



Potato prices jump despite bumper yield

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Despite a bumper yield of potatoes, consumers are not being able to reap the benefits due to a five-year record hike in the retail prices of the vegetable.

Farmers and officials say causes behind the hike are the damage of stocks at in-house stores and the rising demand due to the shortfall in vegetable supply caused by floods.

They also blamed it on increased cold storage rent along with transportation and labour costs.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), 1.1 crore tonnes of potatoes were produced this year. Till May, 76,000 tonnes potatoes were exported.

On the other hand, the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association said the annual demand of the vegetable is about 80-85 lakh tonnes in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, they can store only 40 lakh tonnes in their 400 storages. Of these, 32 lakh tones are potatoes ready to be sold, while the rest are intended for replanting.

Nurul Amin Talukder, a farmer in Rangpur Sadar, who has been growing potatoes for the last two decades, said farmers and businesspeople have started selling potatoes from cold storages.

"Usually, farmers sell potatoes from their in-house storages till June. This year, their stocks ran out by May," he said.

Eosul Ali, a farmer in Rangpur's Sathmatha, harvested a good amount of potato on eight acres of land.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Cows being carried through the Buriganga to the capital ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. Farmers bring their cattle to Dhaka with the hope of getting better prices during the second biggest religious festival for Muslims. The photo was taken in Postgola Shoshan Ghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Dalela could be the next Indian envoy

STAR REPORT

India's Deputy Chief of Mission in the US Sudhakar Dalela is expected to be the next High Commissioner to Bangladesh, replacing Vikram K Doraiswami, reported Hindustan Times.

Dalela is an officer of the 1993 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. He has vast experience as Director (Prime Minister's Office) focusing on India's engagement with its South Asian neighbours.

He was Joint Secretary handling Bhutan and Nepal when the Doklam standoff with China erupted in August 2017, the Hindustan Times report added.

Doraiswami is expected to be appointed as India's new High Commissioner to the UK.

He has served as Indian ambassador to Uzbekistan, and South Korea and served in the US



SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

ASHULIA TEACHER KILLING

HSC student suspended for 'links'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Haji Yunus Ali College in Ashulia has suspended a female student over her alleged involvement in Monday's attack on teacher Utpal Kumar Sarkar, who died of his wounds at a local hospital on Wednesday.

Ashrafal Ahsan Jitu, an SSC examinee of the institution and also the prime accused in the murder case, attacked the teacher beside the college playground with a cricket stump, leaving him badly injured.

According to two notices issued by the college on June 30, Jitu, now behind bars, was expelled from the institution, while the 11th grader female student was suspended.

The Daily Star has obtained copies of the notices.

Saiful Hasan, principal of the college, said the school teachers' council held an emergency meeting on June 26, where they decided to expel Jitu.

The following day, they decided to suspend the female college student, he added.

Meanwhile, classes at the school section of the institution resumed yesterday after five days. The classed remained suspended since June 27 following the death of Utpal, a lecturer in political science.

The principal said 53 percent students joined classes in the school yesterday while the figure was 60 percent in the college.

An emergency meeting of the teachers' council on June 26 decided to expel SSC examinee Ashrafal Ahsan Jitu who is now behind bars.

LABOUR RIGHTS SITUATION

Bangladesh listed among 10 worst countries

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is one of the world's 10 worst countries for workers, according to the Global Rights Index 2022 of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

The other nine countries are Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Eswatini, Guatemala, Myanmar, The Philippines and Turkey.

The report, published on June 26 and based on a survey on 148 countries, looked at the workers' right to strike, to establish and join trade unions, arbitrary arrests and the right to justice. Violations are recorded from April to March each year.

The report said workers' rights in Bangladesh continued to be severely curtailed.

In the garment sector, which employs more than 4.5 million workers, attempts at forming unions were relentlessly obstructed, while strikes were met with extreme brutality.

Industrial police fired live rounds and used batons and tear gas to disperse workers during strikes.

In 2021 alone, at least six workers were shot and killed by the police during strikes while many others were gravely injured.

On June 13 of that year, many garment workers were injured following a police crackdown on strikes at Lenny Fashions and Lenny Apparels in the Dhaka export processing zone (DEPZ) in Ashulia.

The workers were demanding their wages after the factory's closure.

Over 6,000 workers lost their jobs when Lenny Fashion and Lenny Apparels closed on January 20, 2021. Management had said it would pay due wages by May, but the company never fulfilled its commitment, ITUC said.

A planned meeting on September 24, 2021, in Chattogram to form a regional committee of the IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC) was stopped following a phone call from the police.

On August 6, 2021, the Bangladeshi Industrial Police filed a criminal case against 25 union leaders and members in relation to incidents at Crossline Factory (Pvt) Ltd and Crossline Knit Fabrics Ltd.

The factory management also filed a criminal case against its workers for forming two unions.

In the garment sector, over 500,000 workers employed in export processing zones (EPZs) were not allowed to form or join unions, which left them without any power to bargain for better working conditions.

ITUC said the situation worsened with the implementation of the Export Processing Zones Labour Act (ELA) 2019, which states that workers can only be a part of a workers' welfare association where they may not be given the full scope of collective bargaining.

It is strictly prohibited for them to organise any protest within the EPZ, where demonstrations are often met with violent retaliation from the

In the garment sector, over 500,000 workers employed in export processing zones were not allowed to form or join unions, which left them without any power to bargain for better working conditions.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Six more die from Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six people died of coronavirus in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, reported the Directorate General of Health Services.

If immediate medical interventions are not considered, the death toll can rise significantly in the coming days, warned experts.

"Those who died today [yesterday] got infected around two weeks ago. There may be more such deaths as the transmission was higher in the last couple of weeks," said Mushtuq Hussain, consultant to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told The Daily Star yesterday.

After the transmission remained under control for around three months, it started rising early last month, indicating the beginning of the fourth wave of Covid-19 in the country.

A positivity rate below five percent for at least two weeks at a stretch indicates the end of the previous wave, according to experts.

A total of 29 Covid-19 patients have died since the current wave started, according to the DGHS data.

Of those, 11 died in the first two days of July.

Yesterday, the DGHS reported 1,105 fresh cases of Covid-19, indicating a sharp decline from 1897 the previous day.

The positivity rate also declined to 13.22 percent from 15.31 in the meantime, reported the DGHS.

Experts, meanwhile, warned that the gross violation of the health safety protocols marking the Eid-ul-Azha celebration may cause a further spike in transmission.

Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the IEDCR, yesterday said, "The only way to stay safe is to maintain health safety rules."



Despite floodwaters receding in many areas in Sylhet, some roads remain inundated in stagnant water making it hard for people to return to their homes. The photo was taken in Companyganj upazila on Friday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

AI predicts crime a week before it happens

Finds study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An artificial intelligence algorithm that can predict crimes a week in advance with 90 percent accuracy has been demonstrated for the first time.

Researchers at the University of Chicago created the model using historical crime data to predict future events within 1,000-square-foot areas. The technology was demonstrated in eight major US cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

"We created a digital twin of urban

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল
২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত নয় এমন কোন চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল কলেজ) হইতে যদি কেহ ডিগ্রী/সনদপ্রাপ্ত হন তাহা হইলে চিকিৎসা কার্য পরিচালনার জন্য তাহাকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রদান করা হইবে না এবং তিনি বাংলাদেশে কোন রকম এম্বোপ্যাথি চিকিৎসা করিতে বা চিকিৎসক বা ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসক হিসাবে পরিচয় দিতে পারিবেন না। এমতাবস্থায় কোন চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে (মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল কলেজ) ভর্তিচ্ছুক ছাত্র-ছাত্রী এবং অভিভাবকগণকে ভর্তির আগে প্রতিষ্ঠানটির সরকারি অনুমোদন (Update), বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্তি (Update) এবং বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিলের স্বীকৃতি আছে কি না তদসম্পর্কে অবহিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল এর স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল কলেজের তালিকা বিএমএডসিস এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bmdc.org.bd) দেওয়া আছে।

(ডাঃ মোঃ আরমান হোসেন)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল