



GOOD HARVEST, BUT NO SMILES

AS in the year gone by, the country this year saw a high yield of Boro. Farmers along with labourers are spending a busy time in the fields, harvesting and carrying and threshing crops. But it cannot be all smiles for them, with low prices and rising production cost painting a grim picture of what lies ahead for them.

As a report published in The Daily Star on April 28 notes, Boro now sells at Tk 380-400 a maund while its production cost ranges anywhere between Tk 550 and Tk 600. Farmers attribute the increased production cost to around 30 percent hike in the price of diesel and 40 percent in that of urea fertiliser. The image and fragrance of new rice are, therefore, not going to give the nation's farmers anything to be cheerful about. They know what they must do, which is to go for damage control. That entails government action. Only the government, they are convinced, can step in and uphold their interests. The photos were shot at Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital a few days ago.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

