

SEMINAR IN RANGPUR TOLD

Provide gas for industries to overcome *monga* in 5 N dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speakers in a seminar here have recommended setting up of industries, expansion of banking network and micro credit among the poor and co-ordination between government and NGO activities in five northern districts to avoid recurring *monga* (lack of work during pre-harvest period).

There should be a new thinking about government's relief and rehabilitation programmes so that these bring about sustainable, they said.

Five NGOs-- Health Education and Agriculture Development Society (HEADS), Rangpur Prothibondhi Foundation, Rangpur Samajik Unnayan Sangstha (RDSS), Social Equality for Effective Development (SEED) and

Society for Social Service (SSS) -- jointly organised the day-long seminar, held recently at Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) auditorium.

Rangpur Deputy Commissioner Rafiqul Islam was the chief guest while RCCI President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu and Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Ayinul Hoque were special guests.

Akbar Hossen, president of Rangpur Prothibondhi Foundation moderated the seminar.

The DC told the seminar that the government has taken up a special programme for hard core poor in Lalmonirhat. This will be replicated in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gbandha, and Kurigram districts soon.

Under the programme, beneficiaries will get lump sum amounts of money so that they can do some income generating activities to avoid the hardship during the *monga* period in Bangla months of Ashin and Kartik.

The DAE should initiate programmes to change the cropping pattern and cultivation of value added crops and vegetables, he said.

The DAE has introduced some early harvest crops in the region.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the seminar on how to overcome *monga*, held in Rajshahi

Their percentage is only eight now.

He told the seminar that only 35 percent of the poor in Rangpur have been brought under micro credit provided by the government and

NGOs. The rate is much higher in other districts. NGOs should expand micro credit with lesser interest, he suggested.

RCCI President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu said the government and political leaders in the region should encourage moneyed men to set up industries.

The government should remove all obstacles in this regard and supply.

The government spends huge amounts of money for relief and rehabilitation, which does not benefit the poor in real terms.

Instead, the government should take a plan for building infrastructure, providing all facilities and encourage rich people to set up industries in the region.

Soil of the region is suitable for sugar cane cultivation. But farmers have almost given up its cultivation in the wake of closure of sugar mills, he said.

Many rich people are interested to set up sugar mills but that needs government patronisation, he added.

Anwarul Kabir of World Food Programme (WFP) said several lak people in the region have been brought under poverty alleviation programme. The WFP has a plan to include more hard core women in the Integrated Food Security Programme.

Abul Kashem, Regional Manager of Polli Kormo Sahiok Foundation (PKSF) said his organisation with support from International Development Association (IDA) had taken up a 3-year pilot project styled Financial Services for the Poorest in Northern Region.

Under the project, PKSF has

given Tk 50 crore to 12 NGOs for expanding their micro credit programmes in *monga*-hit areas.

The NGOs are giving loans on 10 percent interest.

He said PKSF is willing to help small entrepreneurs in rural areas to create employment.

The AED Deputy Director said soil in the region is suitable for maize cultivation. The crop is being produced in large quantities every year, but no initiative has been taken by any one to set up maize-based food industries, he said.

The speakers included Hasna Banu, Deputy Director of Social welfare Department, Rangpur Press Club President Sadul Alam Dulu,

RDRS Executive Director Abdus Salam, Programme Coordinator of Society for Social Service Abdur Razzak and Sarothi Rani Saha, Executive Director of Social Equality for Effective Development, an NGO.

Martyrs Memorial inaugurated at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

A Martyrs Memorial commemorating the mass killing by Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War was inaugurated near Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall at Rajshahi University on Thursday.

Prof Rejaul Karim inaugurated the memorial built on the country's second largest mass grave where bodies of several hundred teachers, students, officials and villagers from nearby areas were dumped.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP was the special guest at the function presided over by RU Vice-chancellor Prof Faisul Islam Faruki. RU Students Advisor Prof Zahid Hassan Milky moderated it.

RU Pro VC Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol, Treasurer Prof Abdul Jabbar, Registrar Abdus Salam and Prof Abbas Ali, Director of Martyred Memorial Archive at RU, addressed the function.

RU authorities initiated construction of the monument in 1998. Part of it has been completed.

The minister told the function that he will take steps to complete construction of the memorial.

Earlier the minister and other guests visited the Martyred Memorial Archive.

B'baria college declared no-smoking area

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Students of Management Department at Brahmanbaria Government College and Brahmanbaria Dhumpan O Madak Birudi Sangstha (body against smoking and drug use) joint held at the college on Thursday against smoking and drug use.

The meeting was presided over by Prof Md Khaled Khan of the Management Department.

Principal Prof Md Idris was the chief guest at the rally, in which the college was declared a no-smoking area.

It was addressed by, among other, Md Tajul Islam, organising secretary of the anti-smoking committee; Prof Md Shipon Mia; Prof AZM Arif Hossain, Students Union VP; Tajul Islam, Mawlana Md Anisur Rahman, journalists Reaz Uddin Jami, Rezaul Haque, Sajjal Haque Sujon, Mofizur Rahman, Md Zaman Sipu; and college students Monjura Akhter Nadi, Md Rezaul Alam Nazrul and Kazi Mojibur Rahman.

After the rally, the students and teachers of the college brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans against smoking and drug use.

Tarique Rahman distributes winter clothes

BSS, Thakurgaon

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman on Thursday distributed winter clothes among poor and destitute people on the premises of Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School.

Among others, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, industrialist Hasan-al-Musallah, Mahim Hasan, Nesaruddin Ahmed Ashfaq Rahman, Saiful Islam, Badrul Rahman, Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Thakurgaon were present.

While addressing, Tarique Rahman said he has been distributing winter clothes among poor people for last three years to render services to them, not for political purpose.

Bright prospect for natural indigo in Tangail, Mymensingh

Natural indigo is better and environment friendly, but market is flooded with cheaper Indian synthetic indigo

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

There is a bright prospect for cultivation of natural indigo in Madhupur of Tangail and Phulbaria and Muktagacha of Mymensingh districts.

Indigo is used mainly for dyeing cotton, silk, wool and other natural fibre used for making cloth, carpet and a host of other costly and fashionable products. Natural indigo is environment friendly and better than synthetic indigo.

But its cultivation can not be expanded as synthetic indigo, imported mainly from India, has flooded the market and is sold at much lower prices, according to people involved in its production, preparation and marketing.

Scarcity of seed and lack of other facilities are also obstacles to its production.

Its cultivation in large scale can create employment opportunities for rural women and meet the country's demand, they said.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a foreign NGO, initiated cultivation of indigo plants in 2000 under a project titled 'Nilkamol', involving Garo people at Jalchhatra village in Madhupur of Tangail.

Initially it brought 0.87 acres of land under cultivation.

As the experimental cultivation was successful, it brought 12 acres of land under the cultivation in 2001.

The MCC provided seeds and technical support to growers.

Next year, it started commercial cultivation at the village. Garo farmers cultivated indigo on 20 acres of land.

But in 2003, the cultivation shrank to 12 acres as the farmers did not get seeds and other facilities.

The cultivation increased this year.

According to sources, 32 farmers in Jalchhatra, Rajbari, Pirgachha, Beribaid and Ghechua villages in Madhupur upazila have brought 14 acres of land under indigo cultivation with technical and financial assistance from MCC.

The production target has been fulfilled this year, MCC sources told this correspondent during a recent visit to the area.

The production would be over 150 kilograms. Harvesting has just concluded, they said.

Arun Kumar Naha, Senior Project Development Officer of MCC said natural indigo can be cultivated in any land and even on homesteads any time of the year.

Indigo is produced from leaves, which can be harvested three times a year.

Cultivation during March-April and harvesting during August-September is more profitable, he said.

A farmer can easily earn Tk 6000 to 7500 from one acre of land in a

season. The investment is Tk 1500 to 2500.

The sources said many farmers in Madhupur, Muktagacha and Phulbaria have shown interest for indigo cultivation but MCC could not supply seeds and provide them other facilities, they said.

Interest is growing among farmers because its cultivation is easy and cheap.

Farmers can sell indigo leaves at MCC's two dye manufacturing centres at Pirgachha and Beribaid at the rate of Tk two per kg.

"But as synthetic indigo has flooded the market and it is much cheaper. So our natural dye can not cope with the situation", Arun Kumar said.

One kilogram of synthetic indigo dye is sold at Tk 600 to Tk 700 while natural dye is sold at Tk 1000, he said.

Natural dye produced from indigo leaves is of better quality because its colour is bright and long-lasting, they said.

Arun Kumar also told this correspondent that MCC produced 155 kgs of indigo last year (2003) but the whole quantity is yet to be sold because cheaper Indian synthetic indigo has flooded the market.

If this situation continues, they would be compelled to abandon their project, he said.

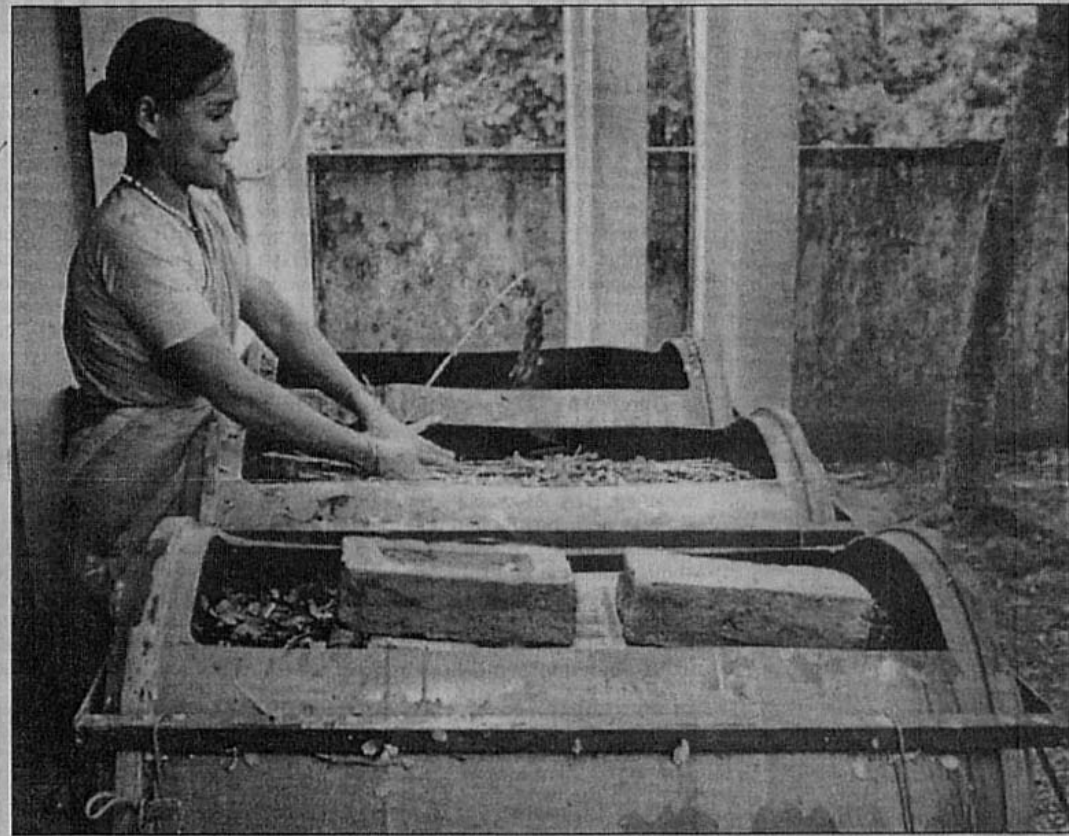


PHOTO: STAR

A Garo woman processing indigo leaves at a dye factory in Pirgacha village in Madhupur.

SNAPS

20 hurt in AL-BNP clash in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Twenty persons were injured, six of them seriously, in a BNP-Awami League clash at Kesabpur on Wednesday. The seriously injured persons were admitted to Kesabpur Upazila Health Complex. According to police the clash ensued from a dispute. The injured included Joint Convener of Chhatra League Rashidul, Jubo League leader Haider Sarain. Agitated Awami League activists also damaged a BNP office at Banshabaria Bazaar.

Rajshahi TIB holds rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi unit of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) organised a rally in the city on Thursday to mark International Anti-corruption Day. Over 100 teachers, journalists, lawyers and human rights workers joined a large number people at the rally. Later TIB organised a road side drama at Bhobon Mohon Park to create public opinion against corruption.

ALLEGED PLOT TO ATTACK BISWA IJTEMA
2 FIRs lodged against two arrested 'outlaws'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two outlaws were named accused in two separate FIRs lodged under Arms and Explosives Substances Act with Kafil Police Station on Monday.

The outlaws are Feroze Alam Lablu and Russel Shaikh.

It is almost confirmed about their motive to attack Biswa Ijtema to create political unrest. Both of the outlaws are professional armed cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) and suspects of three bomb attack incidents in Khulna city, according to Additional Police Superintendent Mofazzal Hossain who led the operation to arrest the outlaws.

Now they are under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They will be questioned after recovery from fatal wounds sustained due to mass beating after their arrest on Sunday, Khulna Police Super told this correspondent on Tuesday.

Khulna intelligence agencies started a thorough probe on Feroze Alam Lablu code named by PBCP as Akash.

Apart from his political affiliation with Awami Jubo League, Feroze Alam used to maintain hotline with BNP. Intelligence agencies are also checking the information, said Additional Police Super. We are not ruling out the information that they

were hired on payment to create sabotage, he said.

Both the arrested outlaws will be quizzed in connection with recent grenade attack in Dhaka.

According to a reliable source of KMP, Feroze Alam Lablu alias Akash used to claim responsibility for different murders by sending fax messages identifying himself as Akash. He is also a suspect of journalist Manik Saha, AL city president Advocate Manzurul Imam and Ward AL leader Kamrul Islam Kutu murder cases.

Apart from being an activist of Awami Jubo League, Feroze is husband of his sister and a close relative of a business tycoon of Khulna belonging to BNP.

Premarital blood test can prevent AIDS
BASA collects blood at RU on World AIDS Day function

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Anti AIDS Students Alliance (BASA) unit at Rajshahi University recently organised a blood donation programme on the varsity campus to mark World AIDS Day 2004.

They collected 84 bags of blood from students and also organised a discussion meeting as part of a programme to create awareness about AIDS.

Prof Zahid Hassan Milky, Kudrotusshama, RU Students Advisor; Program Assistant of Centre for Communication and

Development (CCD), an NGO; BASA Convener in Rajshahi A M Raihan and its Joint Convener Rebeka Sultana spoke at the meeting.

Earlier, a procession was brought out on the campus.

The CCD with cooperation of the National AIDS/STD Program (NASP) and UNICEF also organised an orientation programme on 'premarital blood test' on the premises of Rajshahi Madarbox Home Economics College to prevent AIDS.

Principal of the college, Salma Rahman, attended the function as chief guest.



PHOTO: STAR

A student donating blood at a camp organised by BASA on RU campus.

Dhaka City Corporation

Mechanical Division-1
14, Dhapur, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned goods as per terms and conditions stated below:

Sl No	Tender Package No	Name of goods	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion	Price of tender documents (Tk)
1.	NOTG 01/2004-2005	Procurement of 13 Nos. 1.5 Ton Capacity Garbage Dump Truck.	3,50,000/-	17 weeks	2,000/-
2.	NOTG 02/2004-2005	Procurement of 12 Nos. 3 to 4 Ton Capacity Twin Drum Vibratory Road Roller	4,50,000/-	17 weeks	2,000/-

- Source of Fund : Government of Bangladesh.
- Last date, time and place of : 08/01/05 at 4.00 PM and office of the all Zonal Offices, selling tender documents Accountants, Account Division and the undersigned.
- Last date, time and place of : 10/01/05 at 1.00 PM and office of the undersigned, receiving tender documents
- Date, time and place of : 10/01/05 at 2.00 PM and office of the undersigned, opening of tender
- Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security mentioned above. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Chalan/Bank Draft from the office stated above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tender.

DCC/PRD/181/04-05
GD-778Md Abdus Sattar
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division-1
Dhaka City Corporation
Phone: 7519909

Tarabo Pourashava

Rupganj, Narayanganj

Memo No-Ta.Poura/Engg.Div/2004-2005/Poura.Bha.Nir-129/810

Date: 04.12.2004

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender document for the work as per terms & conditions stated below:

1.	Source of fund:	Government Development Assistance Fund and Pourashava's Revenue Fund.
2.	Eligibility of tenderers:	Qualified & skilled contractors and firms as per conditions of "The Public Procurement Regulations-2003" clause-12.
3.	Name & address of the office(s) of selling tender document:	(i) Deputy Commissioner, Dist. Narayanganj. (ii) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Rupganj, Narayanganj. (iii) Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.
4.	Name & address of the office(s) of receiving tenders:	(i) Deputy Commissioner, Dist. Narayanganj. (ii) Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Rupganj, Narayanganj. (iii) Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.
5.	Name & address of the office of opening tenders:	Assistant Engineer, Tarabo Pourashava, Rupganj, Narayanganj.
6.	Last date & time for selling tender document	Date: 04.01.2005 & Time: 4:00 PM.
7.	Last date & time for submission of tender document:	Date: 05.01.2005 & Time : 1:00 PM.
8.	Date & time for tender opening:	Date: 05.01.2005 & Time: 3:00 PM. Tenderers or tenderer's authorised representatives are allowed to attend.
9.	Special instructions:	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance. Detail information are available in the office of undersigned: Tenders must be accompanied by all relevant papers and tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Chairman, Tarabo Pourashava from any schedule bank.

Brief description of works:				
Group No	Name of works	Location	Price of tender document in Taka	Tender security amount in Taka
01.	Construction of New Poura Bhaban of Tarabo Pourashava (civil, sanitary & electrical works).	Khadun	5000/=	2,00,000/=

Md Rafiqul Islam Miah
Assistant Engineer
Tarabo Pourashava
Rupganj, Narayanganj

C-3003