

High-yielding variety of jute evolved

MYMENSINGH, May 26: Scientists of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture here has evolved a new variety of jute that does not flower untimely, reports UNB.

National Seed Board has already approved the high-yielding variety, brandnamed 'Bina Jute-2' for cultivating all over the country, BINA officials said yesterday.

The stem of the variety is green in colour and advance flowering does not take place if it is planted even in the first week of March.

If untimely flowering takes place, growth of jute plant is checked after it attains a height of only one foot. This year, output of jute in Khulna region is expected to be less due to early flowering.

The BINA officials said the average yield of the new variety would be 2,793 kg per hectare. It will also be useful in making paper pulp.

The innovation has been done by bringing genetic change in CVL-1 species with the application of sodium azide. Cultivation process is same as of other varieties of jute.

A retired director of BINA, CS Saha, its chief scientific officer KM Shamsuzzaman and scientific officer AD Bhuiyan have jointly worked to evolve the new variety.

Matsushita, Indian to set up joint venture

TOKYO, May 26: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co announced Monday that it will set up a washing machine company in India with an Indian company, a Matsushita spokeswoman said, reports AP.

Matsushita Washing Machine India Ltd, capitalized at 2.7 billion yen (23 million dollars), will manufacture and sell washing machines in Pune City, 180 kilometres (111 miles) southeast of Bombay, according to the spokeswoman.

The new plant is expected to start operations in July 1998, with the production estimates of 60,000 units for the first year, she said.

Matsushita will take 70 per cent of the stake and Videocon Group Share Phoot Trading and Agencies, Ltd will hold the rest. It plans to employ 120 people, according to Matsushita.

US Senator favours renewal of MFN status for China

WASHINGTON, May 26: Failure by the US Congress to renew China's privileged trading status will only benefit Beijing's other trading partners in Europe and Asia, a top US Senator warned yesterday, reports AFP.

"They're going to deal with the Japanese, the French and the Germans who will not hesitate to replace us, at which point we withdraw from all of Asia," democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts told CBS Television.

The Clinton administration last week asked Congress to renew China's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trade status for one year despite growing sentiment among lawmakers that the Chinese leadership should be punished for human rights violations.

Kerry, a potential presidential candidate in 2000, said he favours the US government's decision Thursday to impose sanctions on five Chinese nations, two Chinese companies and a Hong Kong company for aiding Iran's chemical weapons programme.

He added that the US government has found "no evidence whatsoever" that the Chinese government was involved in these transfers of chemicals to Iran.

Conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan, who appeared on CBS with Kerry, urged the Senate to reject MFN.

"They have sold missiles to Iran, they have sold nuclear technology to Pakistan. They have fired rockets at Taiwan," he said.

First Bangladeshi expatriate joins Sonargaon Hotel

Atique Rahman joined Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on October 1, 1996 as Director of Food & Beverage. He was born in Bangladesh but now a United States citizen, says a press release.

Atique Rahman, the first Bangladeshi expatriate who joined Sonargaon Hotel, has 22-year practical experience in hotel business in the USA. He served as Food & Beverage Director for Arcoa, Ramada Renaissance Hotels & The Playboy Club.

Prior to coming to Bangladesh he worked as Executive Assistant Manager for 7 years at Radisson Hotel South and Radisson Hotel Plaza Tower in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1997



FP projects in Third World : Millions of women may suffer Donors must meet commitment of \$6b aid : UNFPA study

Shortfalls in promised assistance to developing countries will result in at least 120 million additional unwanted pregnancies, 49 million abortions, five million deaths of infants and young children, and 65,000 maternal deaths over the period 1995-2000, reports BSS.

Those are among the preliminary conclusions of a study prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its Executive Board, said a UNFPA press release.

Using estimates of annual resource needs adopted by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the study considers the likely impact if these goals are not met. While developing countries continue to increase allocations for reproductive health, international assistance has stagnated in the past year, heightening concern that donors may not meet their one-third share of the 17 billion US dollars required in 2000.

"Our study shows that developing countries have increased their spending on reproductive health in line with the ICPD recommendations," said Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA. "But the ICPD goals can be reached only if all coun-

tries do their part. We must count on donor countries to meet the commitments they made in Cairo. If they do not, millions of women, and their children, will suffer needlessly."

The ICPD adopted a 20-year programme of action which focuses on individual well-being and rights including the right to choose when to have children — as key to achieving sustainable development. As part of a comprehensive effort to improve women's status, education and health, the plan aims for universal access to quality reproductive healthcare, including voluntary family planning.

Governments agreed that developing countries should cover two thirds of the costs of a package of basic productive health and family planning services. In the most favourable one, international assistance increase 12 per cent a year, as it did during 1990-1995, to 3.6 billion US dollars by 2000 — a 2.1 billion dollars shortfall — while domestic spending in recipient countries grows by 8.5 per cent to meet the 11.3 billion US dollars target. In the second scenario donors provide only 2.8 billion US dollars in 2000, and in their spending by developing countries also falls short.

Using the same methodology as the ICPD to estimate reproductive health needs, the report forecasts that the number of additional individuals and couples not having access to family planning services would increase year by year, and would reach between 96 million and 175 million in 2000, depending on which scenario occurred. Cumulatively, these scenarios produce a dire set of predictions over the period 1995-2000.

According to the study, "Meeting the goals of the ICPD: Consequences of resource shortfalls up to the year 2000" donor spending — including World Bank loans — increased by 40 per cent in 1994 and by the same percentage in 1995. But the momentum appears to have stopped: 1996 showed little or no increase.

To reach the agreed target of 5.7 billion US dollars, donor assistance must increase by 23 per cent each year until 2000.

The report considers three scenarios in which resources fall short of the goal, to project a range of likely consequences. In the most favourable one, international assistance increase 12 per cent a year, as it did during 1990-1995, to 3.6 billion US dollars by 2000 — a 2.1 billion dollars shortfall — while domestic spending in recipient countries grows by 8.5 per cent to meet the 11.3 billion US dollars target. In the second scenario donors provide only 2.8 billion US dollars in 2000, and in their spending by developing countries also falls short.

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The report notes that only the consequences of underfunding family planning services were analysed quantitatively. Further reproductive health consequences, although also grave, cannot be quantified at this preliminary stage. These include the extra millions of families affected by deaths and illness due to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

In addition, millions of couples would receive reproductive health and family planning services in poorly equipped and insufficiently supplied facilities, from staff lacking technical training and counselling skills.

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A protocol of cooperation between Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Lima Chamber of Commerce (LCC) was signed by FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun and LCC Director Juan Forsyth Rivarola at the International Conference Centre in the city on Sunday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori witnessed the signing. — PID photo

FDI in ROK hits record high in Apr

SEOUL, May 26: Direct investment in South Korea by foreigners hit a record monthly high of 1.56 billion dollars in April compared to 87 million dollar logged a year ago, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said Monday, reports AP.

The same methodology



SCB executive due in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Nigel Kenny, General Manager of Standard Chartered Bank's Equitor operation arrives in the city today, says a press release.

This is the first visit of Kenny to Bangladesh. During his stay, he will meet senior officials of Equitor in the country.

Nigel Kenny joined the Standard Chartered in 1992 and assumed the position of General Manager, Standard Chartered Equitor in October, 1996.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rate (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 26/05/97

	TT Clean	OD Sight Export Bills	OD Transfer Bills
US Dh	43.5200	43.3522	43.2386
GB Pnd	71.2233	70.9321	70.7461
D. Mark	25.7982	25.6927	25.6253
F. Franc	7.6465	7.6153	7.5953
J. Yen	0.3737	0.3722	0.3712
C. Dlr	31.4799	31.3511	31.2689
S. Franc	31.1471	31.0197	30.9384

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public:

	Selling	Buying
Name of Currency	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.
US Dollar	43.8120	43.3500
GB Pound	72.2704	72.3526
D. Mark	26.2367	26.2665
F. Franc	7.7733	7.7821
J. Yen	0.3826	0.3830
C. Dolar	32.0076	32.0439
S. Franc	31.6805	31.7164

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public:

Selling Buying

US Dlr 43.8500 43.3500

GBP 71.2700 69.2700

S. Riyal 11.8000 11.4000

UAE Dh 11.8500 11.3500

Ku Dinar 143.5000 138.0000

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 26.5.97

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L.Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Banglar Maya	Gl	Cal	BSC	23/5	27/5
J/2	Techmat	Cement	Sing	PSAL	R/A	30/5
J/4	Pioneer	Gl	Sing	Prog	21/5	28/5
J/5	Green Opal	Gl	Yang	Everett	18/5	27/5
J/6	Altair Ace	Gl	-	Fairmax	R/A	26/5
J/7	Ocean Rover	Gl	Sing	Everett	22/5	28/5
J/8	Grace Marine	Gl	Sing	PSL	22/5	27/5
J/9	Padma	Cont	Pusa	Prog	22/5	28/5
J/10	Leona	Gl	Bang	Prog	20/5	27/5
J/11	Esco Argo	Gl	Bang	Prog	20/5	27/5
J/12	Banglar	Gl	Col	AML	21/5	27/5
J/13	Asba/Chhanak	Wheat(Gl)	K. Dia	BSC	R/A	28/5
CCT/1	Kota Selamat	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	20/5	28/5
CCT/2	Lian Sha	Cont	Sing	Bdship	18/5	27/5
RM/4	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	Bdship	18/5	28/5
	Fong Lee	Repair/ Survey	K. Dia	Bdship	R/A	30/5
CCJ	Hao Woo No.2	Cement	Sing	RML	R/A	28/5
GSJ	Mihalis-F	Wheat(Gl)	Mumb	SSST	R/A	27/5
TSP	Mantis	Repair	Mumb	Cross	5/4	30/5
RM/5	B					