



PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

# Farmers urged to safeguard crops, livestock amid cold wave

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A cold wave sweeping through several districts and divisions across Bangladesh has put standing crops, horticulture, and livestock at significant risk, prompting authorities to issue urgent advisories for farmers in the worst-affected areas.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the cold spell is moving over Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Netrokona, Moulvibazar, Laxmipur and Cumilla, as well as across the Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal divisions, and may persist in the coming days.

In response, the Bangladesh Agro-Meteorological Information Service issued urgent advisories to minimise damage to crops and farm assets during excessive cold and fog.

Farmers have been urged to provide light but regular irrigation to fruit trees, cover young plants with straw or polythene to block cold winds, and

protect livestock and poultry sheds with burlap or black cloth while keeping high-voltage bulbs lit to maintain warmth.

They have also been advised to take extra care of boro rice seedbeds during the cold spell. Nurseries should be covered with transparent polythene from 3pm to 10am, ensuring it does not touch the seedlings.

Dew should be removed every morning, and 3-5 centimetres of water kept in the seedbed at night and refreshed during the day.

Cold conditions can cause seedling burn. At an early stage, seedlings and soil should be sprayed with approved fungicides such as Emister Top or Septima.

Onion and garlic crops may face purple blotch and tip burn in foggy weather. Preventive sprays of Ridomil Gold or Mancozeb are advised.

Pulses, mustard and potato fields should also be monitored closely and treated with recommended fungicides at regular intervals to prevent disease outbreaks

## Postpone NEIR

Mobile phone traders urge govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mobile phone traders yesterday formed a human chain demanding the postponement of the implementation of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) system and the release of colleagues arrested earlier over protests against the initiative.

The demonstration was held in front of the Bashundhara City Shopping Mall in Dhaka.

The traders also demanded the withdrawal of cases filed by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) against mobile phone traders, the release of those detained in connection with the vandalism at the BTRC office, a reduction of total taxes on mobile phone imports to 10-12 percent, permission to import used mobile phones, and simplification of the handset import process.

Earlier on Tuesday, traders staged a similar human chain in front of Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka.

## E-VAT refund

FROM PAGE B1

"For example, if a business's VAT liability is Tk 20 but it pays Tk 30 as advance tax, the excess Tk 10 is refundable," he said.

Refunds can also result from double VAT deductions on the same service or when exporters pay VAT or advance tax on imported inputs despite exports being zero-rated.

While an online system could make the process easier, Barua said its effectiveness would ultimately depend on the integrity of those operating it.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an NBR official acknowledged that currently, VAT refunds

often take six to 12 months, even though annual refund applications typically amount to Tk 450 crore to Tk 500 crore on average.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the new system could reduce harassment if it functions as intended.

"If the refund process genuinely goes online, businesses will be encouraged to apply, and we will motivate others to do the same," he said, adding that he had never applied for a refund due to lengthy paperwork, multiple approvals and informal payments.

He also noted that although fully export-oriented factories are entitled to VAT refunds on gas and electricity bills, most avoid applying because the process is cumbersome. "Even when pursued, refunds can take four to five months, or even longer."

Syed Mushfequr Rahman, member of the NBR's VAT audit wing, said the law mandates refunds within 90 days. "While processing often takes seven to 10 days, it must not exceed three months," he said, adding that a 24-point checklist is verified before refunds are approved to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

## CPA would strengthen

FROM PAGE B1

Yunus described the CPA as one of the most important agreements for Bangladesh and said it would "solidify" Bangladesh-EU relations.

Pampaloni said the head of the EU Election Observation Mission would arrive in Bangladesh later this week and is expected to hold a series of meetings with political leaders and relevant authorities.

Pampaloni stressed the importance of a peaceful

election, saying Bangladesh-EU relations could reach new heights following a successful democratic transition, ushering in a new era of engagement between Dhaka and the world's largest economic bloc.

Lutfey Siddiqi, special envoy of the chief adviser; Lamiya Morshed, SDG coordinator and senior secretary; and Michael Miller, the European Union ambassador to Bangladesh, were also present at the meeting.

## Bangladesh resumes US corn imports

FROM PAGE B1

**LONGER ROUTE BUT LOWER PRICE**

According to a United States Department of Agriculture report, Bangladesh imported about 93 percent of its corn from Brazil in the 2024-25 marketing year, followed by 4 percent from Argentina and 2 percent from Pakistan.

Brazilian corn has long been preferred for its price competitiveness and yellowish colour, which feed producers believe improves the appearance of pellet feed, states the report.

Rakibur Rahman Tutul, managing director of corn importer Nahar Agro Group, said the company opted for US corn this year after finding it offered the best balance of price and quality through a bidding process.

He said Brazilian corn was priced at around \$250 per tonne, while US suppliers undercut that by \$3 to \$4 per tonne.

Although shipping from the US takes longer, around 46 days compared with about 30 days from Brazil or Argentina, the company determined it had sufficient inventory to absorb the delay, he added.

Tutul said such decisions depend heavily on supply-chain planning, noting that longer shipping routes are avoided when stock levels are tight.

He also noted that assurances from US agricultural representatives regarding logistical and quality support helped reduce risks.

While the decision also aligned with efforts to narrow Bangladesh's trade deficit with the US, Tutul stressed that cost savings remained the primary consideration.

Sourcing strategies, he said, change from year to year depending on crop quality, regional demand and price competitiveness.

Moshiur Rahman, managing director of Paragon Group, said the company sources raw materials from multiple countries, including Brazil, Argentina and the United States, depending on prevailing prices.

A price difference of \$4 to \$5 per tonne can translate into savings of \$400,000 to \$500,000 per shipment, he said. Paragon previously sourced from the US before shifting to Brazil and Argentina when

yarn to make the sector more competitive.

He told The Daily Star yesterday that the amount of stockpiled yarn has decreased somewhat as spinning mills have reduced production due to low demand.

Local spinners are operating at around 50 percent capacity because of low gas pressure, he added.

According to Russell, the total investment in the garment and primary textile sectors is more than \$75 billion, including

\$23 billion in the primary textile sector. Combined, the two sectors contribute \$40 billion in exports.

BTMA leaders said Bangladesh imported \$2 billion worth of yarn from India in fiscal year 2025-26, with local mills consuming 1,600 tonnes daily. From April to October 2025, imports reached \$950 million.

They said Bangladesh has become the largest destination for Indian yarn exports, receiving 44 percent of the total, while Cambodia ranks second at 21 percent.

prices there fell, and has now returned to the US as prices became competitive again, he informed.

Rahman said sourcing decisions are reviewed monthly, and shipments may come from multiple origins within the same month. Regardless of supplier interest, he added, the company's priority is securing quality raw materials at the lowest possible price.

US Embassy Dhaka Agricultural Attaché Erin

Covert visited the port yesterday to welcome the shipment alongside representatives of Nahar Agro Group, Paragon Group and Nourish Poultry and Hatchery Limited.

An official from United Grain Corporation, a major US grain exporter, said the company was honoured to be part of the first US corn shipment to Bangladesh in eight years and expressed optimism about supplying US grains to the country in the years ahead.

**জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট**  
**বাস নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০১	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০৬/২০২৫-২৬
০২	দরপত্র বিক্রয় এবং দাখিলের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট
০৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট।
নিলামকৃত পণ্যের বিবরণঃ		
	ক্র/নং	গাড়ির বিবরণ
০৫	০১	বাসঃ রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর- জয়পুরহাট-স-১১-০০০১, গুজুতকারকঃ টাটা মটরস শিঃ, যানলেন্দ্রেখীঃ অমিনিবাস, তৈরীর সনঃ ২০০৬, চেসিস নং-38906555R11845, ইঞ্জিন নং-50M62443822, জ্বালানীঃ ডিজেল, সিলিভার সংখ্যা-০৬ টি

বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলীঃ

- ১। অগ্রহী ক্রেতাপক্ষকে দরপত্রের সাথে আবেদনমূলক দর ১০% টাকা অধ্যক্ষ, জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ বরাবরে অগ্রহী ব্যাংক পিএসসি, জয়পুরহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ শাখা, জয়পুরহাট অনুকূল ব্যাংক ড্রাকট/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।
- ২। সকল দরদাতাকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন প্রাপ্তি ১০ দিনের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ টাকা পরিশোধ পূর্বক বাস ভেলিডারী দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদনমূলক বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।
- ৩। অগ্রহী নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী কলেজে উপস্থিত হয়ে গাড়িটি সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন। পরবর্তীতে এ ব্যাপারে উত্থাপিত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ৪। কোনরূপ কারণ না দেখিয়ে যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- ৫। সকল দরদাতাকে চূড়ান্ত মূল্যের উপর সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/১৭

অধ্যক্ষ  
জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ

GD-45

Rakibur Rahman Tutul, managing director of corn importer Nahar Agro Group, said the company opted for US corn this year after finding it offered the best balance of price and quality through a bidding process.

**Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Bangladesh Police**  
**Principal's Office**  
**Bangladesh Police Academy**  
**Sardah, Rajshahi**  
**[www.bpa.police.gov.bd](http://www.bpa.police.gov.bd)**

**e-Tender Notice**

Memo Noঃ BPA/Admin/230

Dateঃ 07-01-2026

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

SL. No	Description	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Scheduled Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1.	Mosur Dal	1208572	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
2.	Soyabean Oil	1208793	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
3.	Grinding Wheat (Gom Pesai)	1209020	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
4.	Fire wood (Jalani khat)	1209046	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
5.	Supply and crashing of Chickpeas (Chola) with delivery	1209050	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
6.	Wheat Bran (Gomer Vushi)	1209070	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
7.	Chashing Barley (Haller kora Zob)	1209071	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
8.	Bichali (Khor or dhaner shukna ongsho)	1209074	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
9.	Soyabean Meal	1209075	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration on the e-GP system ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is mandatory.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and form e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD- 53

**বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন**  
**University Grants Commission of Bangladesh**  
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭  
website: [www.ugc.gov.bd](http://www.ugc.gov.bd)

Ref. No: 37.01.0000.000.114.07.0001.03

Date: 07/01/2026

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No	Tender ID No	Reference No	Description of Goods/Works	Publishing Date	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01	1207767	37.01.0000.000.114.07.0001.03	Supply and Installation of RFID Access Control System and Related Services to UGC Building.	08/01/2026 11:00	22/01/2026 12:00	22/01/2026 15:00	22/01/2026 15:00

These are 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 Branches.

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

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01813574452).

(Md. Omar Faruque)  
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ICT Division  
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GD-52