

## Best use of radiation technology for food preservation underscored

By Staff Correspondent

To protect human health the government has a plan to modernise the Pesticide Residue Laboratory at the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology (IFRB) of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

This was disclosed by State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan at a national seminar on 'Irradiation as an alternative to pesticides for food preservation' at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Centre in the city yesterday.

Speaking as a chief guest Prof Mannan said we have to ensure safety food and ecological balance, which internationally accepted in irradiation technology. It is very much necessary for reducing post-harvest losses, improving hygienic quality and meeting the quarantine requirement for trade development.

He said the Pesticide Residue Laboratory should be

confirmed the presence of high concentration of persistent compounds like DDT in dried fish.

All relevant aspects of the food irradiation technology by using Gamma Ray was studied at BASC, on the basis of a commercial demonstration irradiation plant was set up at Chittagong by Gunnatech Ltd, a joint venture company of Beximeco and BAEC in March, 1993 which was undeterred, he added.

Prof Mannan said use of chemical and pesticides for post-harvest storage should be restricted or withdrawn for consumers' safety consideration and environmental burden. Many countries in the world are no more allowing uses of pesticides and chemical additives for food storage and other post-harvest management, he added.

In another session, a number of Nuclear scientist under-

scored the need for best use of radiation technology for food preservation as an alternative to pesticides.

They said it has become imperative to use radiation technology as recent scientific studies found that the producers and traders of different food items including dry fish are misusing and overusing pesticides and chemical additives including fumigants and decontaminants in post-harvest food treatment.

Science Secretary Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Member (Bio sciences) of BAEC, Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed (IFRB) Director M A Matin and food irradiation specialist Dr M Ahmed also addressed at the seminar.

The inaugural session was presided over by BAEC Chairman M A Quayum. The keynote paper was presented by International Atomic Energy Agency expert on pesticide

residue research Dr Basil T Grayson.

Dr Alamgir said that food irradiation was well matured, food processing technology and global evaluation of its efficacy and wholesomeness is unequivocal.

Urging the prospective entrepreneurs to invest in this technology he said international trade on irradiated food was a matter of time only where necessary harmonization of national regulation was underway for the purpose.

BAEC Chairman Quayum said the objective of the seminar was to make the people aware of the dangers of using banned and dangerous pesticides and stable compounds like DDT in food preservation.

Dr M Ahmed said chemicals are being phased out from international trade in food and agricultural products due to their adverse effects on environment and consumers.

### BJMC earns Tk 299 cr

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) earned Taka 299 crore by exporting 1,48,500 tons of jute goods from during July-December period of current fiscal year, reports BSS.

During the corresponding period of the last financial year, (93-94) BJMC exported 1,13,600 tons of jute goods valued at Taka 231 crore.

Compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, the export of jute goods and earnings in the first six months of the current fiscal year have increased by 31 per cent and 29 per cent respectively, says a press release here yesterday.

During the period production in the mills under BJMC has also been increased in comparison with the last year.

In the month of December BJMC mills produced 25,984 metric tons of jute goods while 22,845 metric tons were produced in the corresponding period of the last year.

Among the products, BJMC mills produced 8,029 metric tons of hessian in December 94 showing 14.96 per cent increase over the corresponding period of last year. The production of hessian was 6,984 metric tons in December 93, the press release said.

The mills under BJMC have also produced 1,48,506 metric tons of jute goods from July-December in the current fiscal year. The figure was 1,42,779 metric tons in the previous year.

### Substandard oil on sale in Natore

NATORE, Jan 18: Adulterated mustard oil is being sold in different hats and bazaars of the district causing suffering to the consumers, reports UNB.

Local people said a section of unscrupulous oil mill owners and local traders have been running the business of the edible oil mixing Indian chemical essence with the sub-standard indigenous mustard oil.

Some of the oil mill owners of six thanas including the sadar are involved in producing such adulterated mustard oil. The trend of mixing Indian mustard oil chemical essence has been increased as it is not easily detected by the consumers. In doing so they are earning a lot at the cost of public health, informed sources said.

The essence is being mixed with unrefined palm oil, linseed, til and rape seed which take colour of pure mustard oil. These are being sold in different markets to earn windfall profit.

According to local physicians many consumers of adulterated mustard oil are suffering from various stomach ailments. They said after diluting the chemical the oil becomes poisonous which is injurious to health.

They also urged for stringent action against the adulterators.

### IFC delegation meets Zahir

A five-member delegation of International Finance Corporation (IFC) today called on Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office here, reports BSS.

The delegation apprised the minister of the programmes of IFC in Bangladesh and discussed various ways and means of increasing investment of IFC here.

They also discussed setting up of joint venture projects in the fields of cement, pulp and paper and leather.

The delegation said that a number of joint venture projects with foreign investment in Bangladesh are in active consideration of the IFC for financing.

Industries Secretary AHM Abdul Hye was present.

### Six Lankans held in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Jan 18: The Department of Immigration in Nepal has arrested a gang involved in forging fake visas and passport during a raid in a house here on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

According to a spokesman of the Home Ministry, the gang includes six members who are reported to be Sri Lankan nationals staying in Nepal illegally.

Head of the gang, Alfred Reghing has been involved in the illegal activities in Nepal for four or five years under the Indian name of Janardan hanker.

## Manufacturers halt factory operations in western Japan

TOKYO, Jan 18: Japanese manufacturers halted factory operations in western Japan on Tuesday while the Osaka Securities Exchange suspended share trading after a massive earthquake devastated the area, report AFP.

Among the companies affected were Kobe Steel Ltd., one of Japan's top steelmakers, and electronics manufacturers Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. and Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. both based in Osaka.

Kobe Steel suspended production at both its Kogawa Steelworks and its Kobe Steelworks, its two main facilities in Japan, a spokesman at the company's Tokyo office said. Further details were unavailable.

Japan's top steelmaker Nippon Steel Corp. was also reported to have suspended steelmaking operations in Osaka.

A spokesman for Matsushita, the world's largest consumer electronics maker, best known for its National and

Panasonic brands, said production was halted at its Kobe plant, where it makes personal computers, word processors and video games.

A Sanyo spokesman said a factory located at the epicentre on Awaji Island suspended production of solar cells and batteries.

Reports reaching the Japanese capital said only 10 per cent of Securities company employees showed up for work in Osaka after pre-dawn quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale.

The Osaka Exchange suspended all trading for the morning session and, although it resumed trading in futures and options in the afternoon, trading in stocks, bonds and country funds remained suspended.

A spokesman for NEC Corp. said the company's semiconductor plant in Otsu was shut down during the morning, but expected to resume operations in the evening.

Reports reaching Tokyo said Mitsubishi Electric Corp. Inc. report said.

suspended operations at four factories while Sharp Corp., which is headquartered in Osaka, halted production at one factory in the suburbs of Osaka.

Among other companies reportedly affected were car-maker Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd., camera and office equipment manufacturer Minolta Co. Ltd. and the country's biggest whisky distiller Suntory Ltd., all based in Osaka.

A tyre factory operated by Kobe-based Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd. also suspended operations, reports said.

Unitomo Bank Ltd., which is headquartered in Osaka, was meanwhile reported to have been unable to open 90 of its 126 branches in the area. Other Japanese banks based in Osaka include Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Daiwa Bank Ltd.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Ministry, meanwhile, confirmed there was no damage to nuclear power plants in the region operated by Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc. report said.



A M Subid Ali, President, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, presided over a meeting between Australian buyers mission and BCI directors and members in the city on Tuesday.

## Aussie buyers show keen interest in jt venture

The visiting Australian buyers mission has shown keen interest in joint venture projects like water management, environment management, dairy farm and telecommunications in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The interest was shown at a meeting between the Australian buyers' mission and leaders of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) Tuesday.

Peter Hattam, Executive Officer, Trade Investment Promotion Service (TIPS), Canberra, is leading the seven member delegation, who arrived in Bangladesh on January 12.

BCI President M Subid Ali presided over the meeting.

The members of the mission have also shown interest in ceramic products, leather goods, garments, jute and jute goods, sea food etc.

Hattam informed the meeting that TIPS service includes matching up Bangladeshi importers and extends fund for training facilities for entrepreneurs from LDCs.

The mission leader also said that Bangladeshi companies would be given special facilities in major Australian displays in 1995 and 1996.

The present facilities enjoyed by the LDCs would be abolished after 1996 and they

would have to compete with the rest of the world on the basis of quality products.

The BCI President said there is much communication gap between the business communities of both the countries. This gap should be narrowed by frequent exchange of trade delegation to explore business possibilities, he added.

He said the Australian government should ensure easy

## Peso bail-out runs into opposition in Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan 18: Despite endorsements from leaders of both parties in Congress, President Clinton's plan to underwrite 40 billion dollars in loans for Mexico has run into opposition from both liberal and conservative lawmakers, reports AP.

The same coalition that came close to defeating the North American Free Trade Agreement in the House a year ago seemed to be forming again in an effort to fight the loan guarantees.

Republican David Bonior of Michigan, No 2 Democrat in the House, said the United States should insist on a number of guarantees, including requirements that Mexican

workers have expanded rights to organize and strike.

If the American people are going to be asked to guarantee billions of dollars in loans to Mexico, we have a right to demand that Mexico meet certain conditions in return, said Bonior, who led Democratic opponents to NAFTA in 1993.

Conservatives, meanwhile, charged that the deal was a bail-out for big Wall Street investors who have lent money to Mexico.

This is a bail-out of a basically unreliable, untrustworthy regime and it's a bail-out of Wall Street, charged commentator Patrick Buchanan, a Republican presidential candidate in 1992.



Bangladesh Krishak Samity brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding solution to the problems faced by sugarcane producers including reduction of prices of fertiliser, insecticide and electricity etc.

— Star photo

## US industrial output jumps in Dec, '94

WASHINGTON, Jan 18: Industrial production surged in December more rapidly than it has in two years and factories operated at their highest rate of capacity in more than 15 years, reports AP.

The Federal Reserve said Tuesday that output at the nation's factories, mines and utilities advanced one per cent last month and was 5.8 per cent higher in December than a year earlier.

The December jump was larger than analysts expected and came despite a drop in production at utilities due to unseasonably mild weather. The Federal Reserve also said that production rose 0.7 per cent in November, revised upward from a previous 0.5 per cent estimate.

Industrial production grew at an annual rate of 5.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, compared to 4.9 per cent the previous three months.

Factory output, the most closely watched component of the report, gained one per cent in December. That matched the November advance and for all of 1994 was up 6.7 per cent.

With strength broadly based, the Federal Reserve said industry was operating at 85.4 per cent of capacity in December, the highest rate since October 1979.

Utility production declined 0.8 per cent in December after falling 1.3 per cent a month earlier. For the year, utilities were down 0.6 per cent.

Factory output was particularly strong for big ticket durable goods. That category climbed 1.3 per cent in December on top of a one per cent rise in November, and long-lasting goods were up 8.2 per cent over 1993.

The Fed raised interest rates six times last year, and many analysts expect a seventh boost when the central bank's

**বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান**  
চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ  
পরিচালকের দন্তপত্র  
কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা।

বিমান বন্দর পরিষেবা বাধা  
"গোচরণ করা, পাহাড়ে পরিচর্চা করা  
এবং পরিবেশ বীচে" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

**জরুরী পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের নিরাপত্তা করার লক্ষ্যে ০১-০৪-১৯৫১ ইতিহেসে ০১-০৩-১৯৬২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ১ (এক) বৎসরের জ্যুন সার্টিফিকেট জারি ও ৩ টিনে জিয়া নিরাপত্তা প্রদাতা মুসলিমাইজেশন প্রদত্ত প্রাইভেট ফোর্মে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিষ্ঠা ইতিহেসে সার্টিফিকেট জারি করা যাইতেছে।

ক। সরপত্র সিভিল, পরিচালক: জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের বাধা  
শর্কার এবং চেম্বার্স সরপত্র সিভিল, সিএএল: সরপত্র সহ কর্তৃপক্ষের নথি ৮০০/- (চারশ টাকা) টাকা (অফিসিয়েল যোগাযোগ)। নথি মূলে ২৪-০১-১৯৫১ তারিখ ১৪-০০ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে এবং ২৫-০১-১৯৫১ তারিখ বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে এবং ২৫-০১-১৯৫১ তারিখ বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে। একই দিন মুলে ১১-৪৫ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে। একই দিন মুলে ১১-৪৫ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে।

ব। সরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষ সরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষের নথি ৮০১/- (চারশ টাকা) টাকা (অফিসিয়েল যোগাযোগ)। নথি মূলে ২৪-০১-১৯৫১ তারিখ ১৪-০০ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে এবং ২৫-০১-১৯৫১ তারিখ বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে। একই দিন মুলে ১১-৪৫ ঘটকে পর্যবেক্ষণ করা যাইতে।

গ। সরপত্র ক