

Growers sort seed potatoes that they had kept at Shawan Himagar Ltd, a big cold storage in Domar upazila of Nilphamari. Inset, framers sow potato seeds at a field of Panialpukur village in Kishoreganj upazila of the district.

PHOTO: STAR

## RANGPUR AGRICULTURE REGION

# Potato farmers worried as certified seeds scanty

Seeds supplied by BADC meets only 3% of demand in 5 N dists

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Potato farmers in five northern districts under Rangpur agriculture region are worried at the start of the cultivation season as the most reliable seeds supplied by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) meets only 3% of the total demand.

"This year, Rangpur regional office of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) set a target of potato cultivation on 91.4 thousand hectares of land to produce 28.6 lakh tonnes of the winter vegetable in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts," said Rafiqul Islam, sub assistant agriculture officer at Rangpur DAE office.

Sowing on 14 thousand hectares is already complete as many lands became free after harvest of early variety Aman paddy, he said.

Dr Md Sultanul Alam, deputy director (DD) of seed marketing department of BADC in Rangpur region, said they supplied around 4,000 tonnes of quality potato seeds in the region.

"We sell 25% seeds directly to farmers and rest through 732 dealers." Price of BADC's 'A' grade asterix variety potato seeds is Tk 28 a kg and that of 'B' grade is Tk 25.50," he said.

Quality seeds supplied by BADC

comprises around 3% of the region's total need of potato seeds, which is 1.37 lakh tonnes, said Md Moniruzzaman, DD of DAE in Rangpur regional office.

He, however, claimed that there is nothing to worry as farmers sow popular local variety seeds preserved in cold storages in vast areas of targeted land and for the rest, they buy high yielding variety seeds from renowned NGOs or companies like Brac, Syngenta, ACI, Square, and Ispahani.

Sreedam Das, president of district unit of Krishok Samity, said farmers prefer BADC seeds as those are cultivated and preserved in scientific way, virus and fungus free and high yielding.

Abul Ala Moududi, seed certification officer in Nilphamari, said, "Most of the potato seeds in the market are of below standard and sold without seed certification tags."

Visiting Dhelapir Haat of Nilphamari and Taraganj Haat in Rangpur, this correspondent found that 80-kg bags of potato seeds, kept without certification tags, were selling for Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,400 each.

Several farmers in those markets said they have to buy low quality seeds as quality seeds of BADC are scarce.

Additional director of regional DAE, Mohammad Ali said, "Despite want of quality potato seeds, there will be no problem to achieve the production target."

## Chained for a year

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

While Abu Hossain, a rickshaw-van puller by profession, is struggling to run his seven-member family with his meagre income, treatment of his 18-year-old mentally challenged son seems a dream for him.

As a result, Rana Islam, the third among five children of Abu Hossain of Shalmara village in Aditmari upazila, has to be kept chained as he has become a nuisance for the villagers, said locals.

To prevent Rana from wandering and for his own safety, he has been kept chained in a bamboo-made shed near their house for the last one year, said his father.

Rana's mental illness first manifested when his mother died in

2012," said the father.

After his mother's demise, Rana roamed around the village and once he went missing for a year. Later, police rescued him from Bogura.

If Rana was freed, he wandered beyond the house and started abnormal behaviour with villagers. Later, he could not return home alone.

The situation gets out of control when children in the village chased him and threw stones at him.

Finding no other alternative, Rana was kept chained to a betel nut tree beside the bamboo shed, said Hossain.

Sometimes people assault Rana when he tries to close to them, said

his grandfather Hazrat Ali.

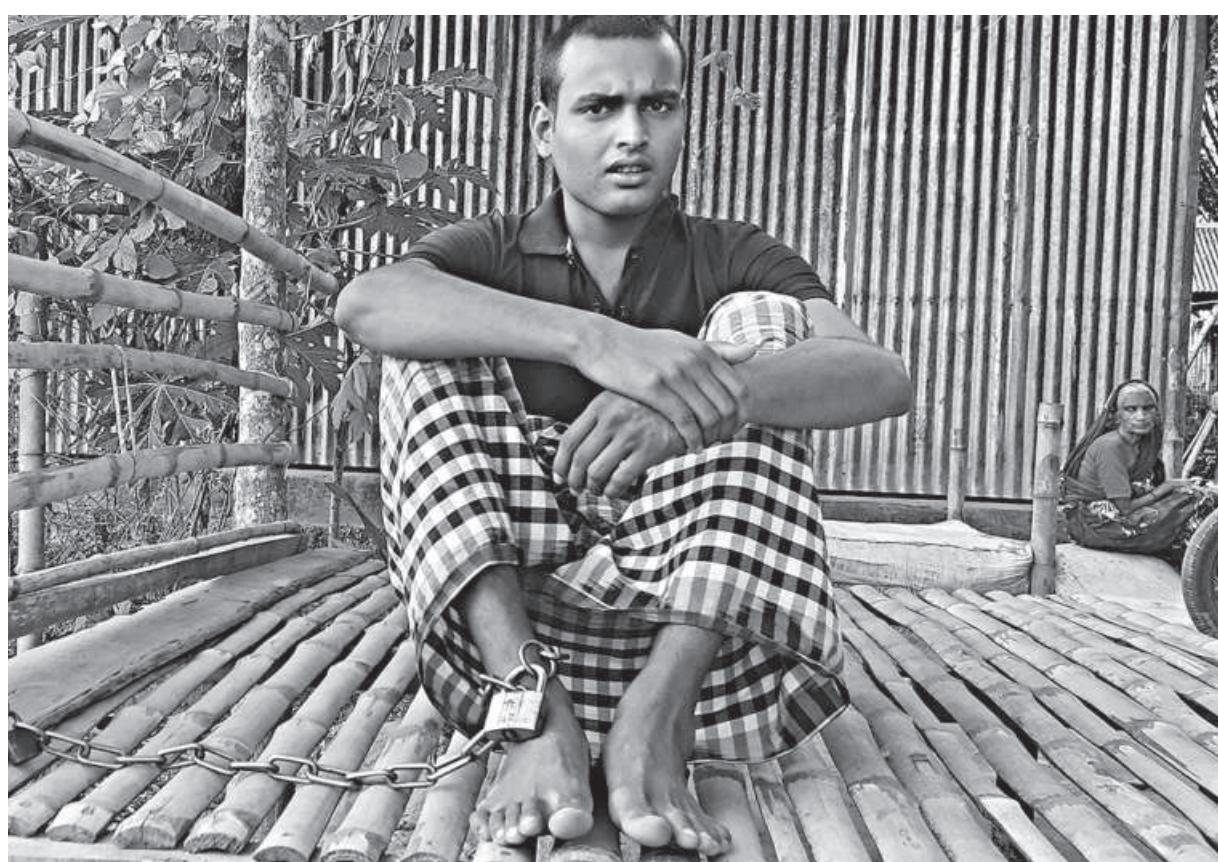
It is tough for him to arrange his son's treatment due to financial hardship, said Hossain.

Rana's stepmother Basira Begum said Rana could be recovered if treated properly but they are unable to bear his treatment cost.

If someone comes forward for his treatment, Rana could be recovered, she said.

Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, a member of Bhelabari Union Parishad (UP), said Rana has to be kept chained, otherwise he becomes restless and the situation gets out of control at one stage.

The UP member also appealed to generous people for financial assistance for Rana's treatment.



Mentally challenged Rana Islam is kept chained at Shalmara village in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR



Manipuri girls in traditional dress dance at Moha Ras Lila festival in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar on Tuesday.

PHOTO: MINTUDESHWARA

 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Industries Office of the Project Director "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710									
<b>Invitation for Re-Tender</b>									
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries							
2	Agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation							
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur							
4	Procuring Entity District	Gazipur							
5	Invitation for	Supplying of 1 (One) no's of Double cabin pickup with carryboy& 1 (One) no's of Microbus (8 seated) on rental basis including driver							
6	Invitation Ref No	CWCP/ SD-02	Date 13-11-2019						
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)							
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB							
9	Project Name	"Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur							
10	Tender Publication Date	14-11-2019							
11	Tender Last Selling Date	24-11-2019 at office hour							
12	Tender Closing Date and Time	25-11-2019, 12.00 noon							
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	25-11-2019, 12.30 pm							
14	Name & Address of the office(s)	Dacca steel Works Ltd (DSWL), 76-78, Tongi I/A, Tongi, Gazipur. Office of the controller of Accounts, BSEC, 102 KaziNazrul Islam Avenue (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215.							
15	Receiving Document	Office of the Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710							
16	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710							
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	As Pcr TDS							
18	Brief Description of Services	Supplying of 1 (One) no's of Double cabin pickup & 1 (One) no's of Microbus on rent per day basis.							
19	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	BDT 2,000.00 (Taka Two Thousand)							
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>									
18	Invitation Ref No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Months				
	CWCP/ SD-02	NA	Gazipur	70,000.00	14 (Fourteen) months				
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>									
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Maniruzzaman Khan, Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur							
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710							
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Maniruzzaman Khan, Project Director, "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710, Mobile: +88 01721 875382							
a)	The Tender shall be guided by the "PPR 2008" & "PPA 2006".								
b)	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings								

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

**Bangladesh Water Development Board**



নির্বাচিত প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়  
মৌলভীবাজার পত্র নির্ভাগ  
বাপ্তারো, মৌলভীবাজার  
ফোনঃ ০১৬১-৫২২৮২

Memo No-DA-1/1501

### e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works/supply	Tender/proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time
1	381790	Package No-Dr-03/2019-20 Retired embankment along the right bank of Dhalai River from km 47.170 to km 49.170 total 2000m in c/w NDR budget under Moulvibazar O&M Division during the year 2019-20	Kamalganj Upazila	24-Nov-2019 17:00	25-Nov-2019 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 17:00 hours on 24/11/2019.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](http://helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (0176265528-31).

Sd/-  
**Ramendra Sanker Chakraborty**  
 Executive Engineer  
 Moulvibazar O & M Division  
 BWDB, Moulvibazar

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GD-1864

## 4 girls saved from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Four schoolgirls were saved from child marriage following timely intervention of local administration in Natore's Gurudaspur upazila on Tuesday.

Informed that marriage of an underage girl, a student of Class V, was arranged at Mokimpur village, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Tomal Hossain rushed to the spot and foiled the marriage bid.

In another drive, the UNO saved three schoolgirls from underage marriage in Modhyampara area of Chanchkoi municipality.

The three are the students of Chanchkoi Shahid Kashem Girls' School, said UNO Tomal.

Later, the parents of the four girls in presence of the UNO gave an undertaking not to marry their children before they reach the legal age for marriage.