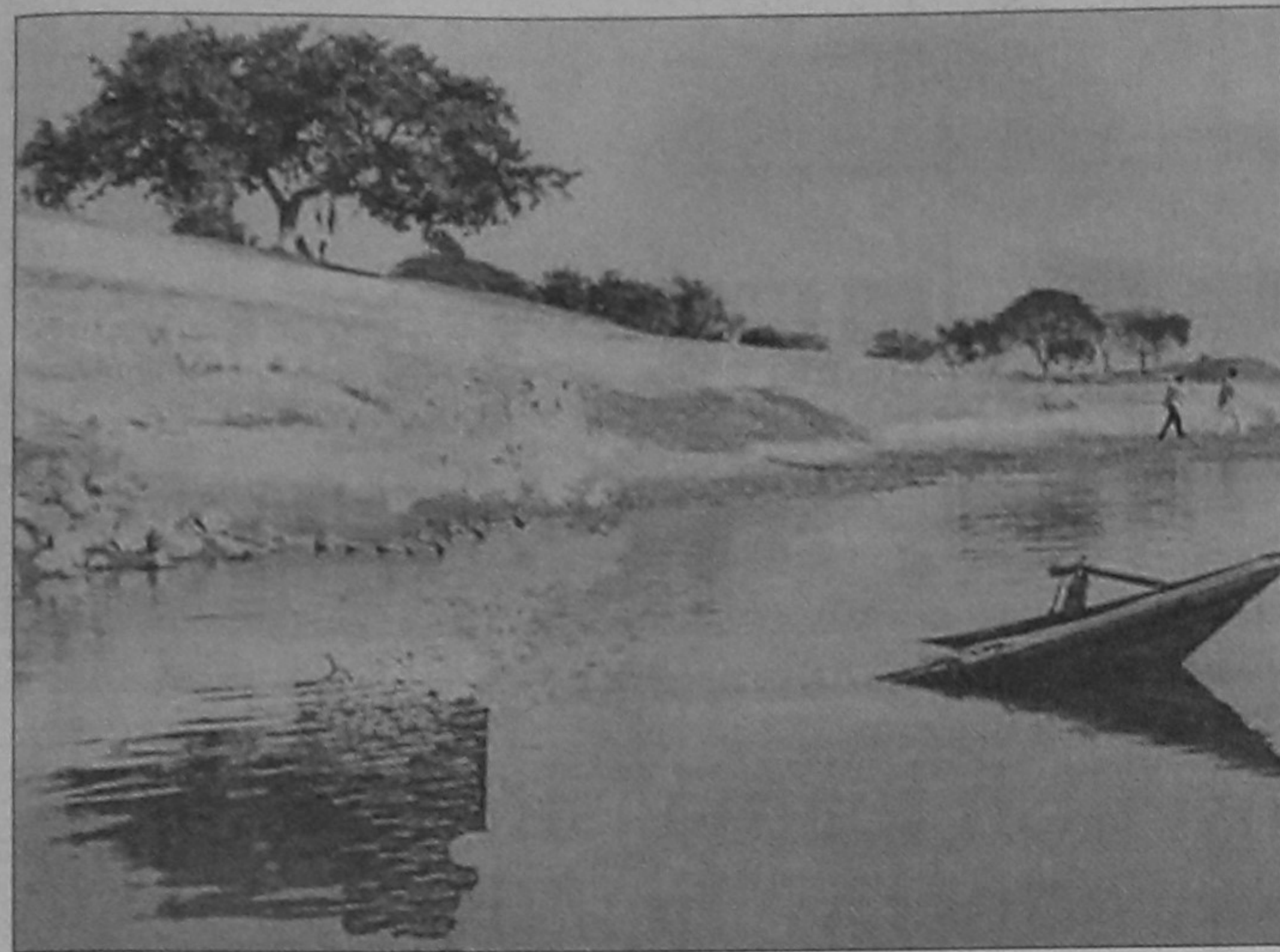


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



## Padma, past and present

Once full of water, it is just like a barren desert now. People in those days shivered if they heard the name of Padma but now even the old walk upon the sandbars and go from one side to the other. The sandbars have been increasing in size in recent years. Padma doesn't exist any longer!

In India, Padma is commonly known as the Ganges. This major hydrodynamic system is still the lifeline to trade and commerce.

There are numerous mentions of the Ganges (Padma) in the Vedas, the Puranas, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. It has a deep connection with the Hindu mythology. They are described as Goddesses in the myths.

The abundant water was a habitat for different fishes. Particularly the Hilsa found Padma as its ideal breeding ground. Gone are those days!

We may question ourselves how can the Padma, creator of her own fate, has arrived at the end point. Human beings have played their part in polluting this river. Padma has now turned into arable land, with the amount of water decreasing tremendously day by day. Chars have emerged and farmers are using this land as a blessing. They have begun cultivation of rice, pulses and other things to meet the

growing demand of the increasing population in Bangladesh. They are even using pumps to water the plants in these fertile sediment accumulated chars.

Pollution is a major aspect which has now brought the almost lifeless Padma to us. Those who live beside the river wash themselves up, clean clothes, utensils and do so many other things in river water. They put the waste products into the clean river water, thus making it dirty and impure with germs.

"The Farraka Barrage" is the major reason behind the river drying up. Our neighbouring country India has built this barrage which has done great damage to this river system. This barrage changes the direction of water flow, causing the water to carry sands and soil with it to Bangladesh which eventually deposit and lower the water level. Moreover, the industries which have been built near the Ganges discharge effluents into water.

Educating the masses about the river system may still protect the Padma to some extent.  
**Shatabdi Biswas**  
*Officers' Quarter*  
*Regional Public Administration Training Centre*  
*Rajshahi*

### The politician and DS

This is in reference to Dr. Kamal Hossain using the phrase "dead horse" (DS, 6 March 2008) in connection with the Begum Khaleda Zia lawsuit to ascertain the legitimate party representative in the cancelled BNP-EC dialogue. The term perhaps more aptly and succinctly portrays his current political status and utter lack of appeal to the masses. As a lawyer backing the EC/government stance, he has to use everything at his disposal to obfuscate the issue and cause doubt, ambiguity and confusion to get a verdict in favour of his client. That is understandable.

What is more troubling is the fact that The Daily Star does not see the conflict of interest and serious breach of integrity and principles in the dubious participation of Dr. Kamal Hossain, a leader of a political party and a member of an election coalition, on behalf of the Election Commission against Khaleda Zia and a section of the BNP. This is an apparent attempt to overlook and sidestep the issue and routinely employ selective morality. This is a serious case of expedient and opportunistic attitude and behaviour that cannot be condoned.

**Omar Khasru**  
*One-mail*

### Safeguard our interests

We all must stand against the rollback of progress made in Bangladesh. Hopefully, the progress made under this neutral government will be the foundation for the future government to use this as a launching pad for further progress. We should be rejecting any notion of rolling back the progress made in meting out justice, fighting against corruption, making corrupt politicians responsible for their acts and promoting the interest of common people.

We should start a dialogue among us: how we could be vigilant and safeguard our interest against all wrong doing in the past. The corrupt and morally bankrupt politicians are waiting to take back the country and use it as their money making business venture. The silent coalition between students, teachers, workers, journalists, businessmen, civil society organisations, bureaucrats, honest politicians, armed forces and common people who are the supporters of this neutral government must participate in discussions, using newspapers, Internet media, Radio-TV, private gathering and

any means of communications, on safeguarding and promoting people's interest. The fight against corruption must go on beyond this government. One of the election slogans for the political parties ought to be keeping the fight alive against corruption.

Let us discuss our options to make sure systems are in place and we don't go back to the days of misery.

The new generation should take leadership to move the country forward. The new generation understands globalisation and the role of engagement in global interdependency.

The young generation understands technology and Internet, marketing and branding the country in global market. So let's make place for younger and smarter people in politics, business, government and society at large.

In between the change of guard, we selected a neutral caretaker government to oversee smooth handover to a new administration. If our politicians were civilized enough, we would never had the need for caretaker government. Because they were not responsible enough, we invented caretaker government. Let's look forward!  
**Ekram Belal**  
*Look-East Club*

### Who are responsible?

As a student of Chemical Engineering at BUET, I would like to share my views regarding university ranking issue.

Interestingly, a graduate from my department is more likely to get a job if he does not have good grades. Industry people consider it to be a risky option to employ good students since they have better chances of going abroad. Sometimes they are not even called for interview, may be to spare them from the blushes of being rejected, even after performing better there. Finding no other way, good students who previously had or had not this intention to go abroad, start trying for it desperately. However, in this competitive world it is an uphill task to get admission to a suitable university abroad. As a result, life becomes harder for those poor good students.

Despite being meritorious, most students of my university are now strongly motivated not to invest their time in academic activities. How can a university like BUET flourish where students nurture this attitude? How can we expect a better ranking from such a university? Also how long would we imprudently admonish those expatriate good students who are

## Women as leading force

Women are now contributing to society in various ways. Educated women are now showing their capability along with men in every sphere of life, both at home and abroad. Most of them have proved their competence in various fields. But what is the real condition of our women in general? They are still not the decision makers in their families.

In a male dominated society like ours, women are still suppressed in the family and society. This is one of the main reasons of less participation of women in politics, in social works and in various kinds of challenging jobs. The condition of rural women is much more critical. We know, they have to depend on their husbands or in-laws' decisions in a family. Women, who are economically solvent, also have to depend on their husbands' decisions. So, it is almost impossible for them to take part in political or social activities. As economic and social development depend mostly on women's participation, it is the duty of society to encourage them to come forward. The men should stand against male chauvinism that exists in our society, so that women can get rid of oppression and harassment. In seminars and

public meetings, we generally talk about a free and fair world where women would get all their rights; where women with their constructive ideas and thoughts would work as a leading force. But do we really believe those words?

It is time to think seriously about this issue and take some actions at the field level, so that women can get rid of this oppression and help build our nation.

**Ribat Munir Eiti**  
*Kalabagan*  
*Dhaka*



being forced to leave the country? Who is to blame for this? The employers, the infrastructure or the students themselves?

**Jadid**  
*Department of Chemical Engineering*  
*BUET*

### Foreign branch of political parties

All the major political parties of Bangladesh have their foreign branch offices in different countries of the world. These foreign branch offices are funded and maintained by some unscrupulous

Bangladeshis living abroad who have their specific personal interests.

These Bangladeshis get special privileges offered by their godfathers right from the entry into Bangladesh (Zia Intl Airport). Similarly, they are given treatments like VIPs when they leave Bangladesh. This is the minimum these expatriates deserve. They enjoy this, at least something to speak about to friends and family. Lifetime achievement!


But all these privileges come with some cost. The parasites (corrupt politicians) do not give it for free!

They get: Full paid air ticket to

the country of their choice. Full board and lodge during their trip abroad. Transportation, travel services and guide. Some expensive free gifts for wives back home. Get some MPs/Senators talk good about their leader. Money laundering service. Great achievement indeed!

This is the secret of having foreign branch offices of political parties. These expatriates do not even notice that the political parties in the UK and the USA do not have their branch offices in Bangladesh.

**ABangladeshi**  
*UK*




**DW & CE (Navy)**  
 Lalasorai Nabik Colony  
 Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206

## Invitation for Tenders

Notice No. 605/BN/2/183/E-6 Dated: 09 March 2008

Military Engineer Services					
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.			
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services.			
3.	Procuring entity name	DW & CE (Navy).			
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka			
5.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).			
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB			
7.	Development partners (if applicable)	None			
8.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Construction of Combined Workshop at BNS Ulka, Ctg.			
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	16 March 2008.			
10.	Selling of tender will close on	27 Mar 2008.			
11.	Last date and time for submission of tender	30 Mar 2008, 12.00 hrs.			
12.	Date and time for opening of tender	30 Mar 2008, 12.30 hrs.			
13.	Name & address of the office (s)	-Selling tender document: DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka. -Receiving tender document: -Do- -Opening tender document: -Do-			
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class - 'A', 'B' & 'C' b. On receipt of DGFI security clearance, contractors born in the approved list of gov't/semi-gov't/autonomous body or organisation may apply for tender.			
15.	Brief description of works	Lot no.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Taka)
					Tender security amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka Cantt (Taka)
					Completion time in weeks/months
		a.	Construction of one storey combined workshop for C-802 Missile with one storied foundation up to 10 mtr height incl. roof at BNS Ulka, Chittagong.	BNS Ulka, Ctg	3,000/-
					2,40,000/-
					10 months
16.	Name of official inviting tender	DW & CE (Navy).			
17.	Designation of official inviting tender	DW & CE (Navy).			
18.	Address of official inviting tender	DW & CE (Navy) Lalasarai Nabik Colony, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206.			
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender	DW & CW (Navy) Lalasarai Nabik Colony, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206 Tel No. 8752717 Fax No: 8752786 e-mail: dwce_navy@yahoo.com			
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders				

ISPR/Navy/08/548  
GD-1159



**রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
 রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা-১০০০  
 www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd


## নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম	গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২।	নিলাম আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ও কর্তৃপক্ষ	চেয়ারম্যান, রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা।
০৩।	নিলাম রেফারেন্স নং	রাজউক/পূর্বচল/নিলাম-০১/২০০৭-২০০৮খিঃ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৩/০৮খিঃ।
০৪।	নিলাম এর নাম	পূর্বচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্প এলাকায় বিভিন্ন সেক্টরে বিদ্যমান বৃক্ষ নিলাম (লট-এ থেকে লট-এম পর্যন্ত)।
০৫।	নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীদের যোগ্যতা	নিলাম সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন যে কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান।
০৬।	নিলাম সিডিউলের মূল্য লট ভিত্তিক	লট ভিত্তিক প্রতিটি ৫০০ টাকা (মোট ১৩টি লট)।
০৭।	নিলাম জমানতের পরিমাণ	লট ভিত্তিক উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% চেয়ারম্যান রাজউকের অনুমূলে।
০৮।	নিলাম সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	সোনালী ব্যাংক, রাজউক ভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা, জনতা ব্যাংক, রাজউক ভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, রাজউক ভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা।
০৯।	নিলামে সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৪/০৮খিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালে।
১০।	নিলামের কাগজপত্র জমাদানের তারিখ ও স্থান	০৭/০৪/০৮খিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর, পূর্বচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্প, রাজউক এনেক্স ভবন, ঢাকা।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ও সময়	বোর্ড রুম, ৪র্থ তলা, রাজউক ভবন, ০৭/০৪/০৮খিঃ বিকাল ২.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১২।	যোগাযোগ ঠিকানা	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, পূর্বচল নতুন শহর প্রকল্প, রাজউক এনেক্স ভবন (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০। ফোন # ৯৫৫৪৯৬৯।

বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: নিলাম ডাকে অগ্রহী ব্যক্তিগণ/প্রতিষ্ঠান সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত এক বা একাধিক লট ভিত্তিক গাছ-পালা ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আলাদা আলাদা মূল্য নির্ধারণপূর্বক নিলাম সিডিউল দাখিল করতে পারবেন। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন ধরনের বা সকল নিলাম সিডিউল গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কেএম হারুন  
 চেয়ারম্যান  
 রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ  
 রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

জিডি-১১৭১



**Bangladesh Power Development Board**  
**Invitation for International Tender**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).		
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Carbon Brush & Brush Holder for Generator of Unit No. (1-4) of Ghorasal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Pur-347/2007.		
8	Date	Date: 03-03-2008.		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget (cash foreign exchange allocation) of BPDB.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
14	Tender package No.	76 (FY 2007-2008).		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Carbon Brush & Brush Holder for Generator of Unit No. (1-4) of Ghorasal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.		
16	Tender publication date	Date: 03-03-2008.		
17	Tender last selling date	20-04-2008 up to 5.00pm.		
18	Tender closing date and time	On 21-04-2008 at 11.00am (BST).		
19	Tender opening date and time	On 21-04-2008 at 11.30am (BST).		
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (others)	Nil.		
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Nil.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of Carbon Brush & Brush Holder for Generator of Unit No. (1-4) of Ghorasal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.		
24	Brief description of related services	As per tender document.		
25	Tender document price	Non-refundable BD Taka 2,000/- (two thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order in favour of Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.		
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount
26	1	Procurement of Carbon Brush & Brush Holder for Generator	Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi	USD 1,500.00 OR BDTK-1,00,000/-
27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
30	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah		
31	Designation of official inviting tender	Director		
32	Address of official inviting tender	Director of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 7126144 Fax: 7126151		
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

**Md. Abduhu Ruhullah**  
 Director  
 Directorate of Purchase  
 BPDB, Dhaka

Biddiut/Jan-931(4)/4-3-08  
GD-1079