

**Entrepreneurs told**  
**Choose proper**  
**technology for**  
**industrial**  
**promotion**

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Lieutenant General (Retd) M Noor Uddin Khan, has called upon the entrepreneurs to choose the appropriate technology for the development of the industrial sector as well as effective functioning of its units, says BSS.

"We are trying to promote investment in all sectors and everywhere technology is an important factor. Therefore, the industrialists and entrepreneurs should choose the cost-effective machinery and ensure their proper maintenance," he said while speaking at a seminar on 'Rotating machinery monitoring and diagnostic system through vibration technology' yesterday.

US-based Bently Nevada in association with their agent here, Landmark Bangladesh Limited, organised the seminar at a hotel here which was also attended by President of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh Forrest E Cookson.

The sophisticated vibration technology is used as a supervisory instrument to monitor and identify troubles of high speed rotating machines without suspending their operations.

So far only Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has been using the vibration analysis technology.

Project Director of BCIC's Training Institute for Chemical Industries, Muhammad Enayet Ali, General Manager of Bently Nevada Sales and Service, Singapore, V Kannan, and Managing Director of Landmark Bangladesh Shahzada Hamid, among others, spoke at the function.

**Bahraini bank to begin business in Bangladesh soon**

Faysal Islamic Bank of Bahrain will open a branch in Daka soon, according to a FIBB press release issued here Wednesday, reports UNB.

FIBB, the largest Islamic bank in the world, is a subsidiary of Dar Al-Mal Al-Islami (DMA), a Geneva-based trust.

The DMA, a Pan-Islamic organisation, launched in 1981 with an authorised share capital of one billion US dollar, and the group has already established its network over 17 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa.

The bank will function in strict adherence to the Islamic sharia. In order to ensure such conformity, the bank operations will be checked and monitored by its Religious Supervisory Board.

The bank is sponsored by the family of the late King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz Saud of Saudi Arabia.

**Jakarta to curb luxury housing**

JAKARTA, Aug 14: The Indonesian government plans to curb luxury housing developments to stop a rise in bad loans in the property sector, it was reported Thursday, says AP.

Housing Minister Akbar Tumang told the official Antara news agency on Wednesday that the economy would be affected if developers continued to build high-priced houses without considering market conditions.

"If repayments of loans invested in the property sector cannot be made on time there will be bad loans and this is what we do not want to happen," he said.

The minister could not place an exact value on bad loans in Indonesia's property sector, but said it had reached trillions of rupiah, or millions of dollars.

He did not know how long the restriction would last. That would depend upon the monetary authorities, he said.

"If the monetary authorities think the situation has returned to normal, credit extension to the sector may be reopened," he said.

**Pappas to pay \$1.75m in fine**

DALLAS, Aug 14: The Pappas restaurant chain, which has pleaded guilty to hiring illegal immigrants and hiding them during INS inspections, will pay a record 1.75 million dollar fine, US officials announced, reports AP.

The Houston-based company, owner of the popular Texas restaurants Pappasito's Cantina and Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, pleaded guilty to four felony counts of shielding, concealing and harbouring illegal immigrants from detection.

"We have evidence that Pappas was hiding unlawful workers, moving them from restaurants to restaurants ... changing names, hours and even keeping off-the-record workers," US Attorney Paul Coggins said Wednesday.

The previous record for an enforcement fine was a 1.5 million dollars civil penalty assessed in March 1996 against a New York janitorial company.

# Standing paddy turns yellow in southern Bangladesh

## Beetles raid rice fields

official estimate.

Elderly farmers think that the Pamri attack has some kind of relation with the uttarer batash (wind blowing from the north) that indicates climatic change.

Officials in Dhaka said pest control measures, like sweeping and clipping, have been taken to save crops or seedlings on four to five thousand acres of land in Khulna and Barisal divisions. Farmers have been advised to use pesticide only as the last resort, as it affects the ecology.

But not many farmers are aware of the pest control drive of the Agriculture Extension Department, having country-wide network.

"I happened to meet a government man in the bazaar and asked for his help. He advised me to use medicine to set everything alight," said Abdus Samad (40), a sharecropper at Betagram village in Satkhira.

The farmer said he used low-cost pesticide but his seedlings were attacked by Pamri again. "I cannot afford to spray costly but effective pesticide," said Samad, a part-time rickshaw van puller.

A senior official of the Agriculture Extension Department in Dhaka said farmers have been asked not to transplant pest infested seedlings or those with grub. The Department also conduct training programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for farmers.

But Samad has already invested more than Tk 1,500 in his seedbed on three bighas, which has been attacked by Pamri. His investment will go in vain if the seedlings cannot be protected from the black beetle.

Nearly one-fourth of these cultivable lands may be attacked by pests in next 10-12 days and the crop damage in the infested areas would be around 50 per cent, according to an un-

official estimate.

Pests are attacking new fields adding to the anxiety of farmers who cannot afford to buy required quantity of pesticides sold in the local markets.

Dipak Ranjan Devnath, a dealer of pesticide in Chukitali Bazar in Bagerhat Sadar has a seedbed on 10 bighas of land, affected by pests. He does not know of any officer visiting his village.

"We never received any training either," said Sheikh who could not tell the name of a "powdered medicine" he is using to protect his seedbed at the ad-



Pamri, Paruli or Shapi, as they call them in southern districts, playing foul with poor farmers' crops.

— Photo by UNB

pests to save the environment as campaigned by the Agriculture Extension Department. There were instances that farmers fell prey to pest attacks even by using the so-called resistant variety of seeds.

Laluddin Sheikh (60) of Fulbari village in Bagerhat Sadar has a seedbed on 10 bighas of land, affected by pests. He does not know of any officer visiting his village.

"We never received any training either," said Sheikh who could not tell the name of a "powdered medicine" he is using to protect his seedbed at the ad-

vice of co-villagers.

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Environmentalists say the use of pesticide can have adverse effect on the health of

farm workers and others exposed to it. Pesticide may contaminate ground and surface water, harming downstream users of that water and damaging inland fisheries.

The grim situation pertaining to pest attack and condition of poor farmers' crops for a vigorous drive to promote integrated pest management (IPM), a natural and environmental friendly process of pest control.

The farmers need all the assistance to get rid of the pest menace to give the nation a better yield.

Many farmers said they never heard of the training on the natural way of combating the natural way of combating

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