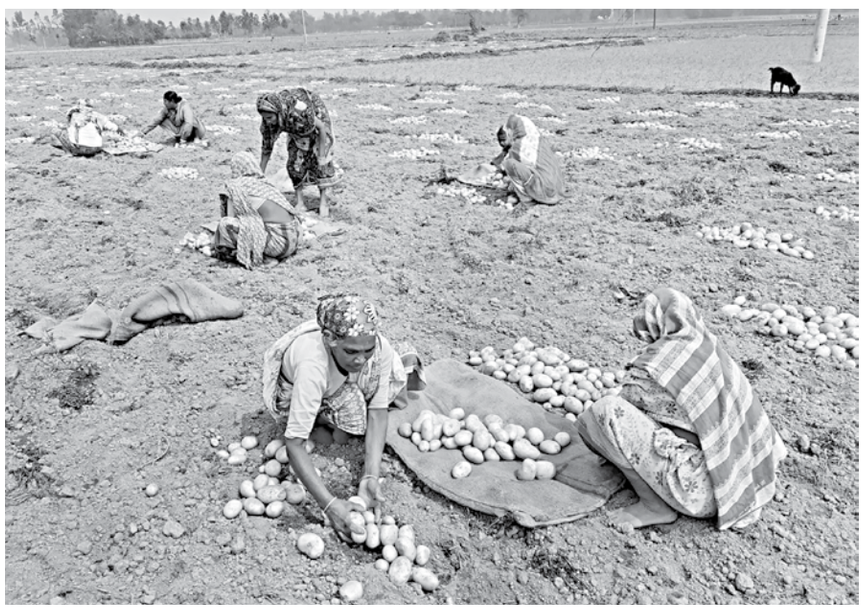
Record potato production in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh expected

MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

Agriculture officials and potato growers are expecting to achieve a record potato production in Thakurgaon and Panchagrh in the ongoing season of harvest.

Along with more acreage than the target, the growers are getting good yield as they were able to save crop fields from pest attack and diseases using their experience and knowledge during adverse weather in mid-winter.

Despite getting good yield, the growers are worried about making good profit as the market price of the item is on downward trend at present.



Farm workers remain busy harvesting potatoes at a field in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

After repaying loans by selling a portion of produces, the small and marginal growers who want to preserve the rest amount in cold storages are facing trouble for storing it as they could not collect advance slips for potato preservation since the large-scale farmers, traders and hoarders have already collected the slips earlier.

According to the sources of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the growers cultivated potato on 28,515 hectares of land against the target of 24,670 hectares with the production target of 5,92,080 tonnes in Thakurgaon.

The growers have already harvested 5,02,370 tonnes of potato from 21,108 hectares.

In Panchagarh, 9,950 hectares of land have been cultivated against the target of 9,750 hectares with the production target of 2,24,250 tonnes.

The farmers have harvested potato on 9,810 hectares of land and reaped 2,21,019 tonnes.

The DAE officials and growers said the acreage of potato cultivation has increased this season as they got higher price than that of previous years.

During a recent visit to different villages in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts, this correspondent saw the farmers passing busy days in harvesting potato.

Md Rasel, 35, a farmer of Nargoon village, said he cultivated potato on one acre of land and got about two tonnes of potato.

In first phase, he sold potato directly from the field at Tk 12 per kg about a week ago but the price has come down to Tk 9.75 on Saturday.

Replying a query, Rasel said he spent about Tk 75,000 for cultivating the crop. If the price continues going down, he would not get a good profit.

Replying to a query, he said he had to sell a portion of his produces to repay loans which he took at the beginning of potato cultivation. Though he has about a tonne of potatoes for preserving but he could not collect slips earlier due to financial constraints.

Sazzad Selim, 50, of Rosea village in Atwary upazila of Panchagarh, who cultivated potato on nine acres of land, is expecting to get over a tonne of potato from each acre. He has collected slips earlier aiming to preserve his produces in cold storage and sell it later for higher profit.

DAE office sources said, there are 16 cold storages in Thakurgaon having a capacity to preserve 1,36,550 tonnes of potato while Panchagarh has six cold storages that can store 31,240 tonnes.

Delwar Hossain, managing director of Shahi Group who has four cold storages in Thakurgaon, said they provided advance slips among farmers for preserving about 35,000 tonnes of potato.

Replying to a query, Delwar said we have provided slips on the basis of 'first come, first serve'.

Acting Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Sirajul Islam said this year potato has been cultivated in greater areas this season than the previous and the farmers have successfully overcome the threat of late blight and other diseases using their long experience in potato cultivation.

Besides, climatic condition was also good in the current season. So hopefully the production target will be exceeded and the ongoing harvesting result is already showing it, he added.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Fruit trees of different kinds at the huge orchard of Mofijur Rahman Mafi, inset, **in Hat Gobindapur village of Faridpur Sadar upazila.**

Fruit farming bears success for entrepreneur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

After returning home from Kuwait in 2007, to Hat Gobindapur village in Sadar upazila, Mofijur Rahman Mafi was 26.

The young man tried to settle down and tried his luck on various business ventures including running a grocery store, growing seasonal crops and rearing cattle commercially.

But none of his efforts produced much hope.

Finally, success followed him in 2019 when he put his mind into producing different varieties of exotic and highbred local fruits that are high in demand.

At 40 years of age, Mafi now employs near about a dozen workers who look after his fruit orchard on 42 bighas of land.

"At last, in 2019, I leased seven bighas of land in the village for an orchard of Kashmiri apple kul," said Mafi.

Seeing the unimpressive and small saplings of the fruit, his father discouraged him to invest in the orchard. But nine months later, witnessing a huge yield of Kashmiri apple kul, his father changed his mind.

That year alone, Mafi sold Tk 30 lakhs worth of Kashmiri apple kul, from an initial investment of only Tk 5 lakh, Mafi added.

He leased another 25 bighas of land the same year to grow Thai guava-8 and BARI malta-1.

Now he has orange on 6 bighas of land, malta-1 on 2 bigha, three varieties of kul -- including Kashmiri apple, Bol Sundari and seedless kul -- on 16.50 bighas, guava on 23 bighas, dragon fruit on 30 decimals, sapota (sapodilla or chikoo) on 30 decimals and wood apple on 26 decimals of land.

"Alongside these, I've also planted 1,250 saplings of different mango varieties, including Katimon, Surjomukhi and Gourmoti, and 900 lemon saplings," Mafi said.

So far this year, he sold about Tk 75 lakh worth of kul, guava and Malta (a type of blood orange) from his orchard and around Tk 1.5 crore worth of saplings of different fruits to farmers across the country.

While visiting Mafi's orchard, one of the workers, Kanchan Sardar, said he had been working there for two years and he did not have any permanent job before he was hired by Mafi.

People from across the country, especially educated youths, have been paying visits to Mahi's orchard and buying a good number of saplings from him.

Azadul Islam, from Islampur village in Bhurungamari of Kurigram, said, "In 2019, I saw a video on Kashmiri apple kul in Mafi's orchard. I visited the orchard in December that year and in March of 2020, I bought 1,250 saplings of the fruit from his orchard. I sold kul from the plants this year."

Another of his clients, Osman Goni, from Fazilpur village in Noakhali Sadar upazila, said after watching a video about Mafi's fruit orchard, he contacted him and bought 50 pieces of Kashmiri apple kul saplings from him.

Hazrat Ali, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Faridpur, said Mafi has become a role model for the unemployed educated youth in Faridpur and many of them have been seeking advice from them for making similar fruit orchards.

2 boys die of electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Two boys died from electrocution when they came in contact with an underground illegal power connection in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Al Amin, 11, son of Mominul Islam, and his cousin Alimul Haque, 6, son of Azidul Islam of Balatari village.

Al Amin was a Class V student, and Alimul of Class I at Balatari Government Primary School.

Chhakir Uddin, grandfather of the deceased, alleged that one Abu Bakkar Miah of the village was irrigating his paddy field using an underground electricity cable connection from his house illegally.

The two children were electrocuted and fell unconscious on the spot when they went to collect plums from a tree nearby the paddy field.

Family members rushed the kids to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared them dead.

Madrasa teacher killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Unidentified criminals stabbed a madrasa teacher to death in Nandail upazila on Monday night.

The victim, Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, 50, of Rasulpur village, was teacher of an Ebtedayee madrasa in Netrakona's Kendua upazila, police said.

Quoting locals, Officer in Charge of Nandail Police Station Mizanur Rahman Akanda said criminals waylaid Anisur while he was returning home from local Atharabari Rayer Bazar carrying a gas cylinder in his bicycle and started stabbing him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured around 8:00pm.

Locals rushed him to Nandail Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

Free health camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

About six hundred paralyzed and physically disable patients received free health consultancy from specialist doctors at a free medical camp yesterday.

Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) authority and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, jointly organised the health camp at PUST campus.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Naogaon
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.6400.07.000.001.20-667

Date: 16/03/2021 খ্রীষ্টাব্দ
০২/১২/১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ

e-Tender Notice No. 35/2020-21
Tendering Method (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following packages:

Sl No.	Description of work & Package No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)	Estimated cost (Tk)/ remarks
01	Improvement of Mohadevpur-Mohishbatan GCM road from Ch. 2500m-5170.00m road ID 164502005 under Mohadevpur Upazila District Naogaon (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Mohadevpur-16/20-21, Tender ID No. 551227)	21 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	22 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	22 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	OSTETM
02	Improvement of Pinur More-Tatulia Madrasha road from Ch. 00-360.00m road ID 164065088 under Badalgachi Upazila, District Naogaon. Salvage Cost Tk. 36991.00 (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Badalgachi- 10/20-21, Tender ID No. 549458)	07 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 25,58,044.00
03	Improvement of Tilkar More-Lakargari road from Ch. 00-955.00m & Construction of 01 No. U-Drain Size 625mmx625mm at Ch. 72m & 02 Nos. Croos Drain Size 0.450x0.500 at Ch. 20m & 617m road ID 164064064 under Badalgachi Upazila District Naogaon (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Badalgachi-09/20-21, Tender ID No. 549457)	07 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 75,27,996.00
04	Improvement of Enayetpur Pacca road-Indhai-Embankment road from Ch. 500m-1500.00m road ID 164505068 under Mohadevpur Upazila District Naogaon (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Mohadevpur-19/20-21, Tender ID No. 548126)	07 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 73,75,874.00
05	Improvement of Dohali-Dohali GPS-Dohali village road from Ch. 650m-1150.00m road ID 164505021 under Mohadevpur Upazila District Naogaon. (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Mohadevpur- 18/20-21, Tender ID No. 548124)	07 Apr.2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 34,16,087.00
06	Improvement of Kachukuri-Binodpur road from Ch. 00m-500.00m road ID 164504074 under Mohadevpur Upazila District Naogaon (Package No. RDRIDP/Naog/Mohadevpur-17/20-21, Tender ID No. 548123).	07 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 34,16,087.00
07	Maintenance work of Sapahar Bazar Mohuri Potti-Shahapara village road from Ch. 00-362m road ID 164864008 under Sapahar Upazila District Naogaon. (Package No. RDR ID P/Naoga/Sapahar/Maintenance-19/20-21, Tender ID No. 546626).	07 Apr/2021 (17.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	08 Apr/2021 (16.00pm)	LTM 4,05,064.00

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 banks branches up to last selling date & time as mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-550

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E-mail: sylhet@janatabank-bd.com. Web: www.jb.com.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 for the Goods and related Services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:

1. Tender Ref. : JBL/DO/SYLHET/IT214/OTM-01/2021
2. Tender Name : **Tender for procurement of Computer (PC), Laser Printer, Scanner & Line Interactive UPS-650VA (Supply, Installation and Commissioning) for Different Offices/Branches Under Control of Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Sylhet following Open Tendering Method.**

3. Brief description of Goods/services: The items shall be internationally renowned while the UPS must be at least BSTI/ISO certified. No clone/Assembled items will be accepted:

Lot	Sl	Item	Quantity
Lot-1	i	Computer(PC)	84 units
Lot-2	i	Laser Printer	33 units
	ii	Scanner	21 units
Lot-3	i	Line Interactive UPS-650VA	114 units

4.	Time for completion of delivery	:	8(Eight) weeks for all Lot from the date of Issuing of NOA.
5.	Eligibility of Tenderers	:	5.1 The Tenderer shall be the developer/manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/ bonafide supplier having minimum 3 (three) years of overall business and specific experience of supplying, installing, commissioning, operating of similar goods and providing support service to different organization/banks in Bangladesh in multi-user environment. 5.2 Must have strong presence and support offices in Dhaka/ Sylhet with well-equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices. 5.3 The participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s). Evaluation will be done Lot by Lot basis and contract will also be awarded Lot by Lot basis. Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted. 5.4 The offers should have validity for at least 120 (One Hundred & Twenty) days from the date of opening the tender.
6.	Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender Document	:	Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Sylhet, 2nd Floor, Dewan complex, Airport Road, Ambarkhana, Sylhet-3100. Interested Tenderers may view the Notice at the website of the Bank. (Website: www.jb.com.bd)
7.	Price of Tender Document	:	TK. 500/= (Five Hundred) only (nonrefundable) in the form of Pay Order favoring "Janata Bank Limited" from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh for a single lot. Interested tenderers have to purchase different tender documents for different lots.
8.	Amount of Tender Security	:	A tender security money favoring Janata Bank Limited shall be required for : Lot-1:- BDT 1, 26,000/- (One Lac Twenty Six Thousand) Only. Lot-2:- BDT 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand) Only. Lot-3:- BDT 19,000- (Nineteen Thousand) Only. **The Tender Security must be valid till: 03/08/2021**
9.	Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Document	:	31 -03-2021 within 3.00 P.M.
10.	Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders	:	01 -04-2021 within 3.00 P.M.
11.	Name and address of the Office(s) Receiving and Opening Tenders.	:	Deputy General Manager, Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Sylhet, 2nd Floor, Dewancomplex, Airport Road, Ambarkhana, Sylhet-3100.
12.	Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	:	01 -04-2021 at 3.15 P.M. Tenderer's authorized representative(s) are allowed to attend, if any.
13.	Special Instructions		a. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without showing any reason. b. The procuring entity shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation. c. If any "force majeure" situation arises in the specified date mentioned in the tender data sheet or/and invitation for tender, the event will take on the next working date.

(Sandeep Kumar Roy)
Deputy General Manager
Janata Bank Limited
Divisional Office, Sylhet.

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