



## NATURE GIVES, WE LOSE

**T**HEY grow naturally. Rice and vegetables were once the principal food items for people in rural Bangladesh. Today, almost nothing grows without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Everywhere you go, you will come upon high yielding or hybrid varieties. The traditional and indigenous food items are almost extinct. Gone are the rich traditions and heritage of Bengal. Yet there are sparks of light at times, and at places. The Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) has been making efforts to remind all of the invaluable food items and traditional farm materials, and of Mother Nature that nourishes us, in life and what comes with it. As part of those efforts, the non-government organization arranged an exhibition from May 21-23 at the city's Drik Gallery. About 250 species of plant herbarium and their living evidence, local rice varieties, seeds of some grains, agricultural materials, plant killing pesticides, rural house building materials and some other nearly extinct rural agro materials, handicrafts made of bamboo and other forest inputs and livelihood practices of rural people were exhibited at the unique show.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

