

Bogra Association for Metal Entrepreneurs is Making Headway

by Hans Rolloos

BULBUL still remembers that not so long ago in his birthplace Nandigram in the District of Bogra...

Over the last fifteen years a lot has changed in Nandigram and the surrounding sub-districts. With financial support of donors such as the World Bank...

The three annual harvests and the extra income they earn has made that many farmers have started to buy their own pumps. Another reason was that they did not want to be fully dependent on the Government run pumps...

Sattar, owner of a small metal workshop in Bogra, very well recalls, how fifteen years ago some farmers came to see him with some broken pump parts...

The increasing demand for spare parts encouraged Sattar and other metal entrepreneurs in Bogra to adjust their production. For some of the metal companies the production of spare parts even became a specialized business.

during the rainy season when no technical irrigation is required. For this purpose you need working capital. In this respect banks could offer us loans, but they are not doing it...

Our next visit is to a foundry. We are arriving just to see how the pouring of the melted iron is done. The iron cooked in a ten feet high oven is poured into small heat proof buckets...

We walk up a shaky staircase and arrive at a small platform where the oven is filled with pieces of scrap iron and cokes. As I do not see any weighing scale, I ask the oven master how he mixes the iron and the cokes...

On the way to the next workshop I talk with Sector Specialist Small Scale Industries, Bart Van Zwieten of the Netherlands Embassy, who is supporting the Bogra Association of Metal Entrepreneurs...

What strikes me most of all visiting the metal entrepreneurs that all of them are very proud about what they are doing. It is clear that they are used in solving their own problems. They know that cannot expect very much from the Government, the institutes for technical research and the banks...

The strong will to solve their own problems through their own Association of Metal Entrepreneurs has been the main reason why three years ago the Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka became interested in providing support to the metal industry in Bogra...

Sattar and the other members of the Association surely do not lack initiative and enthusiasm. The number of members has increased to more than two hundred. The Association now meets regularly and their activities have expanded...

Over the last months other organizations have expressed their interest in seeking cooperation. The Netherlands Government sponsored Crop Diversification Programme has offered to provide assistance in the production in qualitatively better agricultural equipment...

Van Zwieten says, "It is interesting to see how all of a sudden other organizations are now trying to set up all kinds of modes of cooperation. The metal industries are of strategic importance to the agricultural sector...

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Social Profitability of Medicare

by Dr Md Habibullah

I contacted diabetes in 1971. On August 12, '96, I was admitted to BIRDEM for the third time. First time admission was at Segun Bagicha. Late Dr Ibrahim learnt that I was a teacher in Accounting. He wanted to know the real meaning and significance of cost effectiveness as mentioned in WHO Bulletin...

DIABETES mellitus is considered to be one of the major diseases in Bangladesh. More and more cases are being diagnosed every year. The number of diabetes patients has been estimated to be 2 million. Diabetes is a debilitating disease which puts the diabetes patients to socio-psychological stress...

incurred by them for treatment from general doctors before coming to the Association. The survey found that treatment in the Diabetic Association is least costly. The Diabetic Association has facilities for conducting as many as 43 tests. No institution in this country, private or public, has equipments for all these tests in one place...

The survey has contradicted some popular beliefs, for instance, it has been found that diabetes is not a disease of financially affluent people only. Its presence has been noticed among factory workers, rickshaw-pullers, class IV employees and farmers who work hard to earn their living...

If a diabetes patient dies, society loses all the investment made in his education, training and rearing. The investment being treated as sunk cost. If he is kept alive by proper treatment, society continues to get contributions from his services up to his 57th year which is his usual retirement age...

Apparently, from the point of view of cost-benefit, investment in the establishment of the Diabetic Association is highly profitable. Therefore, it is in the national interest that social welfare institutions like the Diabetic Association should get financial support from both the public and private sectors.

Our survey has further shown that the Diabetic Association has been able to create awareness about the importance of treating diabetes. It has developed as a centre of excellence. Foreign academic dignitaries have highly appreciated its services...

The educational programme of the Diabetic Association is a unique experiment in making the people alert and health-minded. The lecture programme has particular focus of attention on three D's - Diet, Drug and Discipline. A Diabetes patient derives much educative value in realising the importance of attending the Diabetic Association regularly...

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No EXCUSE... Setting a balance between people and food is a humane task. Failure to do so results in malnutrition and raises infant death rates. Iran encourages smaller families by disincentives: only three-children families or less have access to subsidies for housing, health care and insurance.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Monday 28th October (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.) BTVC, CHANNEL V, STAR SPORTS, ZEE TV, STAR PLUS, STAR MOVIES, PTV, DD 7, ZEE CINEMA, Garfield, Tom and Jerry.