

# Bumper potato output puts Rajshahi growers in peril

ANWAR ALI, RAJSHAHI

Potato growers in 16 districts of Rajshahi division are in great trouble due to lack of storage facility following a bumper production of the crop.

The farmers have harvested around 58 lakh metric tonnes of potato in the region but there have been only 130 cold storage, which can preserve only 10 lakh tonnes, agriculture department sources said.

Of the remaining 48 lakh tonnes, some 32 lakh tonnes will be sold in local markets, the sources said. And the rest of 16 lakh tonnes will be preserved traditionally at houses due to lack of storage facility.

But agricultural department officials fear some 20 percent of the 16 lakh tonnes of potatoes will be damaged.

A prolonged winter this year was behind bumper yield of potatoes from over 3.50 lakh hectares of land in north Bengal.

The bumper production has also pushed the prices down by Tk 180 per 84-kg sack. Potato is now being sold at Tk 800 per sack against Tk 980 even five days back. The price was Tk 750 at Joypurhat.

The hoarders and middlemen have already blocked spaces of cold storage through advance bookings at as high as Tk 130 per sack against the normal rate of Tk 60 to Tk 90, alleged growers.

Cold storage owners are not taking new booking now, compelling growers either to sell



Potato sacks are stockpiled on the premises of Rahman Cold Storage at Nawhata in Rajshahi as authorities put up a sign saying they have stopped receiving potatoes for storage.

potatoes at throwaway prices or store indigenously.

The Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is circulating leaflets advising farmers to store potatoes at traditional ways on floors.

But this method will lead to destruction of a huge amount

of the crop, farmers feared

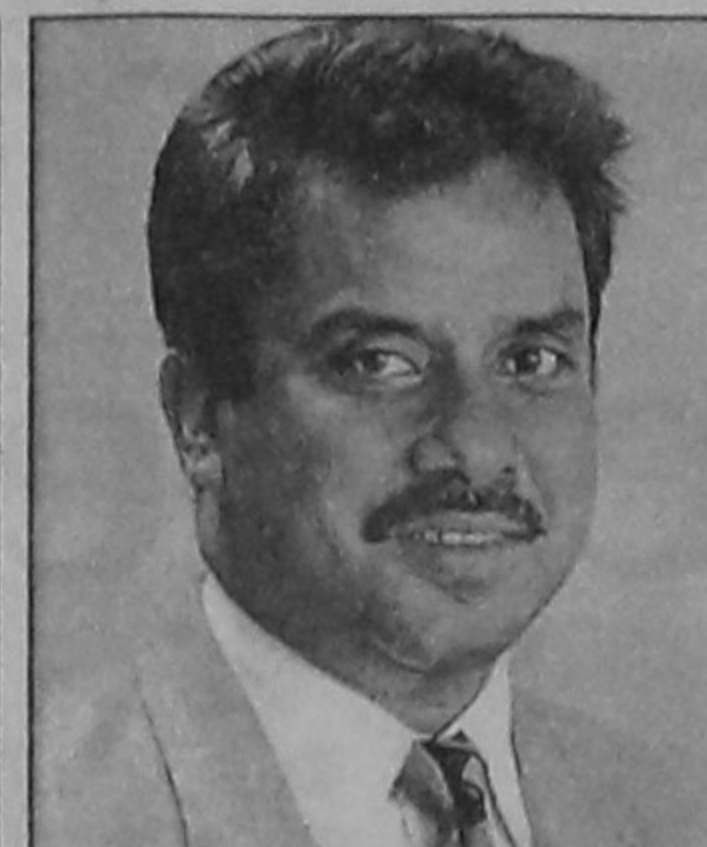
"We don't have any idea of such crop will be damaged", said M Abdul Matin, additional director of Rajshahi regional DAE.

"We are advocating for traditional method since there is no alternative," he added.

In front of Raj Cold Store in

Paba upazila in Rajshahi, Abdur Razzak, a grower, said he middle are taking advantage of the situation.

Kalam, another farmer, said got 810 sacks by cultivating 9 acres of land. "I must preserve those any how. But I don't know how."



## Fazlul Hoque re-elected BKMEA chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Fazlul Hoque has been re-elected president of BKMEA (Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association) for 2008-10 period.

A press statement of BKMEA said Fazlul Hoque was re-elected unopposed for the third time.

Four other vice-presidents are Abdur Rashed, MA Baset, AKM Zahidul Haque Bhuiyan Dipu and MA Rahman.

The other directors are Abu Jafar Ahmed, Abul Kalam Azad, Anwar Hossain, Imran Faruque Moeen, Fazle Shamim Ehsan, GM Faruque, Hasan Mahmud, Iftekharul Alam, Mahbub Alam, Masuduzzaman, Moteleb Zoarder, Abdul Moeen, Nurul Hasan, Nusrat Bari Asha, Mohammad Shahnewaz, Sheikh Haider Ali, Sheikh Abdus Salam, Sheikh Monowar Hossain, Shafiquzzaman Prince, Mohammad Sohrwardy, Tapas Kumar Saha and Zakir Hossain.

The new committee is scheduled to take charge in April.

## Walton's new products hit int'l market soon

UNB/Dhaka

Walton, an electronic and electric goods manufacturer that has already set its sight on overseas markets, celebrated yesterday its eight years of business in Bangladesh.

Walton executives, addressing a function marking the occasion at its headquarters here, expressed satisfaction over their journey in Bangladesh and promised to maintain the quality of their products.

The officials said Walton would go to the international market very soon with its new products -- refrigerators and freezers.

## BTRC asks BTTB to receive licences for internet, int'l call termination

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country's telecoms watchdog, BTRC, has asked state-run telecoms operator BTTB to receive licences for operating international call termination and internet services.

In a meeting yesterday with BTTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board), the BTRC (Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission) pointed out that the BTTB is like other private operators and it should have licences for offering internet service and international call termination.

The meeting also decided to help the BTTB recover its Tk540 crore phone bills.

The BTTB should have received licences for providing all its services from the telecoms watchdog by 2005, the meeting observed.

But so far BTTB has taken

licence of providing land phone services.

"As BTTB will become a public limited company by April 2008, it needs to have licences like other private operators to offer its all services," said a high official of Ministry of Telecommunication who attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the BTRC last month issued six licences to private sector to operate international gateway, international internet gateway and interconnection exchange. Earlier, state-owned BTTB was the sole authority to provide these services.

The government last month approved the proposal of making BTTB a public limited company within the next month. While BTTB becomes a public limited company it will have to work like other private international call terminating operators and internet service providers.

However, BTTB sources said BTTB has already applied for licences for services other than land phone operations.

The meeting mainly discussed BTTB's future plans -- how it will survive after becoming a public limited company in the face of competition from private operators.

The special assistant to the chief adviser for the post and telecommunication ministry, Brig Gen (retd) MA Malek, BTRC Chairman Major General (retd) Manjurul Alam, BTTB Chairman Ashraf Alim, among others, were present at the meeting.

If BTTB wants to stay in the competition, it needs to reduce call charges, BTTB officials told the meeting.

The meeting also decided to formulate a guideline on reduction in BTTB's call charges and connection fees by April 2008.



A delegation of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) led by its President Latifur Rahman met Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Faruq Ahmed Siddiqi in Dhaka on Thursday. Other members of the commission were also present.

## 2-day job fair begins at DU

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A two-day job fair participated by 13 corporate houses began at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

DU Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz inaugurated the fair organised on the occasion of launching a career web portal - corejobs-bd.com. The DUVC also inaugurated the job portal.

Core Resources Ltd, the owning company of the job portal, and Faculty of Business Studies of DU jointly organised the show on the faculty premises.

The fair will remain open from 9:30am to 5:30pm.

During the fair a total of eight seminars on different topics regarding job market will also be held, said Prof Serajul Islam, dean of the Faculty of Business Studies, at the inauguration.

"We will collect curriculum vitae from the students of the faculty during the fair and when required we will communicate with them," said an official of Novartis (Bangladesh) Ltd, a leading pharmaceutical company that participated in the fair.

## Malaysian firms eye Bangladesh's Halal product market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Malaysian companies are eyeing to exploit Muslim majority Bangladesh's market with their 'Halal' products especially the food and cosmetics items.

"We are definitely on way to establish ourselves as the pioneer in Halal product marketing and promotion. The Halal market is huge and it is not just food products but it includes services and logistics," Hazizah Awang, president of Epic Tips, a promotion and marketing agency for Malaysian SMEs, told a press conference in Dhaka.

The Epic Tips said it would organize a 'Halal Malaysia Week 2008' in Dhaka during July 22-26 this year as part of its move to promote the 'Halal' products here.

Malaysia Trade Centre will act as the co-organiser of the event, which will also look for developing a Halal certification body in Bangladesh.

Organisers will also talk on the scopes to set up a Halal industrial zone for manufacturing and trading that can be linked to the Halal hub in Malaysia.

Halal products are permissible under Islamic law.

According to organisers, about 1.8 billion Muslim in 142 countries are the main consumers of Halal products. Halal foods market is valued at US\$ 900 billion. The market is expected to grow 16-25 percent annually till 2025.

"We are aware about Bangladesh's untapped market where majority of the consumers are Muslims," said Hashim bin Abdullah, deputy secretary general of Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development of Malaysia.

High Commissioner of Malaysia Abdul Malek bin Abdul Aziz and Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Secretary General Syed Moazzam Hossain also spoke.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 59 OF 2008,  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Esquire Electronics Limited.  
- VERSUS -  
PETITIONER.  
Registrar, Joint Stock of Companies and Firms  
RESPONDENT.  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 12 read with section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for confirmation of the alteration of the object clause of the Memorandum of Association of the Esquire Electronics Limited was filed by the above-mentioned Petitioner before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh praying for admission of the said application. The Hon'ble High Court Division presided over by Mr. Justice Syed Rezaul Karim vide order dated 12.03.2008 was pleased to admit the same and fixed the date of hearing on 23.04.2008.  
Any person interested in the above Matter may appear on the date fixed for hearing either personally or through his/her duly authorised Advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.  
(Khairul Alam Choudhury)  
Barrister-at-Law  
For the petitioner.  
Law Valley, Suite No. 202, Shajan Tower Commercial Block,  
4, Segunbagicha, Dhaka - 1000.

**Khulna Shipyard Limited**  
Bangladesh Navy  
CE-560/2008(Part-II)  
Date: 18 March 2008  
**Tender Notice**  
01 Name of the organisation Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.  
02 Name of the works Construction of 01 storied building with 02 storied foundation.  
03 Invitation reference No. CE-560/2008 (Part-II) Dated 18 March 2008.  
04 Procuring method Open tender.  
05 Budget & source of fund Own finance.  
06 Tender last selling date 02 April 2008.  
07 Tender closing date & time 03 April 2008 at 11:15am.  
08 Tender opening date & time 03 April 2008 at 11:30am.  
09 Selling of tender documents Cash Section, Accounts Dept., Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.  
10 Availability of tender documents Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.  
11 Receiving authority Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.  
12 Opening of tender documents a. Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.  
b. Tenderers and their authorised representatives are allowed to attend during opening.  
13 Price of tender documents Tk. 5,000.00 (five thousand) only (non-refundable).  
14 Amount of earnest money Tk. 1,00,000.00 (one lac) only (refundable).  
15 Contact address of officials Tel: 041-813975/72003, Fax: 880-41-720404.  
16 Special instructions The authority of Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.  
GD-1358  
KMB Akbar  
Captain BN

## Int'l textile machinery show kicks off in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four-day international fair of textile and garment machinery began in Chittagong yesterday.

Around 55 firms from 15 countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, USA,

Germany, Singapore, India, Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Japan and UK are taking part in the exposition.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury inaugurated the fair styled 'Chittagong

International Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition 2008' on Jamiatul Falah Ground in the city.

Extreme Exhibition & Event Solution Ltd is organising the show, which will remain open for all from 10am to 7pm every day.

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We offer attractive compensation package. Application along with CV and copies of the academic certificates and two copies of recent passport size photograph should reach us by March 30, 2008. Applications will be treated in strict confidence and only short listed candidates will be called for interview.