

Massive seed-cotton farming scheme

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Oct 10: About 2,000 metric tonnes (MTs) of seed cotton are being expected to be produced in Rajshahi zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB) during the current season.

The zone comprises of Poba, Puttia, Charchat and Bagha upazilas of Rajshahi district, Natore Sadar, Bagatipara, Boraiagram and Lalpur upazilas of Natore district, Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj district and Manda upazila of Naogaon district.

According to official sources, BCDB, Rajshahi zone targeted to cultivate seed-cotton on 2,500 hectares of land. But the target could have not been achieved. Seed-cottons have been cultivated on about 2,100 hectares of land.

Cotton-seeds were sown from early July to late August and the seed-cottons will be harvested in next December and January months, sources said.

It is being hoped that seed-cotton will be produced at a rate of on average amount of about one metric tonnes per hectare of land, if weather remains more or less favourable.

The high lands, which are not waterlogged, are most suitable for cultivation of seed-cotton. It grows very good in Charchat and Bagha upazilas of Rajshahi and Bagatipara and Lalpur upazilas of Natore alongside the banks of the river Baral, a tributary of the river Padma.

Cotton Development Board (CDB) is also trying to popularise cotton cultivation in other parts of the country namely Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Kushtia, Jessore, Jhenidha, Chuadanga, Mymensingh and Dhaka.

Cotton is also produced in Chittagong Hill Tracts by the tribal people in their own traditional cultivation system of "zoom." This is mainly used by the growers themselves. They make clothes with their own handlooms by using these cotton. The other cottons produced in the rest of the country are bought by BCDB.

Sources said that BCDB bought seed-cottons (cotton mixed with seeds) straight from the farmers to maintain fair price.

BCDB has also its own registered and contract growers who are given seeds, other necessary requisites and loans on condition that they will sell their produces to BCDB.

There are more than 6,000 non-registered and about 500 registered and contract cotton-growers in Rajshahi zone, sources said.

BCDB has also a programme to cultivate seed-cottons exclusively for quality seeds through the contract growers. It gives seeds to the contract growers free of cost. It also a 50 per cent cost of fertilisers and insecticides. Local experts of BCDB supervise the cultivation and harvest and buy the cotton-seeds from the contract-growers at a higher rate than the normal market price. After sorting and grading, these seeds are preserved to release in the

next season.

BCDB Rajshahi zone has cultivated 25 hectares of land for seeds during the current season.

These are many kinds of species of cotton. CB-3 and CB-5 species of cotton are grown in Bangladesh. In Rajshahi zone CB-3 variety is exclusively cultivated, sources said.

BCDB is conducting experiments and observations on two new varieties of cotton, but these are yet to be released for the farmers in the field levels.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi zone of BCDB conducted an experiment this season to produce "relay crop" along with seed-cotton in the same field. Manzurul Hannan, chief cotton development officer of Rajshahi zone said that the experiment had been proved profitable. They cultivated lalshak, kalmishak and anaranthas as relay-crops which have very short span of life and need no extra care and do not cause any harm to the main crop. This brings an additional amount of money to the farmer with no extra expenditure. Lalshak has been seen most suitable and profitable as a relay-crop.

Manzurul Hannan said: "We shall now advise the cotton-farmers to cultivate relay-crops with seed-cotton," he said. This will help popularise cotton cultivation, he expects.

BCDB and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) have recently reached a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that RAKUB will give loans to the farmers for cotton cultivation under the supervision of BCDB. An amount of taka 6,000 loans will be given against one acre of land. RAKUB has fixed a target to distribute loans of taka eight lakhs in BCDB, Rajshahi zone during the current season. A total of taka two lakhs loans has already been disbursed, sources said. The loans are being given on relaxed conditions.

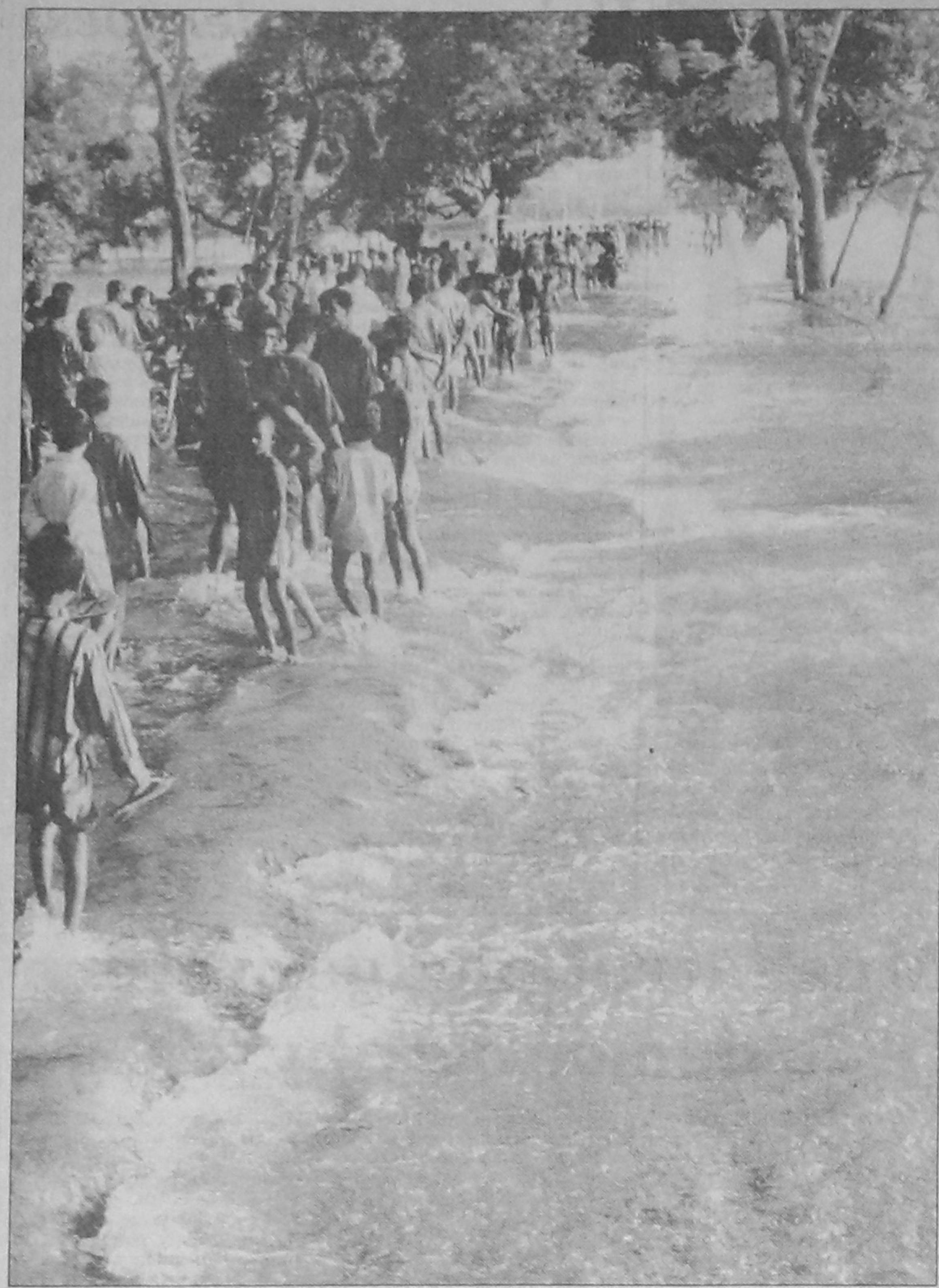
BCDB, Rajshahi zonal chief said, cotton cultivation is profitable in any source. Cotton plants are used as fuel. Cotton seeds are also used for vegetable oil. More than 20 vegetable oil mills are being operated profitably using cotton seeds as the raw material in Kushtia and Khulna areas, he said.

The oil-cakes produced as a by-product during extracting oil, are very rich food for fish and cattle. These oil-cakes are extensively used in Khulna region for shrimp culture, he said.

There is a demand of about 6.00 lakh bales of raw cotton in the country. Out of the total, only about 90 thousand bales of cotton are produced in the country. The rest of the amount is imported.

Prospect of cultivation of cotton has been proved very bright in the country. The main hindrance before it is that high lands are decreasing in amount day by day for housing and establishment of industries, markets and other institutions.

Besides, high lands are profusely used for growing foodgrains, vegetables, fruits and sugarcane. On the other hand, most farmers are still ignorant of the prospect of cotton cultivation. Those who know something about it and come forward do not get sufficient supports in terms of inputs, loans and fair price.



New areas are being submerged due to onrush of flood waters at Chhoyghoria, a suburb of Satkhira town on Satkhira-Navaron-Jessore highway. Road communication with Satkhira is about to be snapped because of development of cracks and potholes on the highway.---Star photo by A K M Mohsin

News snaps

Rohingya trespassers arrested

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 10: Police as part of a special drive in different border areas here arrested 14 Rohingya trespassers on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said the drive has been launched to check the influx of Rohingya infiltrators into the district from Arakan State of Myanmar who have created law and order situation in the border areas. Police said the intruders are engaged in criminal activities including robbery, collecting tolls and drug trafficking. They said the drive would continue till the improvement of the law and order situation in the border areas.

Youth with fake notes held

NAOGAON, Oct 10: A youth was arrested with two forged notes of Tk 100 denomination from Sadar upazila here Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Feroj Hossain, 30, son of Hazrat Ali of the same upazila, was caught red-handed as he tried to buy paddy from a farmer at Tatulia hat in Borshal union with the fake notes. He was later handed over to police. Bldg Construction

Workers' union office bearers

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 10: Biennial Election of Magura Imarat Nirman Sramik Union, or Building Construction Workers' Union, was held recently at local press club auditorium.

Mustafizur Rahman Swapan, Abu Bakkar and Matiar Rahman were elected president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively of the organisation.

1,065 members of the union exercised their franchisees. Khan Zainul Huq, former headmaster of Magura AG Academy, acted as presiding officer while Khan Rakibul Huq and Lutefy Ali were polling officers.

Aman cultivation scheme

BOGRA, Oct 10: Some 180,000 hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman cultivation here in the current season, reports UNB.

The land coverage is 32,000 hectares higher than the target, fixed by the Agriculture Extension Department. Of the total, some 142,000 hectares of land were brought under high yielding variety while 38,000 hectares under local variety. If there is no climatic hazards, a total of 297,000 mts of rice are expected to be produced here this year.

The district produced 333,000 mts of rice last year.

Upazila-wise breakup of cultivated lands is: 13,633 hectares in Adamdighi, 15,000 hectares in Dhunat, 13,500 hectares in Dupchachia, 16,640 hectares in Gabtali, 16,615 hectares in Kahanu, 24,013 hectares in Sadar, 20,200 hectares in Nandigram, 9,325 hectares in Sariakandi, 19,756 hectares in Sherpur, 20,950 hectares in Shibganj and 8,640 hectares in Sonatala.

Embezzlement

BAGERHAT, Oct 10: Police arrested a project officer of a fake NGO from Muzungu area of Khulna town on Wednesday for embezzlement of Tk 11.65 lakh, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Monwara Begum, 27, project officer of 'Step', Mongla, as she misappropriated the money raised from 4,000 local unemployed people promising to give them jobs. She was missing from Mongla after raising the money from January. Police arrested her after a case was filed in this regard.

New Rakub branch

BOGRA, Oct 10: A branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) was opened at Sariakandi upazila headquarters here on Friday further expanding the activities of the bank, reports UNB.

State Minister for Communications Anisul Haque Chowdhury inaugurated the branch. Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister hoped that RAKUB would play a key role to boost production and augment investment in agricultural sector. Awami League Publicity and Publication Secretary Abdul Mannan, Qamrun Nahar Putul, MP, Managing Director of RAKUB Sajedur Rahman, District Awami League President Momtaz Uddin and General Secretary Ferdous Zaman Mukul were present on the occasion. Earlier, the State Minister formally inaugurated Sukhanpukur Community Centre, said a handout.

Training for journalists

NOAKHALI, Oct 10: A week-long training workshop for journalists of the region on women and children began on Wednesday at the local Press Club here, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali Muhammad Abu Hafiz inaugurated the workshop. It was organised by Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB). Coordinator of the workshop Olur Rahman and Noakhali based Staff Reporter of The Daily Janakantha Kamal Uddin Ahmed also addressed the inaugural function. President of the Press Club Bakhtiar Shikdar presided over the function. Twenty journalists from Noakhali, Laxmipur, Chaumuhari and Feni are participating in the workshop. Senior Instructor of PIB Shahana Huda, Chief Reporter of daily Bhorer Kagoj Jaidul Ahsan and Assistant Instructor of PIB A S M Abdul Haque conducted different sessions of the workshop.

Terrorist killed by rivals

PATUAKHALI, Oct 10: An alleged terrorist was killed by his rivals in Baufal upazila here Tuesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Zakir Hossain, 26, son of court-pole Shamsul Huq in North Laxmipasha. He was wanted in four cases, including a robbery. Police said rivals called out Zakir from his grandfather's house at Kuripalka village at night. Neighbours found his on a road at Bamnikati area this morning. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Potters face problem

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 10: Potters are facing numerous problems due to lack of government patronage, price-hike of raw materials and shortage of working capital, reports UNB.

Once Barogharia the coastal area of Mahananda river was famous for pottery but many potters of the area have given up their profession as they failed to earn their livelihood. They are passing their days in great hardships as the demand for pottery products has declined greatly with the modernisation of farming system. There is hardly any demand for household articles like earthen pots, jars, toys and sculpture due to the influx of plastic, aluminum and melamine products in the market, which is comparatively cheaper and long lasting. The potters have urged the authorities concerned to provide them with soft term loan facilities and adequate marketing facilities to continue their age-old occupation.



BDR personnel recently distributed relief goods among the flood affected people of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidha. BDR jawans are also engaged in rescuing the flood affected people.

Surplus food output

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 10: The food production here has become surplus in the current fiscal.

A total of 1,33,000 tons of paddy has come out surplus. The production is above the demand of the people here. The reason behind it is identified as the good production of boro paddy. At present the harvesting of Aus paddy has begun and the production has gone up. The Agriculture Extension Department sources said, a total of 2,75,000 tons of food is required for 15 lakh people of the six upazilas here. Last year, there was no natural disaster and the weather was favourable resulting 4 lakh tons of food production. At present the prices of paddy and rice are steady in local markets.

Cement prices up in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 10: Prices of cement have gone up sharply in different markets in the town in recent days, hampering construction works.

At present, a 50-kg bag of Indonesian cement is being sold at Tk 280 against Tk 220 while Chinese cement sells at Tk 270 against Tk 230 a month ago.

Taking the advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous traders have hoarded cement, creating artificial crisis in the market.

With the increase in cement prices construction works in both private and public sectors have been facing setback.

As many construction works are suspended, a large number of day labourers especially masons and their assistants are now out of employment here.

'Corruption distorts resource allocation'

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 10: Bribes, nepotism, plundering of public money and mismanagement have shot up sharply in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world, said Erik Berg, Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka while addressing as the chief guest a workshop here on Sunday.

Issue of corruption has been a concern in recent years, he told the workshop on "Role of Development Activists and Journalists in Poverty Alleviation". He also expressed grave concerns over corruption in Bangladesh.

Quoting Tone Strand, Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), Berg said it is the poor who are hit the hardest by corruption. "They suffer when schools that are planned are not built

because somebody is stealing the money. They do not get adequate health treatment because somebody takes the medicines to make profit on the private market," he said.

He said corruption distorts resource allocation in society. It takes from the poor and powerless and gives to those who have power. It is a barrier to sound social and economic development, he added.

Held at Regional Public Administration Training Centre, the daylong workshop was organised by Land Network for Development, an NGO, in collaboration with Samata, a Pabna-based NGO.

More than 80 participants including journalists, NGO workers, teachers and lawyers took part in the workshop.



Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangladesh Erik Berg speaking at a day long workshop titled "The Role of Development Activists and Journalists in Poverty Alleviation" in Rajshahi on Sunday.



A massive programme of seed-cotton cultivation has been taken up in Rajshahi this season. Photo shows a farmer of Charchat area taking care of his produce. ---Star photo

... At cost of health complex

KURIGRAM, Oct 10: Doctors of Ulipur Hazrat Health Complex and other relevant government offices allegedly set up a private clinic with the medical apparatus from the health complex illegally, reports UNB.

As the matter leaked out Friday, hundreds of people took to the streets, staged demonstration and laid siege to the clinic named "Doctors' Community Clinic" throughout the day. They demanded exemplary punishments of the corrupt officials.

Five months back, sources said, Ulipur Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Moksed Ali, Medical Officer of Civil Surgeon Office Dr Lokman Hakim, Residential Medical Officer (RMO) of the health com-

plex Dr Omar Ali and three other doctors set up the clinic.

To run their own private clinic smoothly, the doctors took away necessary machines from the health complex operation theatre on August 20 and September 28.

When contacted Dr Moksed denied the allegation against him

and defended himself that the things happened without his knowledge.

Local MP Shahhaj Sarder asked police to take necessary action against the corrupt physicians and one Abdur Rashid lodged a written complaint in this regard.

BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

General Manager, Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd., Paribahan Bhaban (5th floor), 21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation from the Manufacturers/Indentors/Commission Agents/Representative of Foreign Firms both on FOB, C&F & C&F(C), Dhaka/Chittagong/Benapole basis for import of No (1) BEARINGS, (2) Hemming & Herackle Sewing M/c Parts, (3) Chain & Chain Link and (4) Brass Tube against "23rd JDRG/1st-TRANCE" Foreign Exchange Allocation.

Tender may be dropped either at BJMC's Planning Division, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, BJMC's Dhaka-Zone, 99, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 or at the Office of Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd., Paribahan Bhaban (5th floor), 21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh up to 12-00 Noon on 13.11.2000 and will be opened in public at 12-30 PM on the same day in presence if any at the above mentioned office. Tender documents with full details of requirements, specification, terms and conditions will be available on all working days (excepting opening date) from the (1) Controller of (A&F), BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, (2) Dy General Manager (Prod) & Liaison Officer, BJMC, Dhaka Zone, 99, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, (3) General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Chittagong Zone, 99, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, (4) General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Khulna Zone, Town Khalishpur, Khulna and Dy Manager (SP), Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd., Paribahan Bhaban (5th floor), 21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh on payment of Tk 400/- per set of Serial No 1, Tk 150/- per set of Serial No 2, Tk 130/- per set of Serial No 3 and Tk 40/- per set of Serial No 4 (non-refundable). The management of Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

BJMC: 594 dt 2.10.2000
DFP-24014-04/10 G-1764

Bangladesh Railway Corrigendum

No.P2/GB4/57/2000-2001/ACST Dated: 21-9-2000

Due to unavoidable circumstances the following modification is hereby carried out against this office Public Tender Notice No. 14/2000 dated 16.8.2000 and 15/2000 dated 17.8.2000 & corrigendum L/No. P2/GB4/57/2000-2001/ACST dated 13.9.2000 for supply of S.M. Sheet Black of sizes: in respect of quantity, last date of selling and date of opening of tender only:

	Tender No.	Read	For
1. Last date of Selling	P2/GB4/57/2000-2001/ACST	up to 24-10-2000	9-10-2000
Date of Opening	P2/GB4/57/2000-2001/ACST	25-10-2000	10-10-2000
2. Last date of Selling	P2/GB4/62/2000-2001/ACST	up to 24-10-2000	9-10-2000
Date of Opening	P2/GB4/62/2000-2001/ACST	25-10-2000	10-10-2000
3. Last date of Selling	P2/GB4/98/2000/SR	up to 24-10-2000	15-10-2000
Date of Opening	P2/GB4/98/2000/SR	25-10-2000	16-10-2000
Quantity		53 M. Ton	33 M. Ton
4. Last date of Selling	P2/GB4/63/2000-2001/ACST	up to 24-10-2000	15-10-2000
Date of Opening	P2/GB4/63/2000-2001/ACST	25-10-2000	16-10-2000

This issues with the approval of competent authority.
Rail/B/159
DFP-24005-4/10
G-1762

Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chittagong