

Crisis of potato seed, fertiliser in eight northern dists

BADC supplies 1,422 tonnes of seed against demand for 2,24,200 tonnes

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

With start of potato sowing season, farmers are bewildered due to crisis of good seed and fertiliser in eight northern districts, country's prime potato growing area.

As supply by BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation) is too meager to the demand, farmers are deceived with low quality seeds. Added to this is high price of fertiliser, mainly TSP (Triple Super Phosphate) and MP (Murate of Potash).

Sources at Rangpur regional office of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said the demand for potato seeds in eight northern districts is 2,24,200 tonnes this year to bring 1,12,100 hectares under its cultivation. But BADC supplied only 1,422 tonnes.

The district-wise target fixed by AED is 33,500 hectares in Rangpur, 26,300 in Dinajpur, 16,000 in Nilphamari, 13,200 in Thakurgaon, 6,700 in Gaibandha, 6,700 in Panchagarh and 4,500 hectares in Lalmonirhat.

Farmers said they prefer BADC seeds because those are disease-free and give high yield.

The BADC seeds are supplied through 400 dealers in the region. The price of 'A' grade potato seed is Tk 27 per kilogram and 'B' grade Tk 25 this year.

When asked about the seed crisis, Deputy Director (DD) of BADC seed marketing department

said farmers could procure the rest of the seeds from NGOs or private seed companies.

But it is still unclear what quantities will be available from sources except BADC.

Deputy Director of Nilphamari AED and member secretary of district fertiliser and seed monitoring committee Eunus Ali said he has no information about the quantity and quality of seeds available with NGOs and private seed companies.

DD of Rangpur AED Kamal Sharifur Alam and crop specialist Mokbul Hossen Nuri in Gaibandha also expressed similar views.

Azmol Hossen Mondol, seed certification officer for Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts said his office certified only 25 tonnes of seeds of a private company this year. RDRS (Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service), an NGO, took certificate for another 9,000 tonnes, he said.

He said about 90 per cent of seeds available in markets in the two districts are without certification from his office and are of low quality. "I seized a good quantity of low quality potato and Boro paddy seeds". Same is the situation in other districts in the region, he added.

Farmer Sultan Ahmed of Sitarpur village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila said he got 190 maunds of potato from one acre last year by sowing BADC seeds. But in another acre of land, he got only 100 maunds by using seeds

bought from market. "I am looking for BADC seeds but could not procure it yet," he added.

Low quality seeds, mostly virus infected, are sold at Tk 1,700-1,800 per 84kg bag.

Supply of TSP and MP (Murate of Potash) is almost half the quantities sought by DAE for the eight districts. However, urea supply is large and satisfactory.

AED sources in Rangpur said the demand for TSP, MP and urea for November was 10,438 tonnes, 12,239 tonnes and 6,729 tonnes respectively. The allotment was 3,289 tonnes of TSP, 2,810 MP and 6,729 tonnes of urea.

The demand for Dinajpur was 6,633 tonnes of TSP, 6,326 tonnes of MP and 2,302 tonnes of urea while the allotment was 1,626, 16,35 and 5126 tonnes.

For Gaibandha, demand for TSP, MP and urea for November was 3,849, 2,362 and 2,302 tonnes.

The demand for Nilphamari was 595 tonnes of TSP, 1,090 tonnes of MP and 1,485 tonnes of urea. The allotment was 1,043, 880 and 1250 tonnes respectively.

A 50KG bag of TSP is sold at Tk 1400-1450 now against last year's price of Tk 750-775 and MP at Tk 1400-1500 against Tk 800-750. Urea is sold at Tk 300.

Farmer Abdul Mannan Shah Fakir said, due to high price of seed, fertiliser, pesticide and labour, production cost will be at least Tk 11.00 per kilogram.

CEC starts Bandarban, Rangamati visit tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr A T M Shamsul Huda will start a two-day visit to Bandarban and Rangamati hill districts tomorrow.

The CEC will hold meetings with chairmen and members of hill district councils, circle chiefs, government officials and members of civil society on voter listing during the visit, official sources said here yesterday.

Election Commissioner (EC) Brig Gen (Rtd) M Sakhawat Hossain will accompany the CEC.

The CEC will arrive Bandarban in the morning and then go to Rangamati where he will hold similar programmes.

In Bandarban, some complex issues regarding voter listing will be discussed.



Muktijoddha Sangsad brings out a procession in Sylhet city yesterday welcoming the month of victory and demanding announcement of December 1 as Muktijoddha Dibas (Freedom Fighters Day).

PHOTO: STAR

104 outlaws surrender in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 104 extremists belonging to outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) surrendered to the police at an ordinary function at remote Katagarhat in Deshigram village in Tarash upazila under the district yesterday.

Law enforcement agencies during the present caretaker government started tough action against the extremists in greater Chalmonirhat area in the district that had turned into a safe den of outlawed people who committed various crimes including murder, robbery and abduction, police said.

Continuous action left for the extremists no other way but to surrender, police said, adding that most of the surrendered people were accused of several cases for murder, robbery and abduction.

Additional Superintendent of Police Md Nazrul Hossain was the chief guest at the function chaired by Deshigram Union Parishad Chairman Khalilur Rahman.

Dinajpur Sugar Mill starts cane crushing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Cane crushing started in Dinajpur Sugar Mill at Bochaganj upazila yesterday with a target to produce 9,000 tonnes of sugar by crushing 1.2 lakh tonnes of sugarcane.

The complainant, contractor Bishwa Nath Munshi, alleged that the accused are threatening him to withdraw the case. Bishwa Nath who filed the case with Daulatpur police station on November 26 made the allegations at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club on Saturday.

In the case, he accused them of grabbing his paternal land in name of construction of a community centre at Maheshwarpasha in the city.

Bishwa Nath further alleged that the accused maintain good relation with some police officials. The complainant demanded immediate arrest of the accused, removal of the police officials to protect merit of the case.

Try war criminals

Rajshahi FFs demand

RU CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters of Godagari upazila of Rajshahi yesterday demanded trial of 1971 war criminals in a special tribunal.

At a press conference at Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club yesterday, they also urged the caretaker government to cancel all state facilities of the war criminals.

They urged the foreign missions in Bangladesh not to issue visas to 10 war criminals of 1971.

There are many fake freedom

Case against KCC mayor: Complainant seeks security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A complainant of a case filed against arrested mayor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and nine others has sought security of life.

The complainant, contractor Bishwa Nath Munshi, alleged that the accused are threatening him to withdraw the case. Bishwa Nath who filed the case with Daulatpur police station on November 26 made the allegations at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club on Saturday.

In the case, he accused them of grabbing his paternal land in name of construction of a community centre at Maheshwarpasha in the city.

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Save the Children supplies drinking water to over 1,000 Sido victims daily from its makeshift plant at Patuakhali.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Khulna University

Engineering Division

Khulna-9208

Date: 28-11-2007

Invitation for Re-Tenders (OTM)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per Public Procurement Regulation-2003 and Public Procurement Act-2006 for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2. Agency	Khulna University, Khulna.
3. Procuring entity name	Vice Chancellor, Khulna University represented by Chief Engineer (In-charge), Khulna University, Khulna.
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5. Procuring entity district	Khulna.
6. Invitation for	Construction of Academic Building-3 (2-storied building with 4-storied foundation provision) for Khulna University, Khulna.
7. Invitation Ref No.	KHUBI/PROKAU/302/07-296.
8. Date	28-11-2007.
9. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).
10. Budget and source of funds	GOB through Khulna University.
11. Tender package No	01 (One)-KU-AB-3.
12. Tender package name	Construction of Academic Building-3 (2-storied building with 4-storied foundation provision) for Khulna University, Khulna.
13. Tender publication date	Within 07 (seven) days.
14. Tender last selling date and time	Date 11-12-2007 Time During office hour
15. Tender closing date and time	Date 12-12-2007 Time 2.30pm
16. Tender opening date and time	Date 12-12-2007 Time 3.30pm
17. Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	a) Bank: Agrani Bank, Khulna University Branch, Khulna. b) Office of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Khulna. c) Office of the Consultant: Engineers & Consultants Bangladesh Ltd (ECBL), Ahmed Tower, House 5/A (5th Floor), Satmasjid Road, Dharmundi R/A, Dhaka.
18. Name and address of the office receiving tender document	a) Office of the Chief Engineer (In-charge), Khulna University, Khulna. b) Office of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Khulna.
19. Name and address of the office opening tender document	Office of the Treasurer, Khulna University, Khulna.
20. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	No pre-tender meeting will be held.
21. Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer must meet the following qualifying and other eligibility criteria stated in the tender documents: a) General experience of not less than 10 (ten) years. b) Required minimum number of similar contracts completed during last 10 (ten) years: i) Completed at least 01 (one) no. of similar nature of building project (package) having a minimum cost of Tk 07 (seven) crore in a single work order during last 10 (ten) years. ii) At least one building with pile foundation of the above said work. c) The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets) and/or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments shall be Tk 200.00 lac. d) Average annual turnover not less than Tk 800.00 lac over the last 05 (five) years. e) The minimum tender capacity shall not less than the tender amount. f) The tenderer must also have current year trade licence, Income Tax clearance certificate up to 30-06-2006 and VAT registration certificate. g) All others as stated in the tender documents. The tenders with a consistent history of litigation or a number of arbitration awards against it and/or blacklisted tenderers by this university or any other department/ organisation shall not be eligible to tender.
22. Brief description of works and related services	Construction of RCC frame structure building with cast-in-situ pile foundation, all civil & sanitary works including finishing items, internal electrification, water supply works and other related works.
23. Price of tender document	Tk 3,000.00 (three thousand) only (non-refundable) on cash payment from mentioned bank. The same may also be purchased from office of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Khulna and consultant M/s Engineers & Consultants Bangladesh Ltd (ECBL), Ahmed Tower, House 5/A (5th Floor), Satmasjid Road, Dharmundi R/A, Dhaka on payment of abovementioned money in the form of BD/Pay Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Khulna University.
24. Amount of tender security	Tk 20,00,000.00 (Twenty lac) only in the form of BD/Pay Order/Unconditional Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Khulna University.
25. Completion time	18 (eighteen) months.
26. Name of official inviting tender	Biswas Shahadat Hossain.
27. Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Engineer (In-charge), Khulna University, Khulna.
28. Address of official inviting tender	Engineering Division, Khulna University, Khulna.
29. Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone No. 041-733729, 720171-3, Ex-267 Fax No: 880-41-721244
30. Three copies of tender including all documents (one original, two photocopies) to be submitted.	
31. Special instructions	a) The tenderer submit the tender document in sealed condition. b) The tenderer is to submit a declaration that he is and was not involved with the tender preparation. c) This tender notice is brief and the details of the tender can be seen/known from the office of the undersigned during office hours. d) All other terms and conditions as stated in the Public Procurement Regulation-2003 and Public Procurement Act-2006 will remain valid. e) If the tender is not received within the mentioned day and time, it will be directly rejected. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender can't be received and opened in the schedule date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time at mentioned offices. f) Any corrigendum (if any) will also be a part of the tender and it will be binding upon the bidders/tenderers. g) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Biswas Shahadat Hossain
Chief Engineer (In-charge)
Khulna University, Khulna
Phone-041-733729,
041-720171-3, Ext-267 (Office)

Department of Architecture Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

WORKSHOP ON Project Management for Architects

Date: Monday, 10 December 2007

Registration Fee: Taka 1000

Registration Deadline: 5 December 2007

For registration detail, contact

Department of Architecture

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh

Tel: 9665633, 01911-351982, 01712-153506

PABX 9665650-89, Ext: 7153, 7128,