



Farmer Shakhawat Hossain Liton at his aubergine garden at Shatbaria village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah.

PHOTO: STAR

Organic vegetables get popular

Jhenidah farmer Liton uses earthworm-rich fertiliser, homemade insecticide

AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Enterprising farmer Shakhawat Hossain Liton, 40, from Shatbaria village in Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila had a simple wish. He wanted to eat fresh, organic vegetables to be healthy. But he's done much more than that. Starting with eggplant and gourd last year, Liton's 18-decimal garden now produces 16 vegetable varieties to be sold locally and in Dhaka. All of his produce is chemical-free.

"I believe in vermiculture and 'balainashak'," he says, referring to earthworm-rich fertiliser and a homemade insecticide made from the sap of local mahogany and neem trees. "With these two compounds I can grow vegetables without the use of any poisons."

Liton wasn't always a farmer. After passing his Higher School Certificate in 1996 in first division, due to financial hardship he could not continue his study. Instead, he joined BRAC where he worked for five years.

"There was a Japanese NGO, Hunger Free World, active in Kaliganj," he recalls. "From them I

became interested in organic farming." He also took training in vermiculture from Helal Uddin, from nearby Moheshwarchanda village, who has three years' experience in vermicompost production and is considered a local expert.

Last year his vegetable garden was sown for the first time. Pepper, types of spinach, beans, bitter and sweet gourds, pumpkins, cauliflowers, eggplants, tomatoes, potatoes, turmeric and arum: these are among the types of produce that can be sourced from Liton's patch. He also grows medicinal herbs and has added flowers to enhance the beauty of his garden.

"I wasn't solely motivated by my own health," Liton says. "I also wanted to educate the villagers about organic farming and make organic produce available for them too."

"I buy vegetables from Liton," says Amed Ali of Balakanda village in Kaliganj. "His vegetables are of high quality and taste much better than vegetables bought in the market."

Every week from Liton's garden two or three trays of vegetables travel to Dhaka for sale at the

shop of Shahin Hossain on Mohammadpur's Nurjahan Road. His shop, 'Real Safe Food' specialises in organic vegetables.

More recently, Liton has taken training from Hunger Free World in organic farming, and he hopes to expand. "I have no ability to lease land," he says, "so I hope a loan facility at a reasonable interest rate could be arranged with the help of local authorities, to help me."

"I faced difficult years," Liton says, "and nobody assisted me. Only Helal Uddin inspired me to be self-reliant. But nowadays young people from neighbouring villages throng to my garden to see it. They collect plants from me and vermicompost. I hope I can inspire them."

Liton is currently able to earn around Tk 5,000 per month from vermicompost and a further Tk 10,000 per month from vegetables.

Kaliganj upazila's agriculture officer Jahidul Karim says organic farming is undoubtedly profitable and beneficial in protecting consumers from chemical poisoning and diseases.

Boldness saves her from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Class IX student of Basail upazila in the district has prevented her early marriage with the help of local administration.

The girl, Kalpona Sheel, 14, daughter of Shuvash Chandra Sheel of Purbopara village in Basail municipal area and a Class IX student of Basail Pilot Girls' High School, took the bold step as she is determined to continue her study.

Her parents had arranged her marriage and all preparations were made to solemnise it yesterday.

Earlier, Kalpona told her parents that she will not marry before the age of eighteen. Her parents and other relatives, however, ignored her opinion and fixed the date for marriage.

But Kalpona remained resolute in her decision not to marry at such a tender age.

After appearing at the exams at school yesterday, she along with her two fellows went to the office of Basail Assistant Commissioner (AC-Land) Mohammad Nazmul Ahsan, informed the official of her parents' step for forced marriage and

sought his help to prevent it.

The official called Kalpona's parents and asked them about the matter.

"At first Kalpona's parents claimed that her age is 18. Then I called Abul Kashem, headmaster of Basail Pilot Girls' High School, who informed me that she is below 15," said AC Nazmul Ahsan.

"As the parents told me about their poverty and inability to continue schooling of their daughter, I requested the headmaster to give Kalpona the opportunity to study at the institution for free and the headmaster agreed," he added.

The official fined Kalpona's father Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer seven days' imprisonment on charge of arranging the early marriage.

Kalpona's parents returned home with her, after giving undertaking that they will not arrange their daughter's marriage before she reaches the age of 18.

Kalpona said, "I understand the bad effects of early marriage and the legal bar about it. And so, I have decided to seek help of the government officer for preventing my marriage."

PROTEST IN BARAPUKURIA

Land subsidence worries villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Several hundred villagers near Barapukuria coal-fired power plant in Parbatipur upazila at a human chain yesterday protested fresh land subsidence due to coal extraction and acute water crisis.

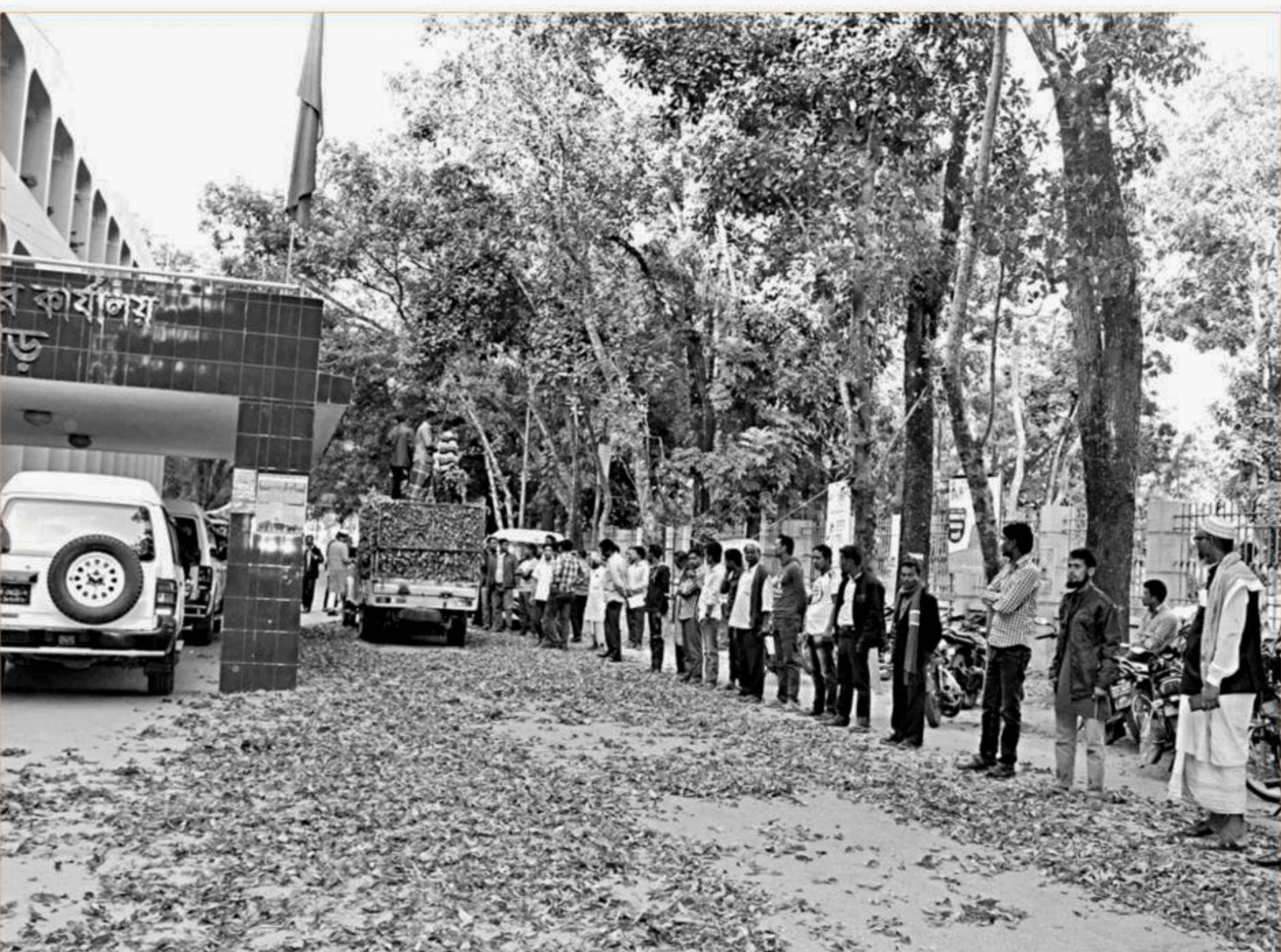
Following a rally at Barapukuria Bazar near the power plant, the affected villagers submitted a memorandum (MoU) to Engineer SMN Aurangajeb, managing director (MD) of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL).

All business establishments at Barapukuria Bazar remained closed during the hour-long program.

The inhabitants of adjacent nine villages also urged the government to meet their eight-point demand.

Their demand includes stopping vibrations due to dynamite explosion, ensuring water supply free of cost for the villagers, repairing roads for smooth communication and electricity connection to the villages.

Moshiur Rahman Bulbul, convener of 'Jiban, Paribesh O Sampad Rakkha Committee' alleged that fresh land at nine villages subsided recently and are badly affected by the power plant.



Small tea growers scatter raw tea leaves on the road during a human chain in front of Panchagarh deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding government steps to ensure smooth marketing and fair prices of the locally produced tea leaves. The growers alleged non-cooperation from the factory owners who had earlier assured buying the produce for fair prices.

PHOTO: STAR

Thakurgaon AL MP's stage ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A faction of Awami League activists on Sunday night vandalised a stage set up for holding a rally where lawmaker of Thakurgaon-2 constituency Dabirul Islam was supposed to attend as chief guest.

Dabirul, also the district AL president, allegedly formed Bhaturia union unit committee without consent of the leaders of previous union committee after the union parishad election held on March 31, said party sources.

The leaders and activists of upazila and previous union committees vandalised the stage, protesting the lawmaker's autocratic attitude.

Abdur Rahim, president of the previous union committee, said as per constitution of the party, Dabirul cannot form another committee while the existing committee is still active.

A group of unruly party men vandalised the stage, the lawmaker said.

Bogra parks safe haven for truants

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

The parks of Bogra town have turned into meeting places of students of educational institutions of the town during class hours, thanks to the indifference of the authorities and guardians.

A good number of students of schools, colleges and even madrasas pass their time in those parks instead of attending classes.

On a visit to Municipality Park, Palace Museum, Wonder Land and other parks, this correspondent saw at least 200 students passing their time in different ways, while their parents and guardians think they are in their educational institutions or taking private tuition in their teachers' homes.

A student of Class XI of Government Azizul Haque College, said she came to the park in uniform to meet her cousin.

A student of Class VII in Pouro High School said he came to meet a friend for taking a book, but did not say why he was missing classes wearing his school dress.

Faiza Begum of Sutrapur area said she comes to the park everyday for walking and is astonished at the presence of a huge number of students there during school time.

Ziaur Rahman, who sells toys in the park, said the number of students in the park increases during school hours.

A guardian of a student of Bogra Girls' School Abdul Momin said they cannot watch their children all the time during school hours.

Headmistress of Bogra Government Girls' School Rabeya Khatun said the students of the school have no chance of going out of the school as the main gate is shut during classes, adding that students might go to parks after the classes end.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education) of Bogra Sufia Nazim said she will inform the authorities of the education department in the district about the matter.

Illegal arms factory unearthed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Detective Branch (DB) of Police unearthed an illegal arms factory, seized two revolvers and arms manufacturing materials, and arrested a man from Gafuriabad in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The arrestee is owner of the factory Md Rezaul Karim, 38, son of Shajahan Mallik of the village.

On secret information, detectives raided the factory at noon and arrested Rezaul with the firearms and arms making equipment like a lathe and drill machines, said Additional Superintendent of Police Md Siddikur Rahman.

As Rezaul might have huge order from the arms dealers, he was busy manufacturing firearms in his factory, SP Md Jihadul Kabir at a press conference at his office said, adding that the law enforcers are interrogating him.

Asked about the training for manufacturing arms, the arrestee said he went to India a few months ago and collected a firearm from there.

Copying the technology of Indian firearm, he started manufacturing firearms in his factory two months ago, said Rezaul Karim.

Cop stabbed in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Undefined criminals stabbed a police constable at Chandpur village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga on Sunday.

The victim, Shamim Ahmed, currently serving at Jessore Police Lines, is now undergoing treatment at a private clinic in Chuadangtown.

Quoting victim's wife Renuka, Officer-in-Charge Abdul Khaleque of Damurhuda Police Station said a gang of 4/5 intercepted the couple near a bridge while they were going to Chandpur village around 10:30pm.

As Shamim disclosed his identity, they stabbed him indiscriminately and fled the scene, the OC added.

White canes for visually impaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

About 16 visually impaired people of Lalmonirhat Sadar and Rajarhat upazilas have received white canes for their frequent movements, thanks to the initiatives of the Alternative English Language Initiative (AELI), a local language club.

The members of AELI have taken dif-

ferent social initiatives since its journey began in 2014 and distributed the canes among the poor and distressed people at its office in Hospital Road area in Rajapur on Sunday.

Kachu Mia, 73, a resident of Sindurmoti village in Sadar upazila, said he is happy to receive the white cane as it will help him to move freely in his native areas.

ER
Eastern Refinery Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chittagong-4000

Invitation for National Tender

Repair (partial replacement/reconstruction) of Product Storage Tank No. a) T-6102 & b) T-6133

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
3.	Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited.
4.	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5.	Invitation for	Repair (partial replacement/reconstruction) of Product Storage Tank No. a) T-6102 & b) T-6133.
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	a) ER/DEV(M)-31(1)/2016 & b) ER/DEV(M)-32(1)/2016.
7.	Date	17 November 2016.
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procurement method	National open tendering method (Two envelop system).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9.	Budget and source of funds	ERL.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Tender package No.	a) ER/DEV(M)-31(1)/2016 & b) ER/DEV(M)-32(1)/2016.
11.	Tender package name	Repair (partial replacement/reconstruction) of Product Storage Tank No. a) T-6102 & b) T-6133.
12.	Tender publication date	17 November 2016.
13.	Tender last selling date	11 December 2016.
14.	Tender closing date and time	13 December 2016, 15:00 hrs.
15.	Tender opening date and time	Technical: 13 December 2016, 15:15 hrs. Commercial: Will be informed to the successful bidders.
16.	Name & address of the office(s):	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh.
	Selling tender document (others)	AGM (DLO), ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban (2nd Floor), 1/1, Pioneer, Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
	Receiving tender document	Development Department, Training Complex (2nd Floor), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh.
	Opening tender document	General Manager (D&C) Office Room, Training Complex (1st Floor), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As per tender data sheet (Section-2).
18.	Brief description of works	Repair (partial replacement/reconstruction) of Product Storage Tank No. a) T-6102 & b) T-6133.
19.	Price of tender document	Tk 500.00 (five hundred) only (each).
20.	Lot No.	Identification of lot
	1	a) ER/DEV(M)-31(1)/2016 b) ER/DEV(M)-32(1)/2016
		Location
		Tank Farm Area of Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong
		Tender security amount (Tk)
		a) Tk 46,000.00 (forty-six thousand) only b) Tk 1,60,000.00 (one lac sixty thousand) only
		Completion time in days/weeks/months
		a) 90 (ninety) & b) 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of getting hot work permit
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:		
21.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Masud.
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Development).
23.	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh.
24.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tele No. 88-031-2501261-67, Ext-460 Fax: 88-031-2501269 E-mail: ameer_masud@erl.com.bd, md-office@erl.com.bd Website: www.erl.gov.bd, www.erl.com.bd
25.	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.	

GD-2379