the TB patients come from the working classes and are living below the poverty line. So they cannot afford to the private doctors for the treatment of the disease. A large number of TB patients visit the clinic everyday.

### One shot at, 3 abducted by miscreants

KUSHTIA, July 9: Activists of an outlawed party shot dead a man and abducted three others from Kusra village in Mirpur thana of the district recently, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Nasir Ali 35 and the abducted persons are Hannan, 36, Wahab, 35 and the identity of other one could not be ascertained.

Earlier, three people were killed and 15 others received bullet injuries in the same village in a fierce clash between the two rival groups of the villagers early last month.

Meanwhile, a man was killed in a road accident on Kushtia-Daulatpur road recently.

According to witnesses, a big bundle of betel leaf fell on the victims, Karim Biswas, 45, from a running night coach while he was travelling in a rickshaw van.

### Two sentenced to life-term

RANGPUR, July 9: Two people were sentenced to life term and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer another six months RI for killing a minor girl, court sources said here recently, reports UNB.

In the same judgement, the District and Sessions Judge, Mohammad Ibrahim also awarded punishment to five others to suffer six months and another man to one and a half months RI while 25 others were acquitted.

Kahor Mamond and Kashem Ali were given life term imprisonment.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that all the accused swooped on the houses of Abdus Samad, Shajuddin and Abdur Rahim, village Hortapara in Saidpur thana of Nilphamari district on July 18 following a dispute over a plot of land in 1989.

The accused beat the inmates mercilessly and stabbed Abdur Rahman's minor daughter Selina Khatun causing her instantaneous death and injuring others seriously.

### Young girl trafficked to India

SIRAJGANJ, July 9: A minor girl from a village in sadar thana was taken to India by women traffickers on June 21, police said, reports UNB.

Anowara 12, daughter of Abdul Majid, a day labourer of Kandapara village was allured by the trafficker, Kokan alias Matin that he was willing to marry her.

At one stage, Kokan took her at Lalgola border point of Rajshahi district by train from Raipur and sold her for an amount of Tk 15,000 to the Indian women traffickers.

It may be mentioned that Kokan came to the village a month ago from Dinajpur and circulated that he worked in Bangladesh Biman. Later, he allured Anowara in the name of marriage.

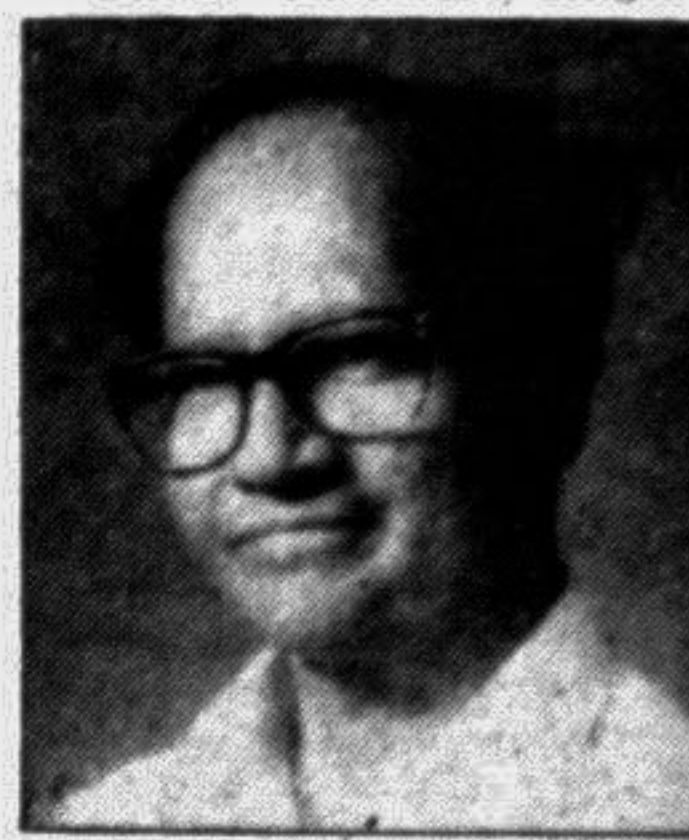
When the matter came to light, Yusuf Sheikh, maternal uncle of Anowara, filed a case against Kokan, his father Chandu, mother Sharefa Khatun and sister Shabana Khatun in sadar thana on June 22.

In the petition Yusuf mentioned two boatmen as witnesses who said Kokan took Anowara to India on their boat. They are Firoze and Yusuf Ali.

### He still fights to preserve his works

From Delwar Kabir

Puji Haadi, Romanian poet Tugolitinov and Dr Danjel Chuk, Pakistani singer



Mustafa Aziz

Ostad Salamati, Samrat Gulam Ali, Paili Kabi Jasimuddin and many more.

His pencil sketches included well known persons from 72 countries most of which were published in many newspapers around the world. His works, no doubt, were well covered by the international media. About a dozen or so exhibitions were arranged in his

honour in many countries including Europe.

Saliakupa thana parishad lately arranged an exhibition of his works which, unfortunately, was represented by very poor exhibits.

Talking to this correspondent, Mustafa Aziz said, he had high hope of publishing his works but fund constraints bar him from doing this.

Many of his favourite sketches were ruined due to lack of proper preservation facilities. Aziz regretted that the government had no initiative to preserve his works. He had planned to sell some of this fine pieces of art but so one came forward to help, he said. He added that the proposed Gulam Mustafa academy to be constructed still remains a dream.

At the age of 72, Aziz still fights to preserve his works. There were days when he could afford only one meal a day. This condition has not improved much. He still seeks help to find a new way of life.



Fanu Miah, a beggar and two street kids do not escape Aziz's eyes.

### Poor fry supply in Satkhira

### Shrimp output target may fail

SATKHIRA, July 9: Shortage and high price of shrimp fry have seriously affected shrimp cultivation in the district.

According to reports, hundreds of shrimp cultivators throughout the district have been facing short supply of shrimp fry. This crisis has already drawn gloomy picture over the production target severely affecting export target this season. Sources say that less than half the target of shrimp output is expected from the region as most of the shrimp culture fields remain half empty.

It is understood that due to lack of hatchery in the region shrimp fry supply has been to-

tally depended on natural production. However, natural way of production takes twice the time as a hatchery takes. In the meantime, fry produced naturally have already been consumed by the cultivators which met less than one third the total demand in the district.

Meanwhile, due to short supply cost of shrimp fry has sharply increased. One thousand fry cost between Taka 1600 and 1800 in the local markets now as against Tk 1000 and 1200 earlier. This price hike has also contributed to decline in shrimp output expected from the region.

Those who have already invested in shrimp cultivation projects are now in trouble.

These businessmen had taken loan from different commercial banks at high rates of interest for the projects. The money they had taken have already been invested in various works like field preparations, building embankments etc.

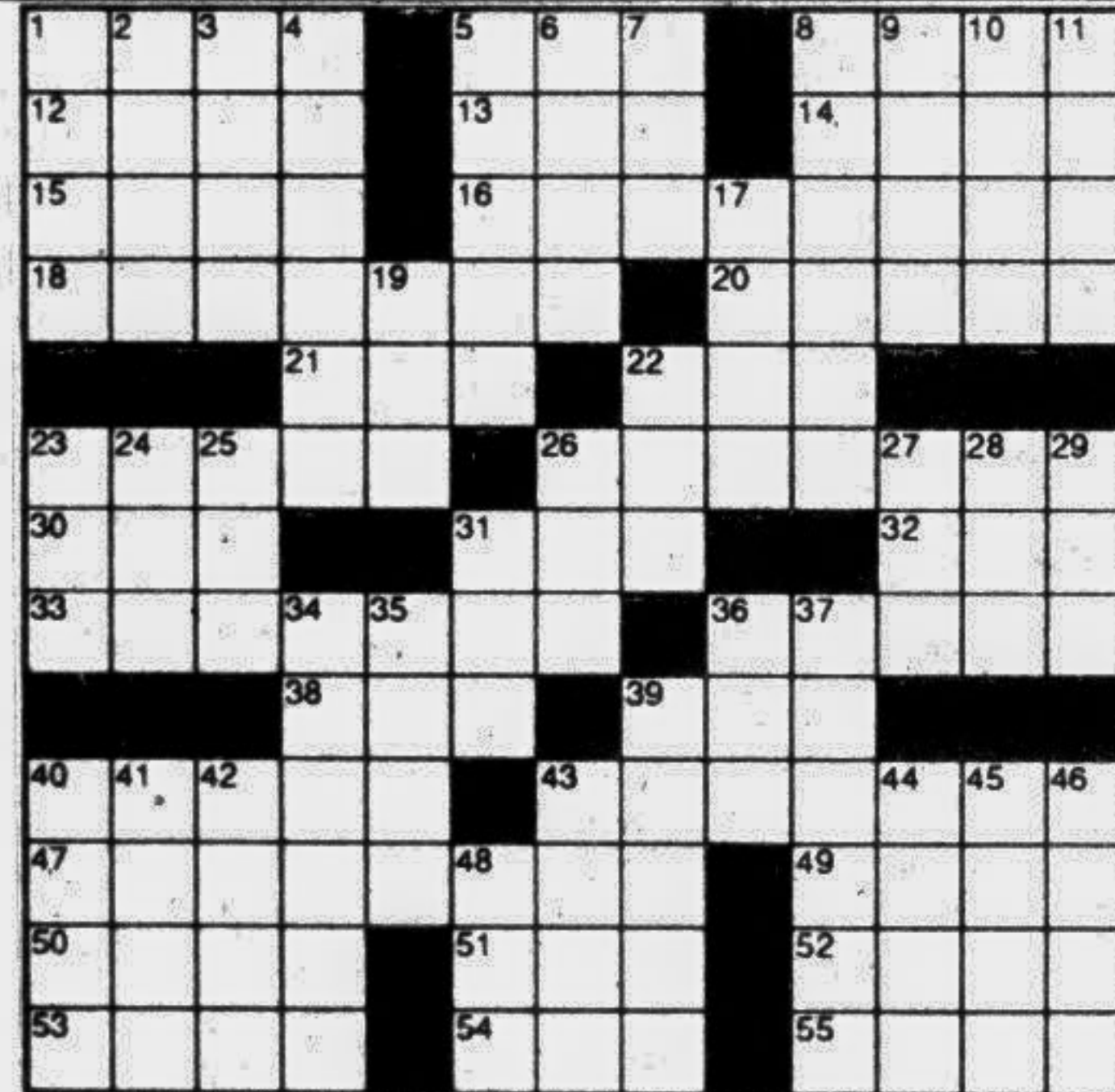
Many of the cultivators had taken loan in advance from their contacts who guarantees to buy the lot of the shrimp.

Already in trouble, these cultivators are depending on supply of fry from other districts.

In the meantime, many traders worry that marginal cultivators who had taken loan from commercial banks may not be able to repay the loans in time.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS product lad... 23 Tactic for Bowe
- 1 Cleaver family 39 Flamenco cheer 2 Greatly 3 Dig up 24 Praiseful poem
- 5 Father's Day gift 43 Popeye's fuel 4 Take out of context? 25 Prefix for stick or skid
- 8 — Alto, Calif. 47 Barbecue wood 5 Beat 6 — 26 Festive
- 12 Lotion additive 49 Rue the 7 Aurora's a/k/a 27 Author Buscaglia
- 13 Freudian concern 50 V...iki is there 8 Suddenly swoop and seize 28 Felonious flight
- 14 "Metamorphoses" poet 51 Train component 9 Enthusiastic 34 Type of wrench
- 15 Merchandise for Mephistopheles 53 Merriment 10 Lo-cal 11 Stench 35 Stead
- 16 Estival pest 54 Geologic period surprise 17 Classroom 36 "The Greatest"
- 18 Shot 55 Minus 19 Calendar 37 Fasten the boards again
- 20 Hypnotized 1 "When I — 22 Baby food
- 21 Addition-ally 22 Snap 23 Smith's pal 26 Graceful antelope 30 Bother 31 Diastema 32 Nosh 33 British auto 36 Bakery come-on 38 OPEC



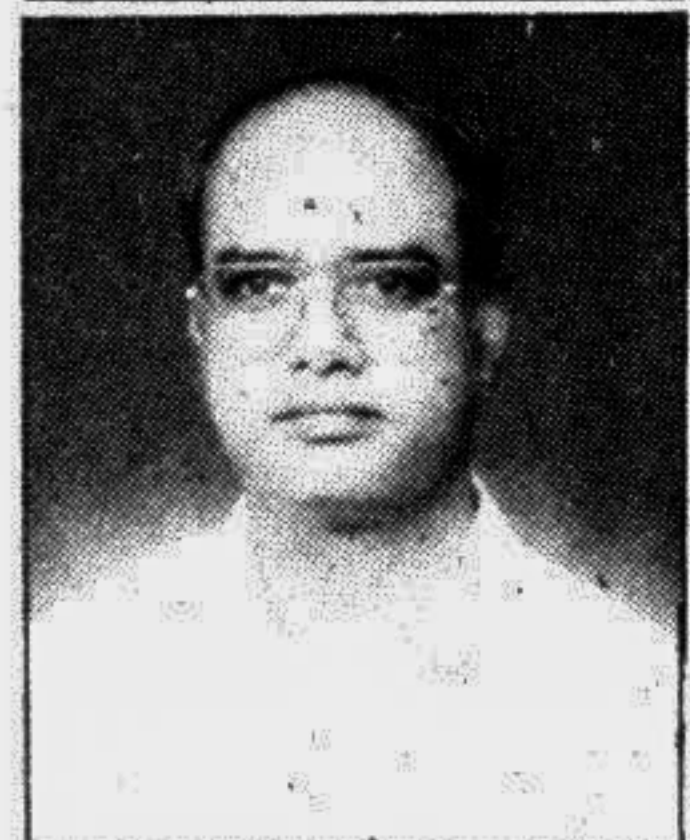
CRYPTOQUIP

K J R I X F Q Y D Y I P O K Y O I M Q I M V I W V S J W S Y J E E S U I K E E V I D Y S G G "U S P X S W S J U F R I ?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DOUBT THAT CONCRETE REPAIR WORK, AS A NEW CAREER, IS ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Md Rahmatullah, new BAUOA president. BAUOA office bearers

AGRI-VARSITY, (Mymensingh), July 9: Mohammad Rahmatullah, (Engineer) and M Mukhlesur Rahman, Deputy Director, Planning and Development have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Officers' Association (BAUOA) at an election held recently at the BAU Teachers-Student Centre, says a BAU press release.

Other elected office-bearers were: vice-presidents Md Tozazzal Hossain and Md Lutfur Rahman, Joint secretaries - Md Mashtur Rahman Khan and Nurul Haque, treasurer - Md Rafiqul Haque, members - Md Nazibur Rahman, Abdul Hannan, Md Aziz Ahmed and K M Shamsul Islam.

### Free from bondage at last

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 9: The peasants through out southern districts of the country have shown their keen interest to cultivate their land in 'contract' system instead of 'barga' system. The new system of cultivation was widely accepted by the farmers of Jhenidah, Magura Narail, Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Faridpur districts.

The new system of cultivation would not change the method of cultivation but would change or replace the age-old 'barga' system. The new system was widely supported by the peasants of the area because the 'contract' system would cut down expenditure on cultivation and help remove the bandage system.

The landowners, in barga system, would lease his or her part of the land to obviously a poor farmer. The farmer, with the help of hired labourers, would plough the land using his own cows or animals. The landowner would supply all necessary inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc. So the total cultivation cost would be carried by the landowner. After harvesting the farmer

would have to deposit 50 per cent of the total harvest to its land-owner as agreed by both the parties. This share basis of barga has great risk for the cultivator as the farmer guarantees the landowner to give 50 per cent of the total output.

However, if in any case, pest attack, natural calamities like storm, heavy rainfall or extreme heat (drought) destroys the crop partially or in whole in farmer has to give away any other asset he owns like, land, house, tees or in rare cases cash. This system obviously makes the poor farmer even the poorer, leaving no other way but to compel them to beg on the streets.

This system has left the peasants in the lurch and made the landowners richer. So, barga system can be identified as one of the reasons for rural poverty.

It has been observed over the years that the cost of cultivation in these areas has been increasing to a great extent putting more burden on the poor farmers. To remove such expenses putting more burden on the poor farmers. To remove such expenses and poverty, 'contract' system was

proposed by the local farmers which gained wide support from the peasants.

In 'contract' system a farmer would take lease of a certain area of land from the landowner to cultivate crop.

But this time, the farmers would give taka two thousand to five thousand (varies) in advance to the landowners and in some cases promise 10 to 15 maunds of the harvest. This 'contract' system means the poor farmers would no longer be bonded to their landowners.

At the same time, the farmers would invest their own input, including arranging for irrigation facilities. So the farmer no longer depends on supply of inputs from the landowners. The system in general would better work on a large area of land so involving many landowners at the same time.

The proposal for the new system has become so popular that some of the landowners themselves have shown their keen interest to invest for the inputs without any bandage.

Cultivators would no longer have to worry when ever drought, storm or pests attack the crop. The farmers would no longer have to give away their last asset they possessed