

# Growers to face Tk 300 crore loss from potato damage

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

About 3.20 lakh tonnes of potatoes worth around Tk 300 crore is facing damage as growers in 16 districts of Rajshahi division are compelled to preserve the perishable winter crop in traditional way.

The situation has arisen as growers have failed to preserve it in cold storages due to lack of accommodation.

A prolonged winter this year helped yield around 58 lakh tonnes of potatoes from over 3.50 lakh hectares of land in northern districts and a total of 130 cold storages in the region could accommodate only 10 lakh tonnes.

Of the remaining 48 lakh tonnes,

about two-thirds 32 lakh tonnes are expected to be sold in local markets and other parts of country while the remaining amount will have to be stored in growers' households said agriculturists and businessmen.

Apart from space constraint, growers are being forced to adopt the indigenous methods of preserving to avoid losses due to the vegetable's low price in the present market.

The influence of middlemen, hoarders and seasonal businessmen in markets of abundant supply has pushed the price down. In Rajshahi, potato is now being sold at Tk 800 per sack (84 kg), which was Tk 980 even five days back. The price is still lower at Joypurhat, Tk 750 per

sack.

The hoarders blocked most spaces of cold storages through advance bookings at as high rate as Tk 130 per sack whereas the regular booking rate is Tk 60 to 90, alleged growers.

Due to the advance bookings, many cold storage owners have already hung notices announcing stoppage of receiving potatoes even before filling up the capacity, sources said. As a result, growers are compelled either to sell produce at lower rates or take back home to store indigenously.

The Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) is circulating leaflets suggesting farmers traditional potato storage on floors,

machan (straw-made platform), and beneath cots.

AED officials, however, do not know any clear idea about how much damage to potato can be done if the winter vegetable is stored in such a way.

"We do not have any idea about it [damage caused by using traditional methods] as no survey was made. Yet the possible damage is evident," M Abdul Matin, additional director of Rajshahi regional AED told The Daily Star. "We are suggesting traditional methods as there is no other way," he said.

This correspondent met Abdur Razzak, a grower of Bargachhi in front of Raj Cold Storage in Paba upazila. He produced 720 sacks of potatoes from 24 bighas of land spending about Tk 7 lakh. "Although it is not enough to recover the production cost, I sold 200 sacks to hoarders for Tk 900 per sack. I am in a problem now with the rest".

Kalan got 810 sacks of potato from his nine acres of land. "I must preserve those anyhow. By selling it five months later, I can cultivate next crops."

Experience of Intaj Ali of Madhabpur is bitter. "I have already sustained loss. I don't know what is waiting for me next."

Amjad of Bagmara, Shahidul of Durgapur and Shahidul of Naogaon have similar stories.

Mizanur Rahman Sentu, a trained farmer, however, seemed satisfied. He produced 607 sacks of potatoes from 23.5 bighas of land in Durgapur, Amagachhi and Kathalbaria villages spending Tk 4.70 lakh and managed to store all the produce.

Sensing their presence, the criminals left the scene leaving the statue by the side of Rajbari Pond.

The 30 kg statue would be worth around Tk 5 crore, OC Aslam Khan said.

Take anti-graft stand at every level: ACC chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Moshud Chowdhury yesterday said every conscious citizen should take position against corruption.

"We have to fight against corruption at society, state and person levels," he said at a grand rally arranged by Jessor district ACC committee in the morning.

ACC Director Abu Taleb, and TIB Director Iftekharuzzaman were present, among others, during inauguration of the rally at Jessor Eidgah Maidan at 9:30am.

Students, NGO activists, social workers and people from all sections of the society participated in the rally.

Tk 5 crore touchstone statue recovered in Kaliganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered a touchstone Shiva Linga from smugglers on Saturday night.

Tipped off that a smugglers were trying to smuggle a valuable touchstone statue, a police team led by Kaliganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aslam Khan raided Naldanga Rajbari in Kaliganj upazila at about 12:30am, police said.

Several hundred residential students of different dormitories gathered in front of Shaheed Habibur Rahman hall demanding smooth water and power supply at RU residential dormitories.

The agitating students chanted slogans against the RU authorities and chief engineer as they failed to supply water and electricity in dormitories.

Campus source said, hundreds of residential students of Mother Bux Hall last night kept hall Provost Abdul Matin Talukder confined for two hours at his office room demanding smooth supply of drinking water.

Later University Proctor Enamul Haque and students' adviser Faridul Islam Pintu with the help of police



Ekattarer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee forms a human chain at Nilphamari town yesterday demanding trial of war criminals.

## WATER CRISIS Students ransack RU hall offices

RU CORRESPONDENT

rescued the hall provost.

Students of Suhrawardy Hall took out an angry procession on the campus yesterday demanding supply of pure drinking water.

The agitating students also ransacked furniture hall provost name-plate, hall notice board.

They said the tube wells on the hall premises are out of order and they have been fetching water from outside.

Similar situation was also reported in other halls including female dormitories at RU.

When contacted, RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Marmul Keramot said the RU authorities have asked the engineering section to solve the problem immediately.

RU Chief Engineer Abdur Rahim said water supply is disturbed due to frequent load shedding and low voltage of electricity.

He, however, said they are taking initiative for operating pumps so that students can get water regularly.

2 fake navy men held

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two fake Navy members and seized false identity cards and an illegal motorbike at Rajshahi continental courier service office.

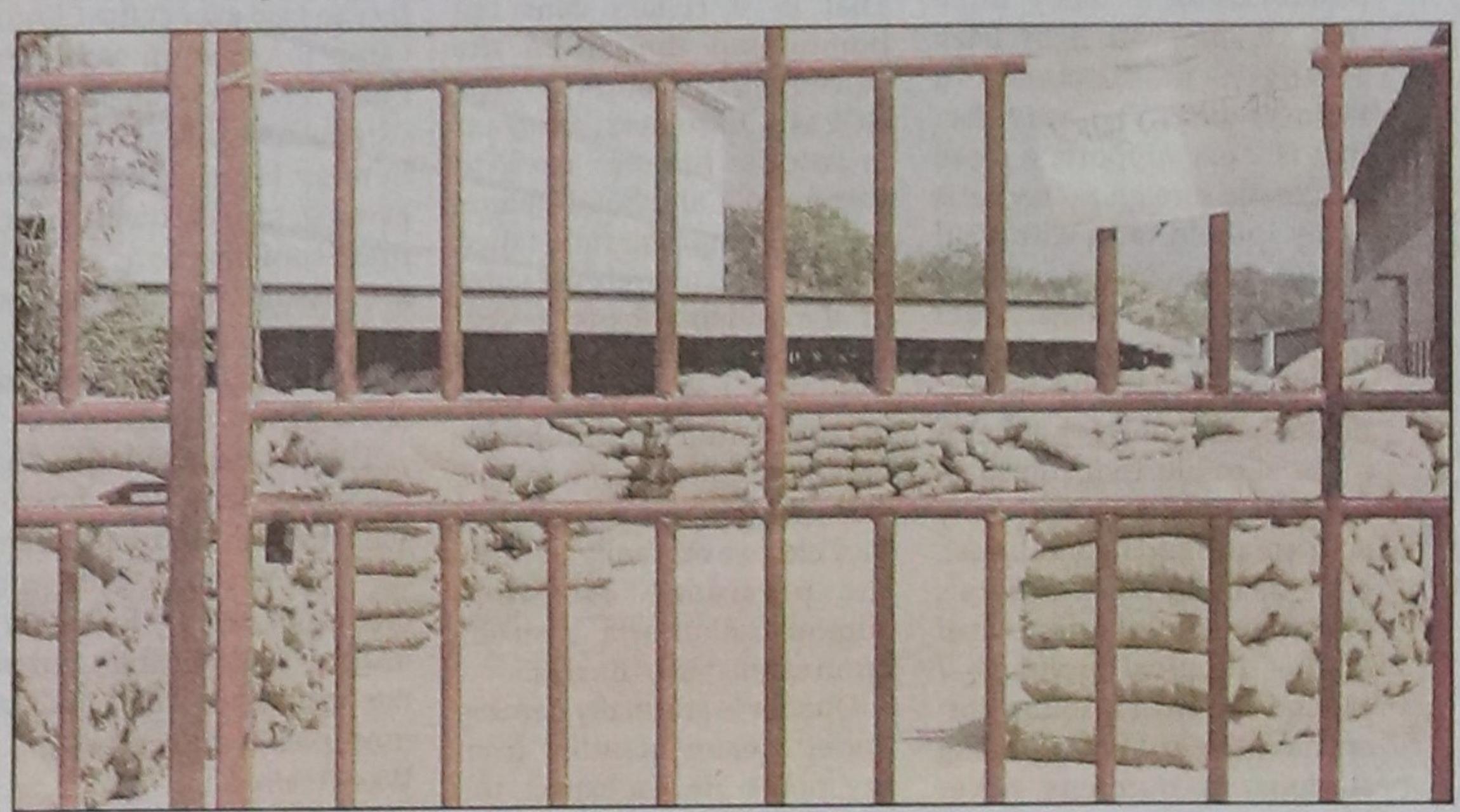
The two cheats were identified as Nasir Uddin alias Kamal, a resident of Rangunia in Chittagong and Shariful Islam, a resident of Khalishpur in Khulna.

Nasir sent an illegal motorbike through Continental Courier Service of Rajshahi branch mentioning receiver's name as Captain Shamim Osman, Chittagong, police of Boalia Model Police Station said.

Being confused, courier staff informed Boalia police who reached the spot and asked for legal papers of the motorbike to Nasir.

As failed, police arrested Nasir and his friend Shariful and seized their identity cards and the motorbike.

Nasir and Shariful were involved in motorbike smuggling from Rajshahi to Chittagong. Sub-Inspector Sattar said.



Sacks of potato are piled up on the premises of Rahman Cold Storage at Nawata Madhusudhanpur in Paba upazila while the authorities have hung a notice announcing closure of receiving potato.



### Invitation for International Re-Tender

On behalf of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Managing Director of Eastern Refinery Ltd hereby invites international tenders from reputed Petroleum Product Storage Tanks construction contractors.

#### BANGLADESH PETROLEUM CORPORATION

1	Ministry/Division	Power, Energy and Mineral Resources; Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
3	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
4	Invitation for	Unpriced technical proposal for construction of a MS storage tank (floating roof, 17500 m3) at ERL on turnkey basis.
5	Invitation Ref. No.	ER/MST/06/TD-06.
6	Procurement method	Single stage two envelop.
7	Budget and source of funds	BPC's own fund (bank loan).
8	Project name	Construction of a MS storage tank (17,500 m3, floating roof) at ERL.
9	Tender package No.	ER/MST/06.
10	Tender documents sales begin from	March 20, 2008.
11	Tender last selling date	April 24, 2008.
12	Tender closing date and time	May 14, 2008, 11:00am.
13	Tender opening date and time	May 14, 2008, 11:15am. Tenderers' representatives are allowed to attend the opening of the tender. Other detail in the tender schedule.
14	Name & address of the office(s)	
- Tender documents sales from	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Potenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh.	
- Selling tender document (others)	ERL Liaison Office, 1/1, Pioneer Road, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.	
- Receiving tender document	Director (Operation & Planning), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Soltola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.	
- Opening tender document	Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Soltola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.	
15	Eligibility of tenderer	1. This invitation for tenders is open to eligible tenderers from all countries, except Israel. 2. Other detail in the tender schedule.
16	Brief description of goods and works	Successful tenderer will undertake construction of 1 (one) number double deck floating roof type motor spirit storage tank having capacity of 17,500 cubic meter including design, site development, construction of tank foundation, road, drains, culverts, related pipelines, pumping facilities, fire water, fire fighting system including water, foam line and top foam pouring system, purging system, street lights, necessary electrical works, earthing system, erection, testing, commissioning, calibration etc complete on turn-key basis.
17	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 7000.00 (seven thousand) or US\$ 100.00 (one hundred).
18	Identification of lot	Complete work.
19	Location	ERL tank-farm area.
20	Tender security amount	The amount of the tender security shall be US\$ 40,000 (forty thousand) or equivalent home currency.
21	Completion time	18 months from the effective date of Letter of Credit.
22	Name of official inviting tender	Md Rezaul Alam.
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Managing Director & Project Director.
24	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Potenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 880-31-740361-2, Fax: 880-31-740296, E-mail: md-office@erl.com.bd
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or reject all tenders.	

### Lightning kills 3, injures 2 in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three persons were killed and two others injured by lightning at Barhatta upazila in Netrakona district yesterday evening. Barhatta police and locals said.

Sona Mia and his brother Abdus Satter were working at Boro paddy field at Bikramshree village under Barhatta upazila at about 5:00pm when the lightning killed Sona Mia and seriously injured his brother, police said.

Serious injured Abdus Satter was admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

Others two persons were killed and another one was injured at Karnapur village under Barhatta upazila at about 6:00pm. The dead were identified as Al-Amin, 22, and Sohel Mia, 28, of Barikanda village.

Police said Al-Amin, Sohel Mia and Milon Mia were returning home from paddy field when they fell victim to lightning. Seriously injured Milon Mia is under treatment at Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

It is possible to prevent 70 per cent of water and excreta-borne

### 'Practise sanitation to protect health'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a symposium yesterday said lack of hygienic sanitation facilities is seriously affecting safe water supply, environment and the public health situation in the district as well as in the country.

Without ensuring sustainable sanitation facilities it is impossible to prevent water and environment pollution, they said at the symposium on 'All our sanitation to ensure healthy life' held at Sadar upazila auditorium.

They called upon the people to launch hand-washing campaign as a social movement.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Md Kefayetullah was the chief guest on the occasion chaired by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Akhteruzzaman Talukder while local PHED Executive Engineer Abdul Hamid Mia, Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood and Principal Rajul Islam were special guests.

Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar presented the keynote paper.

### Firearm seized, 2 drug peddlers held

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized one firearm, bullet, cocktail, Indian phenisidyl and marijuana and nabbed two drug peddlers from different areas in Rajshahi region during the last 24 hours till Sunday.

Rab seized a country-made pipe-gun, one bullet of shutter gun and a live cocktail that had been left abandoned at Juspur in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi.

In another drive at Juspur, Rab seized 34 bottles of Indian Phenisidyl from Hanail in Joypurhat district and arrested the owner.

The arrested persons and seized firearms and contraband drugs were handed over to the police stations concerned.



Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Ibrahim Khalil addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony as Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (Hysawa), a joint initiative of Bangladesh and Denmark, started their sanitation and water supply programme in Barind areas on Wednesday.

Government of the People's, Republic of Bangladesh  
Police Headquarters  
Dhaka.

#### Invitation For Tender Notice

Sealed tender are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents in their pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion, Formed Police Unit (FPU) and Different Projects-

1. Ministry / Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3. Procuring Entity Name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not Used at present.
5. Invitation for	Purchase for various type of equipment's.
6. Invitation for Tender Reference No	E&T/EQ/26-2006(Pr-2)/ 486
7. Date	20 March 2008.
8. KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement Method	