



Jasim Mela opens in Faridpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A two-week Jasim Polli Mela (Jasim Fair) was inaugurated yesterday at Jasim Uddayan at Ambikapur village in Faridpur in observance of the 105th birth anniversary of Polli Kobi Jasimuddin.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Ekram Ahmed as chief guest while Dhaka Range DIG Md. Amiruddin was the special guest. Faridpur Deputy Commissioner Yahua Bhuiyan was in the chair. Faridpur ADC Sajedul Quyum Dulal, Police Superintendent Kusum Dewan, Government Sarada Sundari Mohila College principal Abdul Khaleque Mia, Faridpur army camp-in-charge Maj. Faysal, Faridpur Rab camp-in-charge Maj. Abul Hasnat Sharar and language movement veteran Dr. Noni Gopal Saha also spoke on the occasion. Educationists, political leaders, local elite, cultural activists and people from all sections attended the programme.

In the evening, a cultural program was presented, organised by Jasim Foundation.

RU reopens today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University will reopen today after 18 days' vacation.

The 16 dormitories for both boys and girls reopened yesterday.

The RU authorities closed the 16 residential halls on security ground during Eid vacation that began on December 14.

Provost council of RU issued a notice and asked students to return to their halls with by 11.00pm and girl students before sunset, sources said.

Only the residential students will be allowed to enter the halls, sources also said.

Galloping rice prices in northern districts

Coarse rice sells at Tk 30, up by Tk 6 in a week: Most rice mills inoperative for want of paddy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

People in northern districts, particularly low income groups, are facing hard days as rice prices have soared in all markets while harvest of Amon paddy is yet to be over.

Coarse rice is being sold at Tk 28 to Tk 30 per kilogram and finer varieties at Tk 34 to Tk 38 in most areas in northern districts.

Price of coarse rice increased by Tk 6 per kilogram and fine rice by Tk 10 per kilogram in retail markets in last seven days.

Sources in wholesale markets said, rice prices increase by at least Tk 100 per bag (80kg) every day.

Rice traders in Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and adjoining districts apprehended that the prices would go up further in next few days because of what they said short supply of Amon paddy in markets.

Meanwhile, most of the rice mills in northern districts remained closed due to short

supply of paddy.

Ashraf, owner of Rafiq Rice Mills at Mahiganj in Rangpur said, 10 rice mills out of 113 in the area are operating. The rest are closed as the owners could not buy paddy from markets.

Abdur Razzak, proprietor of RR Traders at Kurigram BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) industrial estate said, all of the rice mills in industrial zone is closed for want of paddy.

He also explained that rice traders from Nagaon and Khulna purchased huge quantities of paddy from all markets in Kurigram before the Eid-ul-Azha and build stocks.

This correspondent also talked to a number of farmers in the districts regarding Amon production in the current season. All of them said, the yield abnormally low this year.

Abu Bakr Siddique of Sona Roy village in Domar upazila said, "I sold about 350 mound of Amon

paddy last year but this year I could not sell anything due to damage caused by floods.

Low income people are the worst sufferers due to the high price of rice in markets.

Talking to this correspondent, some day labourers and rickshawpullers said they can not buy the daily requirement of rice as prices started galloping about two weeks ago.

Rickshawpuller Alam Badsha in Aditmari in Lalmonirhat district said his family need 3 kilograms of rice every day, which he can hardly afford.

Ranjit of Nabdiganj in Kaunia, Dulu Mohanta of Binnatari in Rangpur Sadar upazila also narrated the same story.

When contacted, Rangpur Deputy Commissioner Khondoker Atiar Rahman said, the price hike of rice is caused by floods which hit the district twice this year damaging crops.

Bijoy Mela begins in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A month-long Bijoy Mela organised by the Mukti Juddha Sangsad began at Beanibazar upazila headquarters yesterday.

A large number of freedom fighters, officials, local elite and people from all sections attended the inaugural function held at at Osmani Stadium.

Adviser to a former caretaker government and former foreign secretary CM Shafi Sami inaugurated the fair.

Upazila commander of Mukti Juddha Sangsad Shahab Uddin chaired the inaugural function. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Azzul Islam, ex-chairman of Sylhet Pourashava and of Sylhet Sadar upazila Abdul Khaliq Mayon, ex-upazila chairman Mujamril Ali, educationist Ali Ahmed, Union Parishad chairmen Abdul Jalil and Shams Uddin Khan spoke, among others.

Mainul

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required to do some tasks of the government like separation of the judiciary, establishing law and order, independence of anti-corruption commission, and elimination of corruption," Mainul said.

The adviser reiterated that emergency is not mandatory for this government to sustain power and continue its activities.

Asked about price-hike of rice, he admitted it and said the caretaker government is also anxious about the price-hike of rice and other essentials. The government is trying to control it.

Mainul said investors' lack of interest in making investment is the main problem for increasing the prices of essentials. He said until the investors will be certain about the future political situation, they will not be interested in further investment in the country.

"Remarks and activities by politicians will give the investors an idea about the future government and politics of the country...Stable political situation could increase the investment," he said.

About politicians' demand for lifting the state of emergency, the adviser said, "Some politicians are giving hints at launching movement...Are they seeking permission from the government to go for movement in the name of indoor politics?"

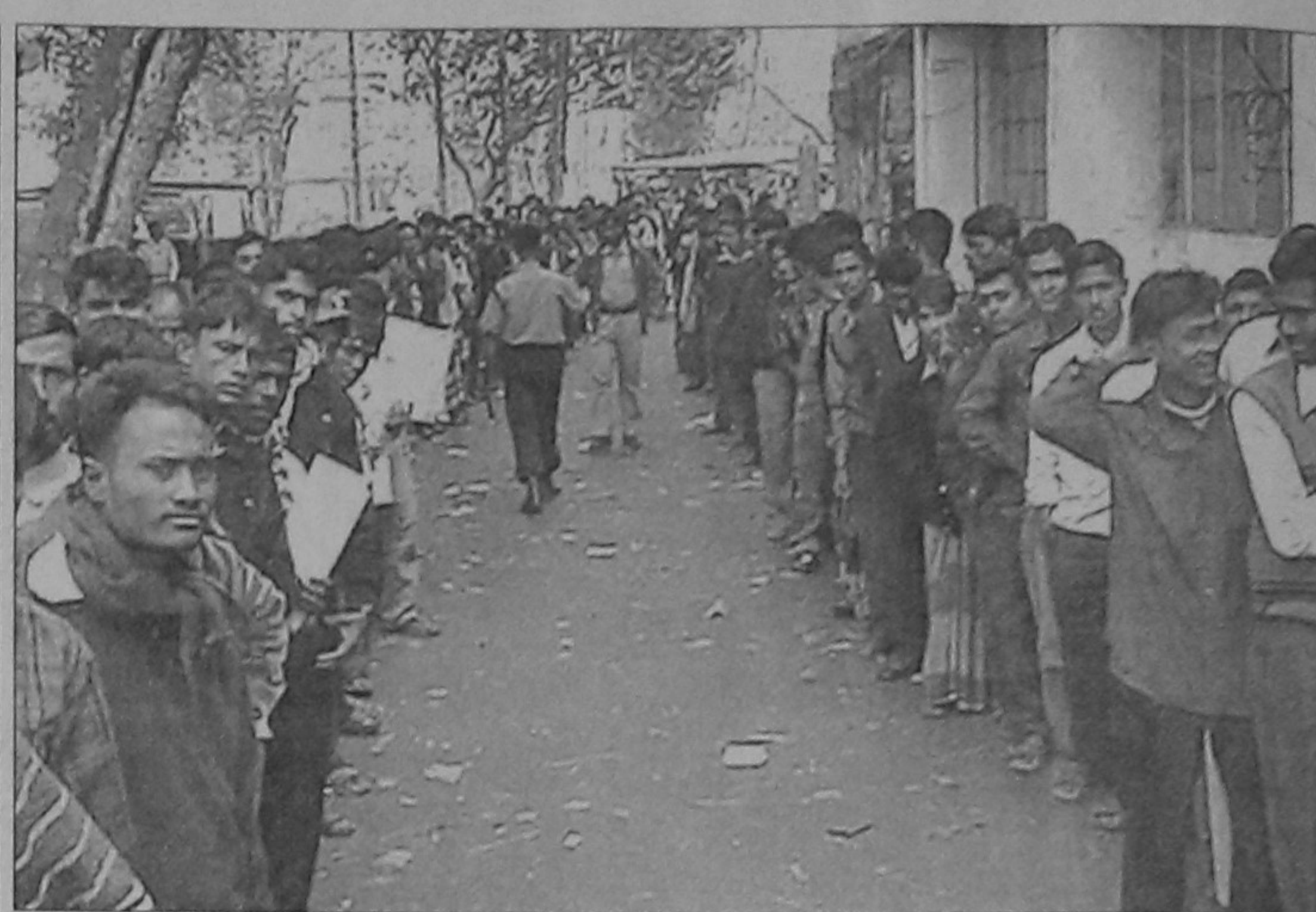
Mainul said they are trying to reform politics to bring about moral change in politics. The government is not forcing the political parties to bring about the reforms.

The adviser said healthy politics is essential for development of the country and for that efficient leadership is also essential.

"I am trying to bring politics on right track and thus misunderstanding is being created about me," he said, admitting, "I talk too much as I have to look after four ministries and legal matters of other ministries."

About the autonomy of state owned BTV and Bangladesh Betar, he said the government is very much interested in this matter and trying to give autonomy to BTV and Bangladesh Betar.

Asked about the Election Commission's independence, he said the government has no hesitation to separate the secretariat of the Election Commission. The government will separate the commissions' secretariat from the prime minister's office.



Passport seekers huddling in long queues in front of Barisal passport office. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

Scramble, wait for nights for passport in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Passport seekers are waiting for days in long queues in front of Barisal passport office following a rumour that candidates who did not pass the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination will not be issued passport after the first week of January.

This correspondent saw about half a kilometer long queue in front of the passport office at Band Road yesterday morning. Some of the people standing in the long line said they were waiting for 16 hours including the chilly night.

The same scene was in front of Sonali Bank branch at its Barisal corporate office at Bogura Road for

depositing passport forms and fees.

Official and witnesses said the rush became abnormal since November after the rumour spread.

The Barisal regional passport office also covers Bhola, Jhalakati and Pirojpur. A passport issuing counter was opened at Patuakhali deputy commissioner's office in October for applicants from Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Alam of Lalmoan in Bhola, Rafikul Islam of Bakerganj, Jewel Molla of Uzirpur, Wahidul of Mehendiganj, Yusuf Ali of Nalchhity, Srikanta of Swarupkati said they were in the queue in front of Sonali Bank branch since about 11 pm Saturday afternoon to deposit passport fees after the bank

would open Sunday morning.

After depositing money we will rush for the queue in front of passport office, about two kilometers from the bank counter to deposit forms, they said.

Shamsuddin Gazi of Charfession in Bhola, waiting in a queue in front of passport office since Sunday morning said police charged batons on them at about 2 am Sunday.

Sources at the passport office said they receive at least 2000 applications a day since October against an average of 300 earlier.

They can not cope with the unusual rush due to shortage of manpower, the officials said.

The government has dispelled the rumour as false.

Kalmakanda UNO, 2 officials face extortion case

They deny charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

An extortion case was filed in Netrakona judicial magistrate court yesterday against Kalmakanda Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Goutom Chandra Paul, Upazila Fishery Officer (UFO) Shajahan Mia and Upazila Cooperative Officer (UCO) Ali Azgor Tarafdar.

Fisherman Tarani Chandra Das of Guajakulia village in Kalmakanda, lessee of Bishor Pasha haor (water body) in Kalmakanda filed the case with Netrakona judicial magistrate

court.

Court sources said, in the case, Tarani alleged that the three officials on December 26 called him six other fishermen to the government residence of Goutom Chandra Paul at Kalmakanda upazila headquarter and demanded Tk 70,000 from them for catching fish from the haor.

As they refused, the officials drove them out of the residence.

Tarani also alleged that some musclemen in the area including Sona Mia, Sabuj Mia and Azhar along with their accomplices are

catching fish from the haor, allegedly with the backing of the officials.

The court sent the case to the officer-in-charge of Kalmakanda police station for investigation and file a report to the court.

When contacted yesterday, UNO Goutom Chandra Paul refuted the allegation, saying the case was false.

"I heard about the case, but I am not at all involved in the matter," he said.

UFO Shajahan Mia and UCO Ali Azgor Tarafdar said they were not aware of the case.

DU teacher tells court

FROM PAGE 1

Chandra Bhowmik.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani recorded statement of Dr Mizanur Rahman of marketing department, while defence lawyers of four teachers and a student, all behind bars, cross-examined him.

Dr Mizan, also a Canadian immigrant, told the court he was present at a Duta emergency general meeting on August 21 where they demanded withdrawal of army camp from the campus, proper treatment of the wounded students and lifting the state of emergency.

At the meeting, Prof Anwar declared solidarity with the students' movement and decided to wear black badges and bring out a silent procession protesting against attacks on the students.

For most of the time, Prof Sadrul absented himself from the meeting and did not make any speech, even though he was in the chair, he added.

On August 22, Duta brought out a silent procession and ended it at the Central Shaheed Minar where Prof Anwar made a speech about different demands and Prof Harun declared solidarity with those.

But he did not find Prof Sadrul and Prof Bhowmik at the procession and rally, the witness said.

After the recording of his statement, the defence cross-examined him on different points. In reply to a question, Dr Mizan told the court he was in the procession and was present at the rally.

The court fixed today for next hearing of the case.

Later, the accused were taken to the Court of Metropolitan

Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui where Dr Mizan gave statement against them in another case filed for the same charges.

The court also fixed tomorrow for next hearing of the case.

During hearing, the four teachers were given permission to sit on a bench in the dock.

On August 22, the cases were filed against some 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed students and teachers of DU and outsiders for violating the EPR, vandalising public and private property, obstructing police in discharging their duties, and assaulting law enforcers on the campus and in adjacent areas.

But on September 9, police pressed charges against four teachers and 15 students of the university for instigating violence on the campus and at Shabbagh on August 21-22.

Youth dies from 'wrong treatment'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A young man died allegedly due to wrong treatment at a dental clinic at Bangabandhu Supermarket in Shyamnagar upazila Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Rabiul Islam, 28, of Badghata village in the upazila.

The victim's father Fazar Ali filed a case with Shyamnagar police station against Dr. Rabindra Nath Mondal of Barisal Dental Clinic for his son's death, police said.

Outlaw killed in shootout with police in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was killed in a shootout with police at Isalmari village in Mirpur upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Amirul Islam alias Rulu, 48, of the village.

Police said Rulu was a regional leader of BCP and accused in about dozens cases including seven for murder.

He was also a listed criminal in Mirpur upazila, police said.

Police said, acting on a tip-off

that Rulu was holding a secret meeting at Isalmari field, a team of Mirpur police station cordoned the area at about 3:30 am and asked the alleged BCP men to surrender.

But they opened fire, prompting police to retaliate. Hit by a bullet during a shootout, Rulu died on the spot while his accomplices fled away, police said.

Two constables---Salam and Humayan---were also injured in the incident, police said.

Later police recovered a shutter gun and four bullets from the spot.



Inside view of Sonargaon Textile Mills in Barisal, gutted yesterday.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)
House # 3, Road # 24, Block-K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213.

Invitation for Tenders

1 Agency	Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)		
2 Procuring Entity Name	Office of the Manager (Procurement & Contract Management), DESCO		
3 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
4 Invitation for	Procurement of Server and On-Line UPS		
5 Tender No.	37/2007		
6 Invitation Ref No.	DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2007/392		
7 Date	31/12/2007		

KEY INFORMATION

8 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9 Budget and Source of Funds	DESCO's own fund
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10 Tender Name	Procurement of Server and On-Line UPS		
11 Tender Last Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time
	22/01/2008	23/01/2008	12.00 Noon
12 Name & Address of the office for selling Tender Document, receiving & opening tender	Selling		Receiving & Opening
	Office of Deputy General Manager (Finance & Accounts), DESCO, House # 3, Road # 24, Block - K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka - 1213.		Office of the Manager (Procurement & Contract Management), DESCO, House # 3, Road # 24, Block - K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka - 1213.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

13 Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide supplier having valid Trade License, TIN & VAT registration from concerned authority of Bangladesh.		
14 Brief Description of works	Supply & delivery of Backup Server, Server for S&D and 3 KVA Online UPS. Detail described in tender document.		
15 Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 1,000/- (Taka One Thousand Only) only payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'.		
16 Description of Package	Location of Delivery	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in weeks
	Lot-1 Backup Server for S&D	Different S&D divisions of DESCO	Tk. 40,000/- (Taka Forty Thousand) only (Payable in the form of Bank draft or pay order in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)').
Lot-2 On-Line 3KVA UPS	Different departments of DESCO	Tk. 40,000/- (Taka Forty Thousand) only (Payable in the form of Bank draft or pay order in favor of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)').	10 (Ten) weeks from the date of signing of contract

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Khandaker Najibul Alam		
18 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Manager (Procurement & Contract Management)		
19 Address of Official Inviting Tender	House # 3 (5 th Floor), Road # 24, Block - K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka - 1213		
20 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No.: 8859642, 8860341, 9880400, 8826206	Fax No.: 8854648	E-mail: mddesco@bdcom.com
	21 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.		

RAB Forces Headquarters
Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building
Kurmitola, Dhaka

Invitation for Tender

1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.				
2 Agency	Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Forces.				
3 Procuring entity name	Director General, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Forces.				
4 Source of funds	GOB Revenue.				
5 Tender package No.	S(G)-14/2007-2008.				
6 Tenders invitation Ref No. & date	RAB HQ/Admin (Supply)/514/BP Jacket/568 Date: 31/12/2007.				
7 Tender name	Tender for supply of Bullet Proof Jacket (Vest) for RAB Forces.				
8 Procurement method	Open tender method (OTM).				
9 Eligibility of tenderers	Adequate experience in Supply of Bullet Proof Jacket (Vest) to any govt/semi-govt/autonomous organization or reputed agency with satisfactory performance.				
10 Time for completion of delivery	Within 90 days from the notification of contract award.				
11 Name and address of the office selling, receiving & opening the tender documents	RAB Forces Headquarters (Admin & Finance Wing), Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building, Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka.				
12 Last date and time for selling tender document	30-01-2008 at 1700 hours.				
13 Last date and time for submission of tenders	31-01-2008 at 1130 hours.				
14 Date and time for opening of tenders	31-01-2008 at 1145 hours (Tenderers or their authorized representatives may attend).				
15 Date, time & place of pre-tender meeting	Date: 23-01-2008 at 1205 hours. Place: Conference Room, RAB Forces Headquarters, Civil Aviation Cargo Admin Building, Kurmitola, Dhaka.				
16 Brief description of items, price of tender schedule & tender security money are to be given below:					
Item No.	Description of item	Unit of supply	Quantity of unit required	Price of tender schedule (Tk) (non-refundable)	Tender security money (refundable)
16.1	Bullet Proof Jacket (Vest)	Piece	300 (Approx)	750.00	1,25,000.00
Special instructions		i) Tenderers are allowed to submit their tender for single item. ii) Tenderers shall submit at least 02 (two) in numbers sample (according to approved sample) at the time of submitting tender documents. iii) Test fire will be conducted on given sample by the board of officers formed by RAB HQ to test the protection level as per No. 16.1. Report from this board of officers will be one of the judgement criteria for TEC. iv) Without assigning any reason the procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders. v) All the damage occurs on sample during test firing RAB will not be responsible for that.			

Atfah Uddin Ahmed
Director (Admin and Finance)
RAB Forces Headquarters
Phone-8951107

GD-05