






EXHIBITION & SEMINAR ON DIVERSIFIED JUTE PRODUCTS

23-25 January, 2002 □ Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Organised by

 Ministry of Jute

In association with

 EPB  IJSG  FBCCI  European Commission, Bangladesh

Developed by: PROTIKRITI COMMUNICATIONS

Message



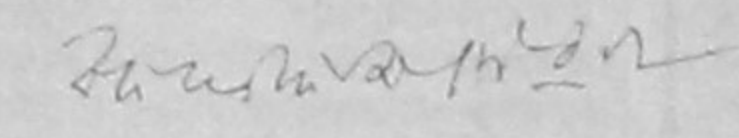
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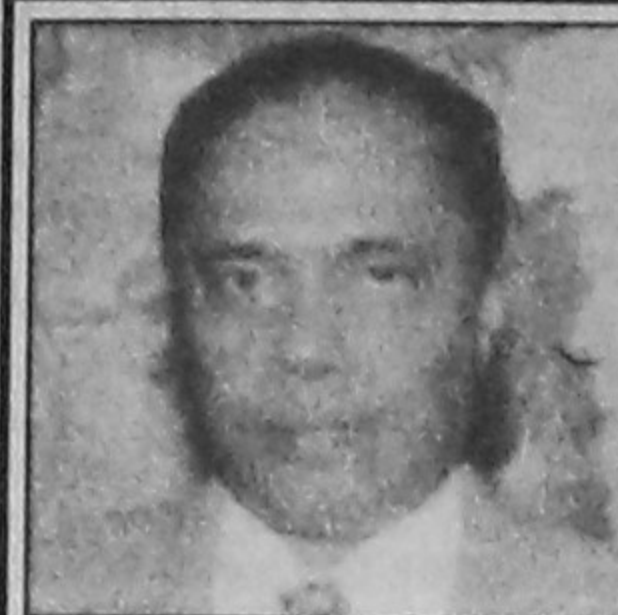


I welcome a three day Exhibition and a Seminar on Diversified Jute Products. The initiative of the Ministry of Jute in association with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and the Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) is laudable.

Jute has been a commodity of national pride for the people of Bangladesh and it needs to revive its past glory for which diversification is surely a step in the right direction. Awareness through such Exhibition and Seminar would also go a long way to create market opportunities for the new products which can complement the traditional ones for sustaining the jute economy.

I wish the Exhibition and the Seminar all success.


Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh



Message


I take this opportunity to say a few words on the occasion of the three-day Exhibition and technical Seminar on diversified jute products organized by the Ministry of Jute in association with EPB, FBCCI, Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) on 23-25 January 2002 in Dhaka.

Jute is the pride of our country. It earns a lot of foreign currency every year. But the international market for jute and its traditional products has alarmingly shrunk by the introduction of synthetic products during the last two/three decades. Due to this, our jute industry has been facing serious problems. The invention of non-traditional diversified jute products in the recent years through the joint collaboration with the development partners and private entrepreneurs and the efforts made by the former IJO have increased the chance that jute can be made competitive against synthetics in order to regain its lost market.

The recent global awareness about the environment has further strengthened the position of this environment friendly and biodegradable natural fiber. Among others the recent ban on polythene bags has increased the chance of massive domestic consumption of jute bags in Bangladesh. The innovations of geo-jute and paper pulp have already increased the use of jute. I am also glad to note that diversified uses of jute now can be considerably extended to textile and automobile sectors at home. These steps definitely, will expand the market of jute and result in the increase of foreign exchange earnings of Bangladesh.

The technical Seminar that will be held simultaneously with the Exhibition would provide an in-depth perception to interested entrepreneurs on the process and technologies involved in manufacturing various diversified jute products. I hope this will lead to entrepreneurial ventures in large number so that diversified products along with the traditional ones together can fight the synthetics for survival and sustenance of jute.

I hope that such efforts will tremendously help to promote the use of jute in the background of the stiff competition from synthetic.


AFM Sarwar Kamal
Secretary, Ministry of Jute
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message



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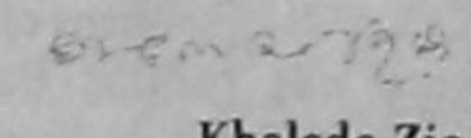


I am extremely happy to learn that the Ministry of Jute in association with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and the Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) is organizing a three day Exhibition on Diversified Jute Products and a technical Seminar on the same theme from 23-25 January 2002 in Dhaka.

Jute, the Golden fibre of yesteryears still earns livelihood for millions of marginal farmers and industrial workers. Almost every fourth person of the country still depends on jute economy for a living. It contributes substantially to foreign exchange earning. Jute has been facing serious problems due to competition from synthetic substitutes. Diversification is the only way to overcome such problems. Entrepreneurs should now come forward to set up manufacturing facilities for diversified jute products and add new items to our traditional products that would ensure sufficient demand for jute and stabilize the market price to benefit the farmers. Our government has already taken steps in this regard and would offer all possible help to strengthen the industry.

I wish this Exhibition and the Seminar all success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad


Khaleda Zia
Prime Minister
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message



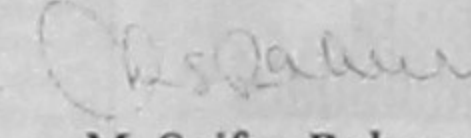
I am very happy to know that a three day Exhibition on Diversified Jute products and a technical Seminar is organized by the Ministry of Jute in association with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and the Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) from 23-25 January 2002 in Dhaka.

Jute is a natural fibre and has its own appeal to the international consumers for a pollution free environment. Notwithstanding, this fact jute has been losing its ground due to severe competition from synthetic substitutes during the past few decades.

Unfortunately, the industry also has been stuck to the traditional packaging products only for which market has been shrinking and creating imbalance in demand and supply. Diversification into new products with jute is a step in the right direction that can bring in a balance in the demand supply position in the market.

I am also glad to learn that the organisers are simultaneously holding a technical Seminar for the benefit of those who intend to set up manufacturing enterprises. I am sure the scientists and the technologists will come out with a clear perception to attract the investment in the diversified jute projects.

I wish every success for the Exhibition and the Seminar and a bright prospect of jute in the coming years.


M. Saifur Rahman
Minister of Finance and Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Problems and Prospects of Jute

Dr. R. Mandal

Officer-in-Charge, Trust for the International Jute Study Group

Introduction

Jute, including kenaf and other bast fibres, is the second most important natural fibre next only to cotton. Millions of farmers, mostly marginal, with small acreage holdings are involved in producing this cash crop, which helps sustain their livelihoods. This commodity is produced by a limited number of developing and least developed countries in South and South-East Asia. The global production of jute hovers round 3 - 3.5 million metric tons a year of which more than 50 per cent is produced in India alone. India also happens to be the largest consumer of jute goods; it consumes nearly 85 - 90 per cent of the total jute goods that it produces. Bangladesh, a least developed country, is the second largest producer, but domestic consumption in the country is only around 10 per cent of what it produces and the rest constitutes an exportable surplus, either in the form of raw jute or as jute goods. China, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand are the other producers of jute. An estimated 11 million people are engaged in jute production as in farming, manufacturing, trading and other ancillary services. Almost one fourth of the population in Bangladesh is reportedly dependent on jute for a significant part of its livelihood, and it is a major cash crop on which the farmers depend.

In view of the particular importance of this commodity to producing countries, and to help counter the threat from synthetic substitutes, which are not based on renewable resources and are not always environmentally friendly, the jute exporting and importing countries decided to set up an international commodity organization for promoting the cause of jute. The International Jute Organization (IJO) was established to administer the provisions of the International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products, 1982, negotiated under the framework of the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Following the entry into force of the Agreement, the IJO started functioning in early 1984 with its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Unlike a number of other previously concluded commodity agreements, such as those for coffee, cocoa, sugar and natural rubber, which were initially established essentially for the purposes of price stabilization, the main thrust of IJO's activities has been the encouragement of jute-based research and development in agriculture and industry, and in conducting market promotion activities. The 1982 Agreement was renegotiated in November 1989, and was subsequently replaced by the International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products (1989), which entered into force on 12 April 1991. This second Agreement is broadly similar to its predecessor with respect to its objectives and operational features. The duration of the 1989 Agreement, which was initially for five years, was extended for two periods of two years each and expired on 11 April 2000.

As the International Jute Council was not able to negotiate a successor Agreement prior to this deadline, or to find some other acceptable formula under international law to provide for a further extension of the Agreement, the IJO automatically entered into a phase of liquidation from 12 April 2000 for a period of up to 18 months. The IJO, accordingly, ceased to exist after 11 October 2001.

Recognizing the desirability of the Members to continue international cooperation on jute and jute-related matters beyond April 2000, a new Agreement Establishing the Terms of Reference of the International Jute Study Group was negotiated during the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Jute and Jute Products in Geneva on 12-13 March 2001. It is expected that the International Jute Study Group, the successor entity of the IJO, will enter into force some time in early 2002, provided that the necessary ratification/acceptance/approval/accesion process is completed in time.

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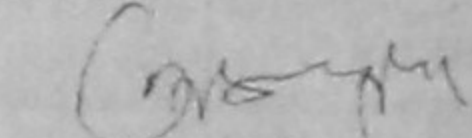
Message



It gives me immense pleasure to know that a three day Exhibition on Diversified Jute Products and a technical Seminar organised by the Ministry of Jute in association with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and the Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) will be held on 23-25 January 2002 in Dhaka.

Jute is one of the most important commodities for Jute producing countries. Despite severe competition from synthetic substitutes, jute continues to earn substantial foreign exchange through exports. As the world community is getting increasingly concerned about the environment, jute has a bright potential for revival in the coming years. In order to produce diversified new products the seminar will play a major role and it will also help the producers in manufacturing diversified jute products.

I wish the Exhibition and the Seminar a grand success.


Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury
Minister for Commerce
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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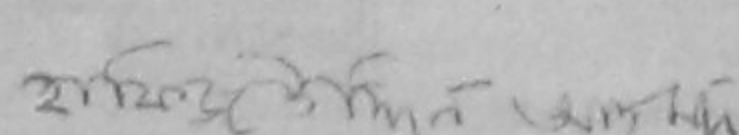


It gives me great satisfaction that Ministry of Jute is making efforts to organize of three-day Exhibition on diversified Jute Products and a technical Seminar in association with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and Trust for the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) on 23-25 January 2002 in Dhaka.

Jute has been a commodity of pride to us in the past. It continues to provide livelihood for millions of farmers and industry workers. The country also earns substantial foreign exchange through export of jute and jute goods. The industry has been facing serious problems as demand for jute products decreased in world market due to large scale use of synthetic substitutes. The traditional products have a limited market. Only silver lining today is the development of a large number of diversified products, which have potential demand at home and abroad. Such products can not only consume a large volume of jute, but can also add substantial value to the products and can create employment opportunities for the people.

The technical Seminar that is being held simultaneously with the Exhibition would provide an in-depth perception to interested entrepreneurs on the process and technologies involved in manufacturing various diversified Jute Products. I hope this will lead to entrepreneurial ventures in large number so that diversified products along with the traditional ones together can compete with synthetics for survival and sustenance of jute.

I wish every success of the exhibition and the Seminar.


Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram
Minister, Ministry of Jute
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Message

I am very pleased that this Exhibition of a new generation of diversified jute products has been organized.

Jute was once the golden fibre of Bangladesh and its foreign exchange earning provided the foundation on which the early industrialization of what is now Bangladesh was based. However, within the last twenty years, the three main conventional products of jute lost their competitive edge to synthetic products, and the golden fibre unfortunately lost its lustre.

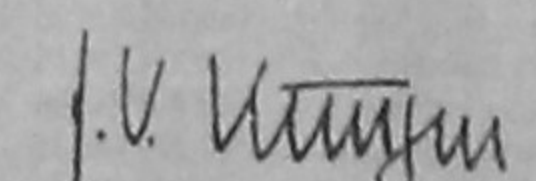
The ongoing globalization is providing challenges, drawbacks and opportunities. To participate and prosper, every country has to exploit its comparative advantages and provide an enabling environment to its industrialists and service providers. Bangladesh has a considerable agro-ecological comparative advantage in the production of jute.

To achieve the competitive edge, it is essential to achieve general improvements starting from increasing the yield and improving quality in the field to adopt newly developed and improved technologies and processes for production of diversified jute products and alternative uses of jute. It gives me both pleasure and pride to be able to say that the European Commission has been closely associated for over a decade in the extension of a high yield high quality seed based technology of jute in the field, in the development of new technologies and processes for diversified jute products and last but not least in the commercialization of newly developed technologies. A number of cooperation instruments of the European Commission have been used to provide support to the above mentioned activities.

Some of the new generation technologies have made it possible to produce products and to utilise jute which have a potential to achieve the essential competitive edge notably for bulk use of jute. Wood substitutes, automotive parts and insulation, jute geotextiles, jute blends with other natural or synthetic fibres and paper pulp are some of the products which have already attracted interest of European investors.

Some Member States of the European Union cherish links with jute and jute products for over a century. I foresee a renewed interest of Europe in the commercialization of the newly developed technologies for diversified jute products, a versatile, environment friendly, and renewable primary commodity "Made in Bangladesh".

I wish this exhibition every conceivable success.


J. V. Ketelsen
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
Delegation of the
European Commission to Bangladesh

Message



I am delighted to learn that the Ministry of Jute, Export promotion Bureau (EPB) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) are jointly organising an Exhibition and a Seminar to focus the diversification of jute products on 23-25 January, 2002 in Dhaka.


Bangladesh has a historical heritage in jute. Climate has made it, the natural home of the world's finest quality jute. This gives Bangladesh an edge over other jute and jute goods producers elsewhere in the World.

I wish that the upcoming Exhibition going to be held will provide worthwhile opportunity to the visitors to be well acquainted with our attractive jute goods made by different local participating organisations. Moreover, it will provide an opportunity to our manufacturers to look for buyers, to develop the quality for their products in comparison with those of their competitors from abroad and at the same time to get inspiration in every way to make all out efforts to export jute goods in greater quantities. This is indeed a positive milestone towards widening the marketing horizon for Bangladesh jute products both at home and abroad.

I firmly believe that the Exhibition and the Seminar will usher in immense possibilities for growth of export earning, expansion of investment, reciprocal friendship and fraternity among the participants. I am confident these events will help Bangladesh regain the lost glory of jute the golden fibre.

On behalf of the apex organization of the business community of Bangladesh, I take this opportunity to offer my hearty felicitations to the Export promotion Bureau and the Ministry of Jute for their efforts and dedication in organizing the Exhibition and the related Seminar.

I also thank the delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh and, the Trust for International Jute Study Group (IJSG) for their kind cooperation to hold the programs and wish it all success.


Yussuf Abdullah Harun
President, FBCCI