

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.

## Potatoes

Consumption of potato as an alternative staple for our country is really a good idea. You can find tons of statistics on its use in the western world as staple food.

The Americans are eating potatoes daily in many ways from breakfast to supper: as hash brown, fries, baked or mashed potatoes. The taste of these food items is good too.

We must find out a way to survive in the event of any crisis. Since the rice prices are high and beyond the capacity of buying for the most of the people, this should be the perfect time to change our food habit. The bumper production of potato can serve as the alternative source of carbohydrates. The less demand for rice will eventually help to lower the price of rice. In addition to that the potato farmers will get their fair price and will be

motivated to cultivate more. A balancing act is necessary to encourage our farmers.

Mamun Ahmed  
Las Vegas, NV, USA

## March 26 celebrations in Fiji

Far from the motherland and thousands of miles away, here in Fiji (popularly known as "Paradise on the earth") we, a few Bangladeshis, celebrated the 37th Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. As 26 March was a working day here, so we decided to celebrate the day earlier on 23 March, Sunday which is the week-end here.

In Suva, the capital of Fiji, we are about 8 families and 3 bachelors--about 30 Bangladeshis including children. We all gathered at the venue at 4:00pm and the function

was opened with the national anthem followed by one minute silence and prayer for all the martyrs of the liberation war. Then the famous 7 March speech of Bangabandhu was replayed followed by reminiscences of the nine month long liberation war by Dr. Nozair Ahmad, Dr. Ikhtiar, Dr. Ujjal Kanti Dhar and others. Dr. Nozair Ahmad reminded how we united under the leadership of Bangabandhu and what unity could achieve and how miserably we failed to maintain that unity in the post liberation period resulting in the present position of Bangladesh and urged all Bangladeshis to have that unity again, to build a peaceful and prosperous Bangladesh. Dr. Tahmina Mirza narrated her difficult and fearful days in Pakistan as a stranded Bangladeshi and described the dangerous and risky journey she undertook with her family all the way to Bangladesh through Afghanistan and India. Then we all sang some famous nationalistic songs of 1971 with lead singer Sanchita.

The programme ended with the hope and oath of building a prosperous Bangladesh for all.

Nozair Ahmed  
One-mail

## Books

The practice of reading novels and poems among the students is diminishing day by day. Though every school teacher refers his/her students to read such books, it is very surprising that many of our schools do not have a proper library. Especially, the collection of Bengali books in the libraries of English Medium schools is poor.

Adiba Tarannum  
A student  
One-mail

## Trial of war criminals

People, who witnessed the days of 1971, can understand how horrible an ever known city could look when it was in the midst of a terrible war. People who lost their relatives and belongings can understand the pain of losing the near and dear ones.

The trial of the war criminals, I believe, is the demand of every single Bangladeshi, living here or

abroad. When the question of the trial of war criminal comes, everybody should be saying, "Yes, we want the trial of the war criminals, right now".

Cantara Wali Ruhi  
One-mail

## The indispensable rickshaw

Rickshaws continue to be banned on so-called VIP roads. Have traffic jams eased or ceased? Are the rickshaw users happy? Are rickshaw pullers and their families well-fed? Are traffic cops' duties easier? Do motorized transport get free access on rickshaw free roads? The answer to all is a resounding no!

Let us see how those dependent on rickshaws fare because of this irresponsible, dubious, double-faced and damaging decision of the traffic authorities. 1. In these days of rampant inflation and high prices of essentials, earnings of rickshaw pullers have nose-dived. Are traffic bosses proud when the rickshaw pullers and their families often have to go

without a meal as a consequence?

2. At least 25% of Dhaka's population are closely connected to rickshaws on a daily basis as pullers, makers, repairers, users and their families i.e. 25-30 lakh people.

3. What right do the authorities have to restrict the livelihood and mobility of so many people for the illusory 'convenience' of a few?

4. Bicycles, school children's vans (a veritable death trap) and garbage vans are allowed on VIP roads as are cycle goods vans (may be some palm greasing) but not rickshaws carrying the old, sick, disabled, women & children, goods etc.

5. Traffic cops are in a quandary as they have to face the wrath of an angry populace who find themselves suddenly ejected from the rickshaw in the cold, heat or rain. Some wave me on in sympathy, others lower their eyes in shame for grounding a 75 year old, but a few take sadistic pleasure in forcefully enforcing these orders.

6. Who is responsible for injuries sustained or deaths resulting from being forced to walk on footpath-less roads and crossing it in the path of racing cars? I could go on and on.

Your front-page report published on 26 March, based on BADC studies, contains a very serious and relevant piece of information, that needs to be addressed at the soonest. It can no longer be ignored and allowed to go out of hand; for it directly relates to availability of drinking water for the large urban population of Dhaka.

Fortunately, the solution is fairly simple, needing no high level of expertise and can be solved locally in all respects. The groundwater level can be raised by recharging. This means the pumping back of surface water directly to the sand layer underneath, through sand filled simple traditional wells. In layman's terms, these wells will act as a blotting paper area absorbing the rainwater back down to the groundwater layers.

The technique is simple, effective and cheap. It needs to be undertaken on a top priority basis; otherwise the drinking water scarcity might turn out to be unmanageable within the next five years! These recharging wells can

In the meantime, huge gas-guzzling monsters race about empty or half empty with blaring horns and after dusk with blinding lights. Or they remain parked with impunity on roads and footpaths with fawning cops guarding them while puncturing rickshaw tyres.

This is the 10th letter I have written on the subject in the last six months without any response. Till there is an adequate alternative, the rickshaw is indispensable for the vast majority of Dhakaites to go about their business. There is a simple solution to Dhaka's traffic problem and both slow and fast vehicles can co-exist easily. If the authorities have run out of ideas and do not have the will to enforce existing laws, then they should gracefully retire. They can also contact me for the solution.

Sikander Ahmed  
Niketon, Dhaka

## Dual citizenship

I wholeheartedly welcome the judicious decision of the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government of Bangladesh to amend the existing legal framework on dual citizenship of Bangladeshi Britons, so that they no longer have to



PHOTO: STAR

forfeit Bangladeshi citizenship as soon as they become British citizens, unless they want to relinquish it voluntarily. Not having to reapply for retaining the Bangladeshi citizenship will, doubtless, be a privilege for the first generation Bangladeshi Britons to avert a bureaucratic quagmire replete with requirements, that oftentimes discourage them from venturing beyond a "no visa-required" (NVR) seal duly stamped on their host country passport before visiting the sending country as veritable outsiders looking in. It may, very well, generate a sense of entitlement among the post-immigrant generation in the Bangladeshi Diaspora and facilitate them to develop a "transnational social field" incorporating their country of origin. I will plead that this privilege be extended to the Bangladeshi-Americans as well.

Current immigration research in a globalised world is shedding new light on how dual citizenship serves the interests of both the sending country and the host country. Taking cue from Benedict Anderson's classic contention that

"nation is an imagined community" and Homi Bhabha's no less contentious dictum that nation is "a narrative," some researchers de-emphasize the primordial nature of nationhood to render our existence as contingent on a fluid and "translocal" context. Some of them even argue that while most of the host countries are gradually coming to terms with multiple allegiances of their citizens in an increasingly global world undergoing, as Anthony Giddens so aptly put, "dis-embedding and re-embedding of social relations across time-space destinations", the sending countries, in their turn, engage in constructing "deterritorialized" nationhood in the Diaspora by facilitating dual citizenship opportunities among the emigrants to continue to win and bank on their allegiances. Like many third world countries, Bangladesh also must play an active role in shaping the interplay between centripetal and centrifugal forces driving the immigration dynamics for Bangladeshi emigrants, especially in the first world countries.


Faridul Alam  
Staten Island  
New York, USA



# Poverty

In Bangladesh, there are many types of core problems! One of these is malnutrition. Poverty is the major cause of malnutrition which results from inadequate intake of foods. That means it is mainly prevalent among poor children. The usual saying is that 'poverty is a curse', especially in developing countries. Actually it's not a curse, the main curse is our mentality. This curse can be overcome if the affluent realise that they have a duty towards society.

Tahmina Tamanna  
Department of Applied Nutrition & Food Technology  
Islamic University, Kushtia



## BCIC International Re-Tender Notice

**বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক**


Managing Director, Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Fenchuganj, Sylhet invites sealed tender from the importers/agent/tenderers against the following tender enquiries on C&F (C) Chittagong Liner terms basis:

Sl. No	Tender Enquiry No. & Date	Description of stores	Tender security (refundable)	Price of tender documents (non refundable)	Last date & time for submission of tender
1.	NGFF/FP-665/MIS (FM)/1411 dt. 24/03/2008	Different types of Pump with Motor	Tk. 1,90,000/=	Tk. 500/=	Dt. 28/04/2008 at 11:00am
2.	NGFF/FP-665/MTS (FM)/1412 dt. 24/03/2008	Roots Type Blower	Tk. 12,000/=	Tk. 100/=	Dt. 28/04/2008 at 11:00am

Tender documents may be purchased from 1) Controller of Accounts, BCIC (2nd Floor), BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, 2) General Manager, (A & F) Accounts Deptt. NGFF Ltd., Fenchuganj, Sylhet during office hours on all working days. Tender will be received in the tender box kept in the Purchase Section, NGFF Ltd. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. Tender will be opened above mentioned date & time in presence of tenderers (if any). Due to unforeseen reasons, if the tender is not possible to open in scheduled date & time, the same will be opened on the following working day. The authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Engr. Md. Ali Akkas  
Addl. Chief Manager (Comm)  
For Managing Director

GD-1526



## Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)

Mirpur Cantonment  
Dhaka-1216

## Re-Tender Notice

1. Tenders are hereby invited for the supply of laboratory items/equipment listed below:

Ser No.	Description of items	No. of lots	Price of tender document
1.	Router (CISCO 1841)	01	Tk 750.00
2.	WAN Interface Card		
3.	24-port catalyst switch (Cisco)		
4.	High configuration workstation computer		
5.	Workstation computer		

2. Tender document containing detailed specifications, terms and conditions (for each item) may be purchased from the office of the undersigned during working hours (0815-1400 hours) from 06 April 2008 up to 08 April 2008 against a written application to the undersigned on payment of above mentioned non-refundable price of tender document in cash.

3. The bidder must attach photocopy (duly attested) of the up-to-date 'Trade License', 'VAT Certificate', 'IT Certificate', 'Original Bank Solvency Certificate' and 'at least three years working experience certificate' while buying the tender schedules.

4. The bidder is to deposit, along with the tender document, 5% of the bid price as earnest money in favour of commandant, MIST, Mirpur Cantonment in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft.


5. Tender will be received up to BST 1000 hrs on 15 April 2008 and will be opened on the same day at BST 1200 hrs in front of the bidders (if present).

6. No offer in Taxes/Fax or by post shall be accepted.

7. MIST authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Director Administration  
MIST  
Mirpur Cantonment

ISPR/Army/08/1246  
GD-1565



## বড়পুকুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

### Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

**“বৃক্ষ নিধন বন্ধ করে বিকল্প জ্বালানী হিসাবে কয়লা ব্যবহার করুন, পরিবেশ রক্ষা করুন”**

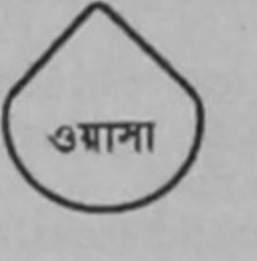
## কয়লা বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বড়পুকুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (বিসিএমসিএল)-এর খনি হতে উত্তোলিত কয়লা বিক্রির উদ্দেশ্যে নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- ১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- : বিসিএমসিএল/বিক্রয়/০৮/০৯/কয়লা বিক্রয়/০১।
- ২। তারিখ : ০১ মার্চ ২০০৮।
- ৩। বিক্রয়যোগ্য মালের বিবরণ : বিসিএমসিএল-এর কয়লা খনি হতে উত্তোলিত কয়লা।
- ৪। কয়লা বিক্রয়ের/ডেলিভারীর স্থান : “কোল স্টক ইয়ার্ড” বিসিএমসিএল, চৌহাট, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর।
- ৫। কয়লা পরিমাণ : সর্বনিম্ন ৫০০ এবং সর্বোচ্চ ৫,০০০ মেট্রিক টন।
- ৬। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য : টাকা ১,০০০.০০ (অক্ষয়তমোয়্যাস)।
- ৭। কয়লা খনির ঠিকানা : বিসিএমসিএল, গ্রাম-চৌহাট, থানা-পার্বতীপুর, জেলা-দিনাজপুর।
- ৮। দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রাহীর স্থান :
  - ক) বিসিএমসিএল, গ্রাম-চৌহাট, থানা-পার্বতীপুর, জেলা-দিনাজপুর।
  - খ) বিসিএমসিএল, ঢাকা লিয়াকো অফিস, ৭৫/সি ইন্দিরা রোড, ঢাকা।
  - গ) হিসাব বিভাগ, পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোসেন্টার, ৩, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।
- ৯। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রীর শুরু তারিখ : ৩ এপ্রিল ২০০৮।
- ১০। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রীর সর্বশেষ তারিখ : ২৭ এপ্রিল ২০০৮।
- ১১। দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রাহকের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২৮ এপ্রিল ২০০৮ সকাল ১২:০০ টার মধ্যে।
- ১২। দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ২৯ এপ্রিল ২০০৮ সকাল ১১:০০টা।
- ১৩। দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রাহকের স্থান :
  - ক) বিসিএমসিএল, ঢাকা লিয়াকো অফিস, ৭৫/সি ইন্দিরা রোড, ঢাকা।
  - খ) বিসিএমসিএল, গ্রাম-চৌহাট, থানা-পার্বতীপুর, জেলা-দিনাজপুর।
- ১৪। জামানতের পরিমাণ : “বড়পুকুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড” এর নামে আর্নেস্টমনি/বিভবত হিসেবে যে কোন নির্ভিটল ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বাবদ প্রথম ৫০০ টনের জন্য ৮৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচাত্তি হাজার) টাকা দাখিল করতে হবে। ৫০০ টনের অতিরিক্ত কয়লা জরুরে ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিটন কয়লার আর্নেস্টমনি/বিভবত বাবদ ১৫০.০০ টাকা করে সর্বোচ্চ ৫,০০০ টনের জন্য ৮,৫০,০০০.০০ (আট লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার বিভবত দাখিল করবেন।
- ১৫। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে, পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে দরপত্র দাখিল খোলা হবে। কোম্পানী কর্তৃক কোন কারণে প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের যে কোন একটি গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ আবদুল মান্নান পাটওয়ারী  
উপ-মহাবাহাল্পক (অর্থ/বিক্রয় বিপণন), চলতি দায়িত্ব  
মোবাইল নম্বরঃ ০১৭১২-০৮০৮২

তারিখ- ১৫/০৩



## Office of the Superintending Engineer Sewer (R&D) Circle & Project Director

Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project,  
Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor  
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Tender No-08/IUSERP Date: 30-03-2008

## Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division (MOLGRD&C).
2	Agency	Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA.
4	Invitation for	Construction and Rehabilitation of Different dia Sewer Line in Different Areas of Dhaka City.
5	Invitation No.	Tender No- TA-08/IUSERP.
6	Date	30/03/2008

### KEY INFORMATION

7	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM)
---	--------------------	-----------------------------

### FUNDING INFORMATION

8	Budget and source of funds	GOB
---	----------------------------	-----

### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9	Tender package No.	2 (two) package.
10	Project/programme name	Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA.
11	Tender publication date	Date 30/03/2008.
12	Tender last selling date	Date 21/4/2008.
13	Tender closing date and time	Date 22/4/2008 Time 12:00 noon
14	Tender opening date and time	Date 22/4/2008 Time 2:00pm
15	Name & address of the office(s)	Md Alkas Uddin, Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor, Dhaka-1215.
16	- Selling tender document (principal)	1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch/Mohammadpur Corporate Branch/Mirpur Section-1 Branch/Mohakhali Corporate Branch. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch, Dhaka. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka. 4. One Bank Limited, HRC Bhaban, 64, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
17	- Receiving tender document	Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor, Dhaka-1215. Time 12:00 noon, Date-22/04/2008.
18	- Opening tender document	Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor, Dhaka-1215. Time 2:00pm, Date-22/04/2008.
19	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer must have minimum 5 (five) years overall Experience in Construction & Rehabilitation of Sewer/Stom Sewer Line.

### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Brief description of goods or works	Construction and Rehabilitation of Different dia Sewer Line in Different Areas of Dhaka City.
21	Brief description of related services N/A	Describe below
22	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 500/- (five hundred) only of each package.
23	Package No	Identification of the works
a.	Package No-1	Construction & Rehabilitation of 300, 250 & 200mm dia PVC Sewer from 4/2 Shashi Bushan Chowdhury Lane to 18, Dinonath Sen Road, Gandaria Area under Job No-S-627/08
b.	Package No-2	Construction & Rehabilitation of 300 & 250mm dia PVC Sewer line from 33/8/1 Rajoni Chowdhury Lane to 28/2, Gandaria under Job No-S-627/08

### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

24	Name of official inviting tender	Md Alkas Uddin
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA.
26	Address of official inviting tender	Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor, Dhaka-1215.
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tele No-8121845 Fax No-880-2-8121845
28	Special condition: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

WASA-PI-285/2008  
GD-1538

Superintending Engineer & Project Director  
IUSER Project  
Dhaka WASA