



RICE FARMING A green way to cut cost

- BRRI developed new bio-organic fertiliser
- To eliminate TSP use, cut urea use by 30pc
- To ease burden of fertiliser subsidy
- To help keep environment green

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladeshi scientists have developed the perfect blend of decomposable waste, biochar, friendly bacteria and rock phosphate to make two most-used chemical fertilisers in the country's paddy fields largely unnecessary.

A group of soil scientists at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) yesterday said use of the newly developed bio-organic fertiliser would eventually eliminate 100 percent usage of triple super phosphate (TSP) and reduce urea usage for rice production by 30 percent.

Not only would this help reduce the use of chemical fertiliser, it would significantly cut the government's yearly fertiliser subsidy of Tk 9,000 crore.

It would also help keep the environment clean and green as it would use kitchen waste and cut down carbon emission.

The Soil Science Division of BRRI successfully field-tested the efficacy of this bio-organic fertiliser on paddy in all three rice-growing seasons -- Boro,

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Merkel faces tricky coalition talks

*Migrant burden takes toll on her conservative
bloc as it secures 33 percent of German vote*

REUTERS, Berlin



Germany's Angela Merkel began the tough task of trying to build a coalition government yesterday after securing a fourth term as chancellor in an election which saw her support slide and the far right making significant gains.

Damaged by her decision two years ago to allow one million migrants into Germany, Merkel's conservative bloc secured 33 percent of the vote, losing 8.5 points -- its lowest level since 1949. Her coalition partners, the centre-left Social Democrats, also slumped and said they would go into opposition.

Voters flocked to the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD), the first far-right party to enter the German parliament in more than half a century. However, the AfD hardly had time to savour its third-place showing before it fell into internal bickering.

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TEPID RESPONSE TO OMS



A seller waits for customers on an OMS truck near Shyamoli in the capital yesterday. Under the Open Market Sale programme, white rice (Atap), *below*, was sold there at Tk 30 a kg from 9:00am to 5:00pm. But, there was hardly any customer as most people don't prefer this rice variety. Only 20kg rice was sold till 2:00pm.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Rohingya children ask for relief as aid workers distribute that among them in a playground in Ukhia's Balukhali area yesterday.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

Don't let Myanmar go Rwanda's way

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

It has been over three weeks that the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had issued a letter, unprecedented in the last 28 years since the 1989 Lebanon conflict, to the Security Council for its action on the ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. It has been about two weeks that the Security Council met behind closed doors calling for Myanmar to stop violence against the Rohingyas.

Since then it seems the Myanmar violence is going Rwanda's way -- lots of talking but doing little which had prompted the then secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali to say in bristling anger "all of us are responsible for this failure. It is a genocide which has been committed".

Just as the UN remained hamstrung when 800,000 Tutsis were killed in Rwanda in the face of



complete disinterest of the US and other big nations, the same is being repeated in case of Myanmar. The UN is unable to take any stern actions such as sanctions and sending peacekeepers in the face of Chinese and Russian resistance.

Just like the case of Rwanda, different organs of

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Solution lies with Myanmar

*Says UNHCR, calls for creating
safe environment in Rakhine
State for return of Rohingyas*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Solution to the Rohingya crisis lies in the refugees returning voluntarily to Myanmar from Bangladesh in a safe and dignified manner, said United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

"In order for this to happen, conditions have to be changed in Rakhine State. Violence has to be stopped," he said.

The crisis originated in Myanmar and its solution lies there, he told a press conference at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

UNHCR held the press conference following Grandi's two-day visit to refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Grandi stressed the need for addressing the root causes of Rohingya influx, such as their Myanmar citizenship issue, violence, discrimination and poverty.

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CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY for New Campus of BRAC University



The contract for the construction of BRAC University's new campus for an amount of Tk. 700 cr. has been signed between BUCG-ABC Joint Venture and BRAC University in a simple ceremony on 25th September at BRAC University Conference Room.

This 13 storied / 3 basement campus of 1.7 million sft. has been designed by WOHA of Singapore and local consultant JA Architects Ltd., having many unique engineering & technical features to be implemented for the first time in Bangladesh.

Mr. S. N. Kairy, Treasurer, BRAC University, Mr. Ren Zhi, Vice President of BUCG and Mr. Subhash C. Ghosh, Chairman, ABC signed the contract on behalf of the respective organizations.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Syed Saad Andalib along with other senior management members of BRAC University, senior officials of BUCG and directors of ABC represented their organizations in the ceremony. Project Director Mr. Rashidul Hai, Engineering Advisor Mr. Mustaque Habib and the local consultants of the project were also present.

Beijing to play
'constructive
role' in settling
Rohingya issue
Says Chinese envoy
STAR REPORT

China yesterday said it wanted to play a "constructive role" in resolving the Rohingya crisis as soon as possible.

"We sincerely hope this issue will be settled as soon as possible. China is willing to play a constructive role towards this," Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Ma Mingqiang said.

He was addressing a reception at the Chinese embassy marking the 68th founding anniversary of China, reports UNB.

The diplomat said some 150 tonnes of relief materials from China for the Rohingyas would reach Chittagong within a couple of days.

According to an official, the relief goods are likely to reach the port city on Thursday.

The ambassador highly
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