

Growers to face Tk 300 crore loss from potato damage

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

About 3.20 lakh tonnes of potatoes worth around Tk 300 crore is facing damage as growers in 16 districts of Rajshahi division are compelled to preserve the perishable winter crop in traditional way.

The situation has arisen as growers have failed to preserve it in cold storages due to lack of accommodation. A prolonged winter this year helped yield around 58 lakh tonnes of potatoes from over 3.50 lakh hectares of land in northern districts and a total of 130 cold storages in the region could accommodate only 10 lakh tonnes.

Of the remaining 48 lakh tonnes,

about two-thirds 32 lakh tonnes are expected to be sold in local markets and other parts of country while the remaining amount will have to be stored in growers' households, said agriculturists and businessmen.

Apart from space constraint, growers are being forced to adopt the indigenous methods of preserving to avoid losses due to the vegetable's low price in the present market.

The influence of middlemen, hoarders and seasonal businessmen in markets of abundant supply has pushed the price down. In Rajshahi, potato is now being sold at Tk 800 per sack (84-kg), which was Tk 980 even five days back. The price is still lower at Joypurhat, Tk 750 per

sack. The hoarders blocked most spaces of cold storages through advance bookings at as high rate as Tk 130 per sack whereas the regular booking rate is Tk 60 to 90, alleged growers.

Due to the advance bookings, many cold storage owners have already hung notices announcing stoppage of receiving potatoes even before filling up the capacity, sources said. As a result, growers are compelled either to sell produce at lower rates or take back home to store indigenously.

The Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) is circulating leaflets suggesting farmers traditional potato storage on floors,

machan (straw-made platform), and beneath cots.

AED officials, however, do not know have any clear idea about how much damage to potato can be done if the winter vegetable is stored in such a way.

"We do not have any idea about it (damage caused by using traditional methods) as no survey was made. Yet the possible damage is evident," M Abdul Matin, additional director of Rajshahi regional AED told The Daily Star. "We are suggesting traditional methods as there is no other way," he said.

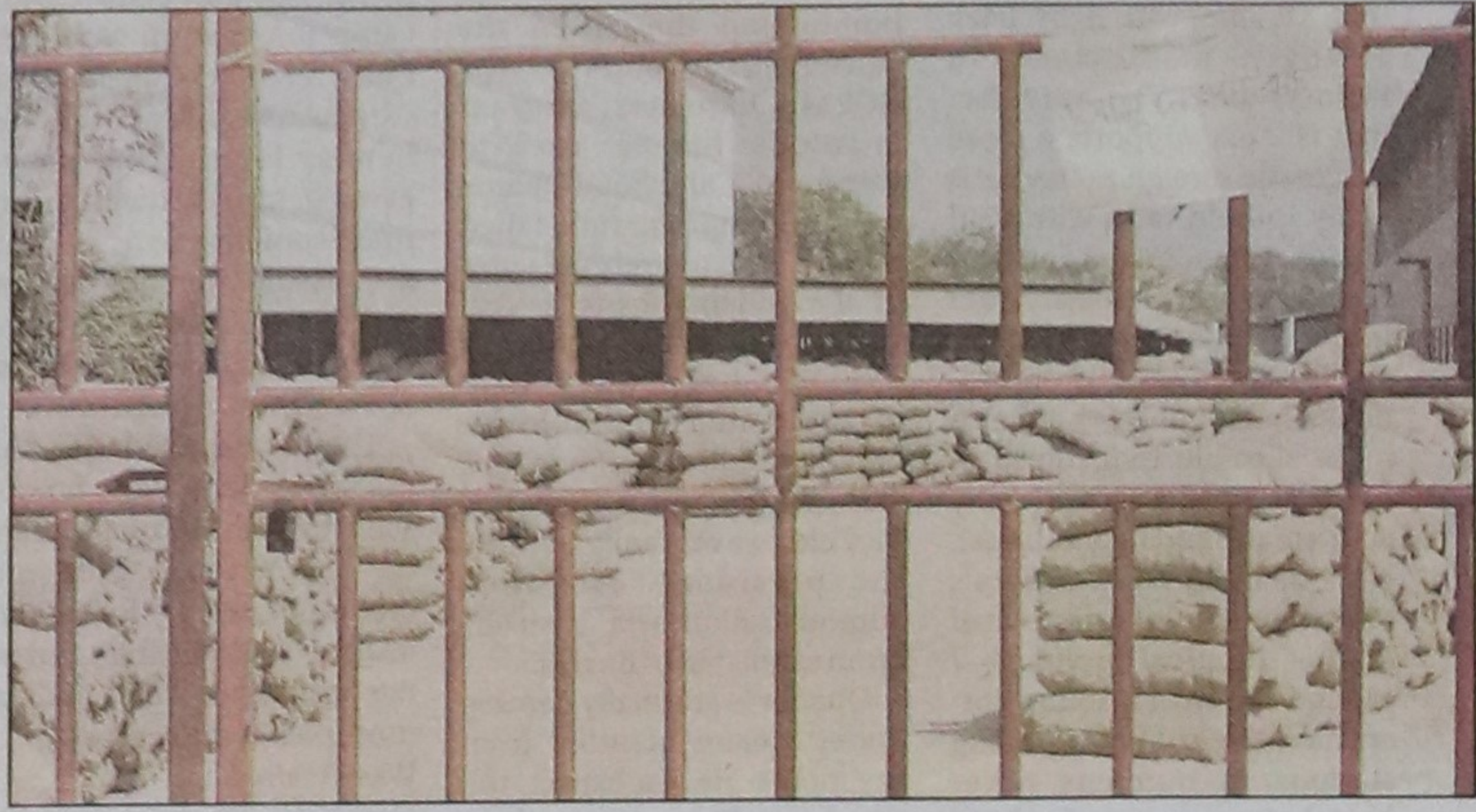
This correspondent met Abdur Razzak, a grower of Bargachhi in front of Raj Cold Storage in Paba upazila. He produced 720 sacks of potatoes from 24 bighas of land spending about Tk 7 lakh. "Although it is not enough to recover the production cost, I sold 200 sacks to hoarders for Tk 900 at per. I am in a problem now with the rest".

Kalam got 810 sacks of potato from his nine acres of land. "I must preserve those anyhow. By selling it five months later, I can cultivate next crops".

Experience of Intaj Ali of Madhabpur is bitter. "I have already sustained loss. I don't know what is waiting for me next."

Amjad of Bagmara, Shahidul of Durgapur and Shahidul of Naogaon have similar stories.

Mizanur Rahman Sentu, a trained farmer, however, seemed satisfied. He produced 607 sacks of potatoes from 23.5 bighas of land in Durgapur, Amgachhi and Kathalbaria villages spending Tk 4.70 lakh and managed to store all the produce.



Sacks of potato are piled up on the premises of Rahman Cold Storage at Nawhata Madhusudhanpur in Paba upazila while the authorities have hung a notice announcing closure of receiving potato.

Take anti-graft stand at every level: ACC chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Moshud Chowdhury yesterday said every conscious citizen should take position against corruption.

"We have to fight against corruption at society, state and person levels," he said at a grand rally arranged by Jessore district ACC committee in the morning.

ACC Director Abu Taleb, and TIB Director Iftekharuzzaman were present, among others, during inauguration of the rally at Jessore Eidgah Maidan at 9:30 am.

Students, NGO activists, social workers and people from all sections of the society participated in the rally.

Tk 5 crore touchstone statue recovered in Kaliganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered a touchstone Shib Linga from smugglers on Saturday night.

Tipped off that a smuggler was trying to smuggle a valuable touchstone statue, a police team led by Kaliganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aslam Khan raided Naldanga Rajbari in Kaliganj upazila at about 12:30 am, police said.

Sensing their presence, the criminals left the scene leaving the statue by the side of Rajbari Pond.

The 30 kg statue would be worth around Tk 5 crore, OC Aslam Khan said.



Ekkatarer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee forms a human chain at Nilphamari town yesterday demanding trial of war criminals.

WATER CRISIS Students ransack RU hall offices

RU CORRESPONDENT

Residential students of Rajshahi University (RU) staged angry demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding smooth water and power supply at RU residential dormitories.

Several hundred residential students of different dormitories gathered in front of Shaheed Habbur Rahman hall demanding smooth water supply in dormitories.

The agitating students chanted slogans against the RU authorities and chief engineer as they failed to supply water and electricity in dormitories.

Campus source said, hundreds of residential students of Mother Bux Hall last night kept hall Provost Abdul Matin Talukder confined for two hours at his office room demanding smooth supply of drinking water.

Later university Proctor Enamul Haque and students' adviser Faridul Islam Pintu with the help of police

rescued the hall provost.

Students of Suhrawardy Hall took out an angry procession on the campus yesterday demanding supply of pure drinking water.

The agitating students also ransacked furniture hall provost nameplate, hall notice board and.

They said the tube wells on the hall premises are out of order and they have been fetching water from outside.

Similar situation was also reported in other halls including female dormitories at RU.

When contacted, RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mamunul Karim said the RU authorities have asked the engineering section to solve the problem immediately.

RU Chief Engineer Abdur Rahim said water supply is disturbed due to frequent load shedding and low voltage of electricity.

He, however, said they are taking initiative for operating pumps so that students can get water regularly.

2 fake navy men held

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two fake Navy members and seized false identity cards and an illegal motorbike at Rajshahi continental courier service office.

The two cheats were identified as Nasir Uddin alias Kamal, a resident of Rangunia in Chittagong and Shariful Islam, a resident of Khalishpur in Khulna.

Nasir sent an illegal motorbike through Continental Courier Service of Rajshahi branch mentioning receiver's name as Captain Shamim Osman, Chittagong, police of Boalia Model Police Station said.

Being confused, courier staff informed Boalia police who reached the spot and asked for legal papers of the motorbike to Nasir.

As he failed, police arrested Nasir and his friend Shariful and seized their identity cards and the motorbike.

Nasir and Shariful were involved in motorbike smuggling from Rajshahi to Chittagong. Sub-Inspector Sattar said.



Invitation for International Re-Tender

On behalf of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Managing Director of Eastern Refinery Ltd hereby invites international tenders from reputed Petroleum Product Storage Tanks construction contractors.

BANGLADESH PETROLEUM CORPORATION	
1. Ministry/Division	Power, Energy and Mineral Resources; Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
2. Procuring entity name	Chittagong.
3. Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
4. Invitation for	Unpriced technical proposal for construction of a MS storage tank (floating roof, 17500 m3) at ERL on turnkey basis.
5. Invitation Ref. No.	ERMST/06/TD-06.
6. Procurement method	Single stage two envelope.
7. Budget and source of funds	BPC's own fund (bank loan).
8. Project name	Construction of a MS storage tank (17,500 m3, floating roof) at ERL.
9. Tender package No.	ERMST/06.
10. Tender documents sales begin from	March 20, 2008.
11. Tender last selling date	April 24, 2008.
12. Tender closing date and time	May 14, 2008, 11:00 am.
13. Tender opening date and time	May 14, 2008, 11:15 am. Tenderers' representatives are allowed to attend the opening of the tender. Other detail in the tender schedule.
14. Name & address of the office(s)	
- Tender documents sales from	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Potenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- Selling tender document (others)	ERL Liaison Office, 1/1, Pioneer Road, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
- Receiving tender document	Director (Operation & Planning), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Soltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- Opening tender document	Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Soltgola Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
15. Eligibility of tenderer	1. This invitation for tenders is open to eligible tenderers from all countries, except Israel. 2. Other detail in the tender schedule.
16. Brief description of goods and works	Successful tenderer will undertake construction of 1 (one) number double deck floating roof type motor spirit storage tank having capacity of 17,500 cubic meter including design, site development, construction of tank foundation, road, drains, culverts, related pipelines, pumping facilities, fire water, fire fighting system including water, foam line and top foam pouring system, purging system, street lights, necessary electrical works, earthing system, erection, testing, commissioning, calibration etc complete on turn-key basis.
17. Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 7000.00 (seven thousand) or US\$ 100.00 (one hundred).
18. Identification of lot	Complete work.
Location	ERL tank-farm area.
Tender security amount	The amount of the tender security shall be US\$ 40,000 (forty thousand) or equivalent home currency.
Completion time	18 months from the effective date of Letter of Credit.
19. Name of official inviting tender	Md Rezaul Alam.
20. Designation of official inviting tender	Managing Director & Project Director.
21. Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Potenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 880-31-740361-2, Fax: 880-31-740296, E-mail: md-office@erl.com.bd
23. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or reject all tenders.	

Lightning kills 3, injures 2 in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three persons were killed and two others injured by lightning at Barhatta upazila in Netrakona district yesterday evening. Barhatta police and locals said.

Sona Mia and his brother Abdus Satter were working at Boro paddy field at Bikramshree village under Barhatta upazila at about 5:00 pm when the lightning killed Sona Mia and seriously injured his brother, police said.

Serious injured Abdus Satter was admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

Others two persons were killed and another one was injured at Karnapur village under Barhatta upazila at about 6:00 pm. The dead were identified as Al-Amin, 22, and Sohel Mia, 28, of Barikanda village. Police said Al-Amin, Sohel Mia and Milon Mia were returning home from paddy field when they fell victim to lightning. Seriously injured Milon Mia is under treatment at Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

Fake DB man held in Kaliganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah Detective Branch of Police (DB) arrested a fake DB policeman from Nimtala bus stand in Kaliganj and seized a motorcycle on Saturday evening.

The cheat, identified as Golan Hafiz, 38, son of Md Tofazzel Hossain of Ekra village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district, was involved in extortion in the name of DB police for long.

Acting on a tip, a team of DB police went to Nimtala bus stand and searched Hafiz, DB sources said.

The law enforcers found a fake card in his pocket and the motorcycle used by him had no legal papers. DB police handed him over to Kaliganj Police Station.

'Practise sanitation to protect health'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a symposium yesterday said lack of hygienic sanitation facilities is seriously affecting safe water supply, environment and the public health situation in the district as well as in the country.

Without ensuring sustainable sanitation facilities it is impossible to prevent water and environment pollution, they said at the symposium on 'All out sanitation to ensure healthy life' held at Sadar upazila auditorium.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), World Health Organisation, UNICEF and NGO Forum Khulna jointly organised it in observance of the World Water Day.

It is possible to prevent 70 per cent of water and excreta-borne

diseases through practicing proper hand washing by the people, they said.

Hygienic latrine installation at the household level is a prerequisite to ensure sanitation but the basic hygiene practices including hand-washing should also be properly followed, they added.

They called upon the people to launch hand-washing campaign as a social movement.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Md Kefayetullah was the chief guest on the occasion chaired by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Akhtaruzzaman Talukdar while local PHED Executive Engineer Abdul Hamid Mia, Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood and Principal Rajul Islam were special guests.

Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar presented the keynote paper.

Firearm seized, 2 drug peddlers held

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized one firearm, bullet, cocktail, Indian phensidyl, marijuana and nabbed two drug peddlers from different areas in Rajshahi region during the last 24 hours till Sunday.

Rab seized a country-made pipe-gun, one bullet of shutter gun and a live cocktail that had been left abandoned at Jampur in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi.

In another drive at Joypurhat, Rab seized 34 bottles of Indian Phensidyl from Hanail in Joypurhat district and arrested the owner.

Another Rab team seized 50 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Kusumba village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

Rab Atria team seized seven kg marijuana during a raid at Mirpur village under Manda upazila of Naogaon and arrested Azizar Rahman, 55, of Mirpur village in this connection.

Dinajpur Rab seized eight bottles of Indian phensidyl from Manik railway station area in Bochagang of Dinajpur and arrested Nohim Uddin, 32, of village Jalpaw of Dinajpur.

The arrested persons and seized firearms and contraband drugs were handed over to the police stations concerned.



Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Ibrahim Khalil addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony as Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (Hysawa), a joint initiative of Bangladesh and Denmark, started their sanitation and water supply programme in Barind areas on Wednesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Police Headquarters Dhaka.

Invitation For Tender Notice

Sealed tender are hereby invited from the Manufactures/Suppliers/Local Agents in their pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion, Formed Police Unit (FPU) and Different Projects-

1.	Ministry / Division			Ministry of Home Affairs.		
2.	Agency			Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
3.	Procuring Entity Name			Inspector General, Bangladesh Police		
4.	Procuring Entity Code			Not Used at present.		
5.	Invitation for			Purchase for various type of equipment's.		
6.	Invitation for Tender Reference No			E&T/EQ/26-2006(Pt-2)/ 486		
7.	Date			20 March 2008.		
KEY INFORMATION						
8.	Procurement Method			Open tendering method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION						
9.	Budget & Source of Fund			Police revenue budget.		
10.	Development partners (if applicable)			Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
11.	Project / Programme code (if applicable)			Not applicable.		
12.	Project / Programme name (if applicable)			Not applicable.		
13.	Tender no			E&T/EQ/ 20 (2007-2008)		
14.	Tender package name			Not applicable.		
15.	Tender publication date					
16.	Tender selling date			25.03.2008 to 17. 04. 2008.		
17.	Tender closing date and time			20. 04. 2008 at 12.00 am.		
18.	Tender opening date and time			20. 04. 2008 at 12.30 am.		
19.	Name & Address of the office (s)			Police Headquarters Phonix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000		
Selling Tender Document (Principal)				Room No.220 (1 st floor) Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000 .		
Receiving Tender Document				Room No.220 (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.		
Opening Tender Document				Operation Conference Room (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.		
20.	Place / date/ time of pre-tender meeting (Optional)			Operation Conference Room (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka at 10.00 am 31. 03. 2008.		
21.	Eligibility of tender			(i) Current Year Trade License (ii) Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate (iii) Ten digit VAT Registration Certificate and (iv) Other documents described in tender document.		
22.	Brief description of goods or works			Shown at serial no.24.		
23.	Price of tender document (BDT)			Shown at serial no.24.		
24.	Lot	Identification of lot	Quantity	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tender Security amount in (BDT)	Completion time
	Lot-A	Generator (30 KVA - 4 Pcs, 60 KVA - 4 Pcs, 100 KVA- 4 Pcs)	12 Pcs	2,000.00	5,00,000.00	45 days from the date of work order
25.	Validity of tender and tender Security			30 June 2008 and 60 (Sixty) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.		
26.	Name of the official inviting tender			NUR MOHAMMAD		
27.	Designation of the official inviting tender			Inspector General, Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
28.	Address of official inviting the tender			Police Headquarters (1 st floor),Fulbaria, Dhaka.		
29.	Contract details of official inviting the tender			TEL: 88 02 9564779,FAX:88 02 9563358 E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd		
30.	Special Instruction-					
a.	Any tender received by the Purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late and will be rejected and return unopened to the tendered.					
b.	The Purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annual the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.					
c.	Bangladesh police will establish frame work of agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods, order to be placed for the FY 2007-2008, in particular with regard to price.					
31.	The tender will be performed according to "The Public Procurement Regulation-2003"					

(Md. Zahurul Islam Bhuiyan)
AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
Phone : 9564779.
E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd