

# Potato price fall in 8 N dists frustrates farmers, traders

To discourage farming in next season

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Fall of potato price in eight northern districts has left farmers and traders in despair.

The situation seems to thwart an ambitious potato production target set by the Agriculture Department for next season.

During the last season, farmers produced record 32 lakh tonnes of potato in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts, sources said.

In absence of lack of sufficient cold storages, farmers preserved a large quantity of potato at their houses in traditional manner. A good amount of potato was also sold to other districts while rest 4,32,734 tonnes of potato was preserved in 54 cold storages in the eight districts.

Authorities' failure to motivate people for multiple use of potato, lack of facilities to export potato abroad, closure of potato-based industries in the region have put farmers and traders in trouble.

As the potato preservation season (considered to be till November 15) nearing its end, a large number of farmers and traders have started lifting potato from cold storages, leading to its additional supply and consequent price fall.

During a recent visit to different cold storages, this correspondent found that a sack of 84 kg of granula variety of potato is selling at between Tk 800 to 850, diamond



Workers at Shaon Himagar in Nilphamari resting on potato sacks as they have very little work due to decreasing demand for the stored vegetable.

variety of potato between Tk 950 to 1,000 and cardinal variety between Tk 950 to 1,030 while the prices ranged from Tk 1100 to Tk 1160 only three to four weeks ago.

Retail prices at local markets have also come down from Tk 16 a kg to Tk 12.

The total cost for a bag of potato preserved in cold storages varies from Tk 1,150 to 1,250 that includes potato price, cold storage charge, price of jute sacks, labour and transportation cost and loss of weight, said farmers and traders.

Mizanur Rahman Moju, a potato farmer at Itakhola village, said he preserved 100 sacks of potato in Mukta Himagar Ltd but he had to incur loss of Tk 250 per sack after lifting 40 sacks of potato for sale in market.

Mostafa Azad Chowdhury, owner of eight cold storages in Rangpur district having a total capacity of seven lakh sacks (58,000 tonnes) told this correspondent that farmers and traders lifted only 38 per cent of stored potato till yesterday although it was 65 per cent by this time last year.

The managing director of Shaan Cold Storage Ltd of Lalmonirhat district, Sheikh Abdul Hamid said the deadline for lifting potato has been extended from November 15 to 30 as the market is dull.

"I cultivated potato on 30 bighas of land last year. I shall cultivate potato in smaller area of land in the coming season as I incurred heavy loss this year," Tauhidul Islam Tushar, a big potato farmer at Mohendra Nagar village in Lalmonirhat district, said.

Abdul Mazid, a trader at Chhoto Rauta village in Domar upazila, who stored 200 sacks of potato in Shaon Himagar Ltd, said price of potato might fall further as advance variety of potato of the new season would come to the market by mid-November.

The president of Greater Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, said the authorities have failed to motivate people to take potato as substitute of rice

while all of the five potato starch, potato flex and potato powder industries have been closed due to lack of patronisation.

If the potato-based industries had been in operation about six lakh tonnes of potato would be needed and it could prevent fall in potato price.

If the farmers do not get reasonable price, it will have negative impact on potato cultivation in the coming season, said Abdur Rouf Siraji, additional director of the regional office of Agriculture Extension Department.

This year the Agriculture Department has set a target of producing 32.75 lakh tonnes of potato on 1.7 lakh hectares of land in eight north districts.

## Abducted boy rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued an abducted student of Mirzapur Shahid Alauddin High School in Pakundia Saturday night.

Shohel Mia, 14, a class nine student of the school and son of Murshed Mia of Nama Mirzapur village was rescued from Kachpur area in Narayanganj

after eight days of his abduction from his house on October 11. Three abductors were also arrested from Kachpur. They are Jalal Uddin, 35, of Palahar village in Nandail upazila of Mymensingh, Ratan Bishwas, 32, of Bhokur village in Sonarga upazila of Narayanganj and Shahjahan, 18, of Shingra village in Melandah upazila of Jamalpur.

## Tk 46.48 LAKH TOBACCO LOOTING Almost all booty recovered, truck driver still hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj Sadar police yesterday recovered 153 more cartons of looted cigarettes worth Tk 19 lakh from field at Bonparil and a shop at Hatipara Bazar in Manikganj Sadar upazila.

A covered truck loaded with cigarettes of well-known brands including Benson, Gold Leaf, Star Filter and Viceroy worth Tk 46.48 lakh was robbed and the truck helper was killed on the way to Pabna from Bogra depot of British American Tobacco Company on October 14, police said.

Earlier on Friday night, Rab and police recovered 114 cartons of cigarettes worth Tk 26 lakh.

After recovery of 114 cartons of cigarettes from shops of Nasir and Mosharafat Bonparil Bazar and the house of Munnaf Dewan at Bongkhuri village under Sadar

## 'Increase edn facilities for CHT children'

Bandarban seminar told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Civil society members at a seminar on child rights held at Bandarban Shishu Academy yesterday stressed on increasing educational facilities for children in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Organised by Shishu Academy, the seminar was presided by district women affairs officer Anjana Bhattacharya while it was attended by child specialists Dr Aung Sa Lu and Dr M. Mozammel Haque. The Daily Shachitra Maitree Editor Prof Osman Goni and Shishu Academy district organiser Nargis Ahasan as special guests.

Academician Dr Shishir Malik presented a key-note paper while journalist Monirul Islam Monu acted as moderator in the seminar.

Speakers urged for building institutional capacity in rural areas in the CHT region for ensuring a brighter future for children.

They disclosed that the literacy rate in CHT is much below than other regions of the country. The number of school dropouts is also higher in this region due to extreme poverty and illiteracy of parents of both tribal and non-tribal children. Ultimately, the dropouts engage themselves as child labour, they said.

## Moulvibazar Sadar NAP body comprises one-third women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Seven women have been included in the newly formed 23-member executive committee of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila unit of NAP (Muzaffar).

At an extended meeting of NAP Moulvibazar district committee held at its temporary office at Central Road on Saturday announced names of the committee members.

"Taking 30 per cent women in the newly formed upazila NAP committee is a token of respect to the newly adopted rules of the Election Commission. We should recognise women's contribution in the society," said Choudhury Sajal, General Secretary of Moulvibazar district NAP.

## Satkira Bar executive body members resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fourteen out of 15 office-bearers of executive committee of Satkhira Bar Association resigned from their posts yesterday protesting his undemocratic activities, misconduct and favouritism of association president Advocate Shah Alam.

They alleged that the president had damaged image of the association for doing anti-organisational activities. He took arbitrary decision ignoring the office-bearers, they said.

The association president refuted all the allegations brought against him.

# Magura war criminals list 'controversial'

Says former dist Muktijoddha Sangsad commander

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Former commander of Magura district unit Muktijoddha Sangsad Khan Ali Reza Raja in a written statement yesterday said a few leaders of the organisation made the list of Magura war criminals 'controversial' to distort history of Liberation War in the district.

In the statement sent to local journalists yesterday noon, he condemned exclusion of two 'high profile' war criminals from the list and inclusion of a few 'innocent' people there.

At a press conference held at the office of Muktijoddha Sangsad on Tuesday (October 14) evening, the local journalists were served with a list titled 'War criminals in Magura Sadar upazila'.

Signed by Muktijoddha Sangsad Magura district unit commander Sayed Nazmul Hasan Iku, Deputy commander Mian Abdul Halim Miraj and the organisation's com-

mander (during Liberation War) Jahur-e-Alam, the list contains names of 130 people including Syed Obaidullah, president of Peace Committee (a body formed during Liberation War to collaborate with Pakistan occupation army), its general secretary Mahbubur Rahman, Raja said in the statement.

But names of two successive treasurers of the then Peace Committee, Meer Mansur Ali and late Sharif Amjad Hossain, and Wazed Ali Khan, an influential member of the body, were left out although those people were involved in killing and looting during the Liberation War, he said, adding that after independence, Sharif Amjad Hossain was imprisoned as an anti-liberation criminal while Meer Mansur was on the run for about two and a half years.

"Magura Muktijoddha Sangsad commander Nazmul

Hasan Iku in connivance with Magura Press Club member secretary Sharif Amirul Hasan Bulu intentionally dropped the names of two high profile war criminals as Meer Mansur Ali is Nazmul Hasan's father while Sharif Amjad Hossain is the father of Sharif Amirul Hasan," goes the statement.

The list also contains names of several innocent people including BNP district unit's joint convener Nazimuddin Ahmed, Jamaat's district Ameer Abdul Matin, who was a boy of six to seven years during the Liberation War, and schoolteacher Mian Ali Murtoza, Raja said.

When asked about the non-existence of the names of a few high profile war criminals and inclusion of several innocent persons in the list, Nazmul Hasan Iku said it was due to inadvertent mistakes.

"We shall serve you with a fresh list later," he added.



Angiker Bangladesh forms a human chain on boats near Chandpur riverport yesterday demanding preservation of MV Akram, a ship sunk by freedom fighters during the Liberation War.

## Banskhal Pourashava

District: Chittagong

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Memo No-Bans: Poura: 290

IFB No. 02/2008-2009

IDA Credit No: 3177-BD

Credit Name: Municipal Services Project, BMDF

Date: 05/10/2008

Date: 05/10/2008

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Municipal Services Project: Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds to cover eligible municipalities for Infrastructure & Service Development.

2. The Assistant Engineer, Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong invites sealed bids for the construction of RCC Drain, Kitchen Market and Public Toilet works as mentioned below. Procurement is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the IDA's procurement guidelines. However, countries not eligible under the project also include: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates.

Contract Package No.	Name of the work	Bid security (Taka)	Time for completion of work (days)	Price of bidding document (Taka)
W-527/ BMDF-21-BANS-08-175-D-PT-R01	a) Construction of RCC Drain starting from Harun-ur-Rashid Cross-Road to Culvert of Krishi Bank at Ch.00-225m (D1) b) Construction of RCC Drain starting from Upazila Hospital to Culvert of north side of Krishi Bank at Ch.00-140m (D2) c) Construction of RCC Drain starting from Upazila Gate to Culvert of south side KG School at Ch.00-163m (D3) d) Construction of Public Toilet at Daroga Bazar in Ward No. 9 under Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong (PT3) e) Construction of Public Toilet at Harun Bazar in Ward No. 1 under Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong (PT4) f) Improvement of road starting from Oli Mia's shop to North Jaldi Non-government School at Ch.00 to 700m (R1)	2,00,000.00	180	4,000.00
W-528/ BMDF-21-BANS-08-175-R-02-03	h) Improvement of road starting from Ruhullah Para Government Primary School to North Jaldi Primary School with 2 Nos. Box Culvert at Ch. 1460m. i) Improvement of road starting from Darugabazar Mour to Forest Office at Ch.00-500m (R2)	2,00,000.00	180	4,500.00

3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong on submission of a written application upon the payment of a non-refundable fees mentioned in the above table for each set in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank in Bangladesh drawn in favour of Chairman, Banskhal Pourashava, Chittagong during normal office hours on all working days up to 11/11/08. Interested bidders may further information from the same address during office hours up to 11/11/08.

4. The provision in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the standard bidding documents: Procurement of works (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition - January 1998 - revised February 2003), issued by the World Bank Office, Dhaka.

5. Bids shall be valid for period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in Para 2 above in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of Chairman, Banskhal Pourashava, Chittagong. Bids must be delivered to the office of the Assistant Engineer, Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong on or before 12/11/08 by 2.00pm.

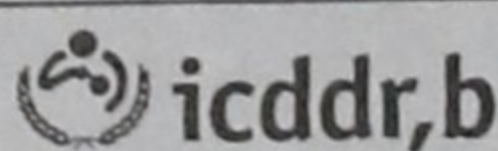
6. Bidders may deliver their bids by either in person or by courier service or by mail. Which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3.00pm on 12/11/08 at the office of the Assistant Engineer, Banskhal Pourashava, District: Chittagong.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held on 30/10/08 in the office of the undersigned at 11.00am. The bidders are requested to attend the conference in time.

Assistant Engineer  
Banskhal Pourashava  
District: Chittagong

GD-4730



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DIARRHOEAL DISEASE RESEARCH, BANGLADESH (ICDDR,B) MOHAKHALI, DHAKA-1212

(PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS UNIT)

## ENLISTMENT NOTICE

Date: October 19, 2008

Applications are invited from the genuine tenderers for enlistment with ICDDR,B for the year 2009 for the following group of commodities:

- Group A : Stationary and Office Supplies
- Group B : Computer & Computer Accessories
- Group C : Electrical and Spare Parts of Vehicles
- Group D : Building Materials
- Group E : Drugs, Chemicals & Laboratory Supplies
- Group F : Offset Printing
- Group G : Wood Furniture & Steel Furniture
- Group H : Miscellaneous
- Group I : Civil, Plumbing & Sanitary Work
- Group J : Electrical Work

Application forms and general terms and conditions of enlistment will be available from the Finance Office (cash section), ICDDR,B on cash payment of Tk.500/- (non-refundable) per set up to November 10, 2007 between 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on all working days of the Centre and will be received by the Procurement & Materials Unit up to 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2008. The firms, who do not possess business shop/showroom, telephone, TIN and VAT registration, need not apply.

The ICDDR,B Management reserves the right to accept or reject part/whole of any of all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. This tender notice will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderers.

Senior Manager  
Procurement & Materials



**Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited**  
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)  
Biddut Bhavan (11<sup>th</sup> Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000.

Memo No. DPDC/DPSUP-ADB/Pac 08-1/08-09/ 559

Date: 19.10.2008.

**Subject :- Corrigendum of the "Invitation for Bids" for Supply & Delivery of 33kV Cable & cable Accessories**

Package No. 57204/08-1, Loan No- 1730 BAN (SF) Dhaka Power System Upgrade Project.

The Time of selling and submission for the above mentioned Bid of DPDC is hereby extended up to 01/12/2008 and 02/12/2008 respectively due to unavoidable reason. All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Company Secretary  
Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.



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স্মারক নং: জিসি/পিজিসিবি/খুলনা/এ-৩০৭/০৮/২৭২ তারিখ: ১৫/১০/০৮ইং

## নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

স্মারক নং : জিসি/পিজিসিবি/খুলনা/এ-৩০৭/০৮/২৭২, তারিখ: ০৯/০৯/০৮ইং অনুযায়ী প্রকায় প্রকাশের জন্য প্রেরিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী নিম্নরূপ হইবে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী পূর্বের ন্যায় অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

১০। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ :- ২৭/১০/২০০৮ইং। সকল দরপত্রের ছাড়পত্র পাওয়ার পর, প্রাপ্ত সকল দরপত্রের বাম ২৭/১০/২০০৮ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় বিধি মোতাবেক গ্রীড সার্কেল, পিজিসিবি, খুলনা দপ্তরে খোলা হইবে। (অংশগ্রহণকারীগণ উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবেন)।

(মার্জিন কুমার বিশ্বাস)  
উপ-মহা ব্যবস্থাপক  
গ্রীড সার্কেল, পিজিসিবি, খুলনা।