

10pc of people potential thalassemia carriers!

Researchers tell awareness campaign for college students in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Bangladesh is situated in a thalassemia belt of the world and around 10 percent of its entire population is potential carrier of this disease, microbiologist Mahbubul H Siddiquee, researcher of Biomedical Research Foundation (BRF) Bangladesh, said referring to a recent study conducted by the foundation.

A 15-member team of (BRF) under 'Community-based Thalassemia Care and Prevention' project run by the foundation conducted a two-day awareness campaign on thalassemia among students of 12 colleges in the district on March 3 and 4.

The team consisting of multi-disciplinary researchers including microbiologists, molecular biologists and clinical researchers conducted the campaign of the research platform to make the students aware of the dreadful disease.

Around 2,000 students attended the campaign conducted through intensive sessions held in each of the 12 colleges.

The students were provided basic information of the disease as well as the knowledge on how to keep the future generation free from the disease, observed this correspondent while attending a session at Nurunnahar Mirza Kasem Women's College in the district's Madarganj upazila on March 4.

"Thalassemia is a genetic disorder and the patients of this disease cannot produce normal red blood cells (RBC) and consequently suffer from severe health complications that eventually lead to death," Mahbubul H Siddiquee said at the programme.

"Awareness on this disease in Bangladesh is extremely low. And so, BRF has taken an awareness building programme on this crucial issue so that people, especially young boys and girls, can be educated on how to ascertain whether they are carriers of thalassemia."

"A carrier of thalassemia does not suffer, but if a carrier marries another carrier, there is a high chance for newborns of the couple to be infected with the disease."

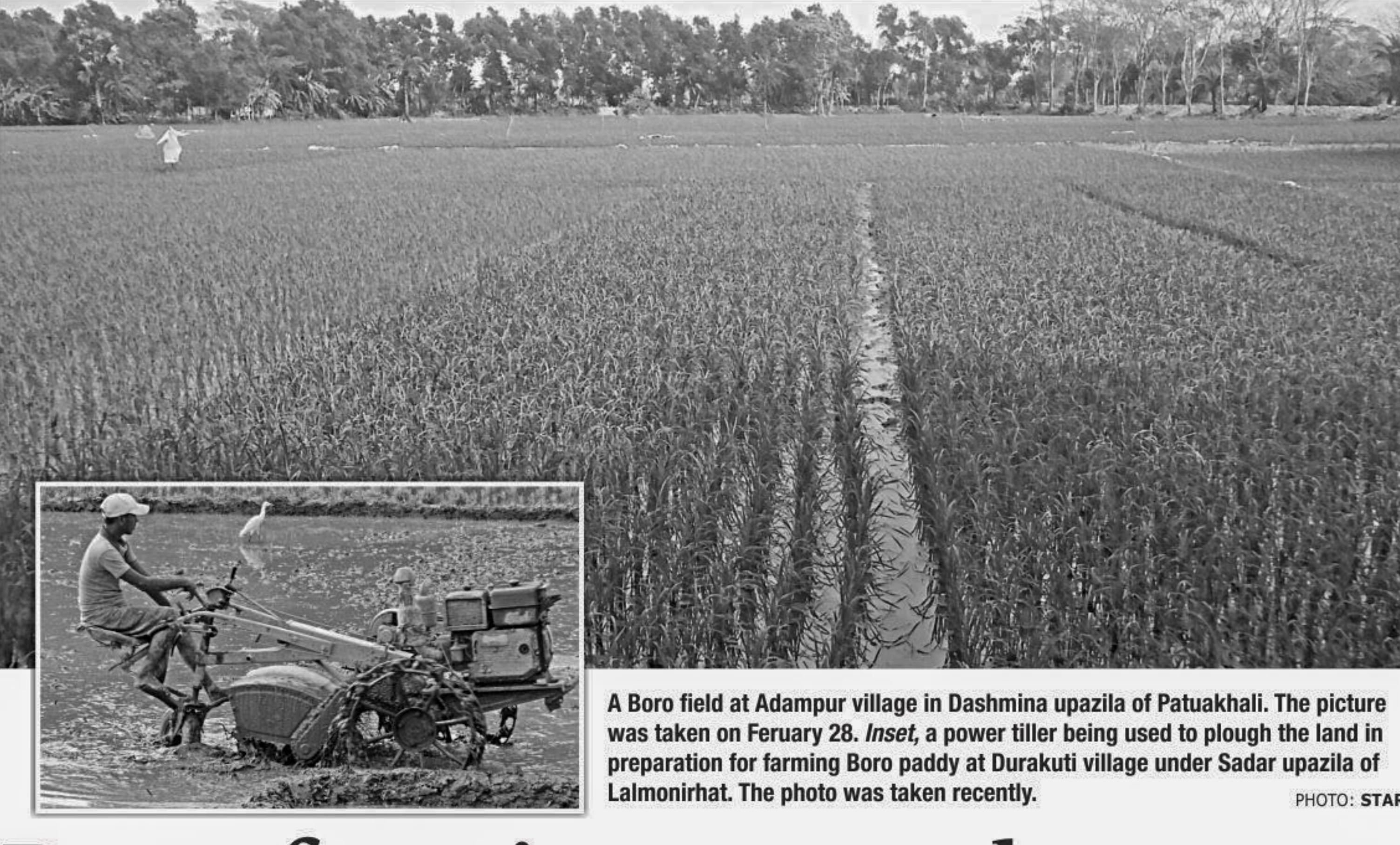
"This disease can be prevented by stopping marriage between carriers. So individuals should know about their carrier status through blood test before getting married."

"A patient of thalassemia, suffering from various health complications like stunted growth, spleen enlargement and severe weakness, cannot achieve a long life span and he/she has a greater chance of dying of heart failure," he said.

After a two-hour-long session at the college where around 150 learners participated, the researcher got a good feedback on the issue.

Molecular biologist Mohammad Sorowar Hossain, who led the research team, said, "We deem it a success as the students of 12 colleges attended the awareness campaign and gave satisfactory feedback on the matter."

Expressing concern about scanty blood screening facility to detect the disease carriers outside capital Dhaka, he said, "It is high time the government took pragmatic steps to minimise the spread of the deadly disease considering the welfare of the future generation."



A Boro field at Adampur village in Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali. The picture was taken on February 28. Inset, a power tiller being used to plough the land in preparation for farming Boro paddy at Durakuti village under Sadar upazila of Lalmonirhat. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Boro farming exceeds target

Patuakhali, Lalmonirhat farmers show interest in it to recover loss

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The Boro cultivation in Patuakhali and Lalmonirhat has exceeded the target this year.

The farmers in Patuakhali have increased Boro farming by more than six times to recover from the losses incurred during the last Aman season, while farmers in Lalmonirhat are cultivating Boro as they got unexpected profit from the crop as well as the straw last year.

Patuakhali Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) set a target of cultivating Boro on 1,470 hectares of land this year and achieved 9,565 hectares from mid-December till February 27, said Deputy Director Hridayeshwar. The land used to remain unused during the dry season from January to May previously, he added.

Boro paddy was cultivated on 1,450 hectares of land last year while it was 1,582 hectares in 2016.

"I am planting Boro paddy saplings on one acre of land this year to make up for the loss I incurred last year," said Shahjahan Hawlader, 50, a farmer of Atharogachia village in Dumki upazila.

Motaleb Chowkider said most of his land

remained unused in the dry season, but this year he is cultivating Boro on it to recover from the loss during the Aman season.

Rustam Ali said he cultivated Robi crops like mug bean, green chilli and watermelon last year, but unseasonal rain badly damaged these crops. He said he cultivated Boro this year to recover from the loss.

Dumki upazila Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer Dulal Chandra Sarkar said local farmers are interested in cultivating Boro paddy this year to make up for the losses they suffered last season.

"We are providing them technical support, including that for irrigation and pest control," he added.

In Lalmonirhat, farmers are growing more Boro paddy this year as they got unexpected profit from selling their produce and even paddy straw, last year. The area under Boro paddy farming has already exceeded the target and farmers are still planting Boro saplings.

District DAE Deputy Director Bidhubhushon Roy said the target was to plant Boro on 51,095 hectares of land in the district this season, but the crop has already been cultivated on around 60,000 hectares.

Dharanikanta Barmon, 65, of Durakuti

village in Sadar upazila said he planned to grow Boro on eight of his 12 bighas of land, but cultivated 10 bighas. "As I got unexpected profit from farming paddy last year, I increased the area this year," he said, adding that he will also cultivate paddy on the remaining two bighas if he gets saplings in a week.

Mohor Ali, 55, of Batrishazari village in Aditmari upazila said he cultivated paddy on five bighas last year and got 60 percent of cultivation cost from selling straw. "I have increased the area for paddy farming to eight bighas," he said.

Jamal Hossain, 48, of Chalbala village in Kaliganj upazila said they were not interested in farming paddy two years ago as they did not get profit. "Paddy farming is more profitable than other crops," he said, hoping that he will get bumper production and expected prices of paddy.

Bidhubhushon said they encouraged farmers to grow Boro on a large scale and the farmers are also highly interested as they got unexpected profit last year. "We have been providing technical input to the paddy growers regularly," he said.

Our correspondents from Patuakhali and Lalmonirhat contributed to the report.

Boy burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A nine-year-old boy was burnt to death as a fire broke out at their house in Shibganj upazila of the district on Friday night.

The deceased, Esha Nabi, was son of Sumon Ali of Mardonav village in the upazila.

A cowshed was also burned down in the blaze that started around 11:15pm, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station Habibul Islam said, adding that three cows perished in the fire.

OC Habibul said the blaze first broke out from the fire, lighted for creating smoke to protect the cattle from mosquito, at a cowshed of the house and gradually spread in the entire house.

Villagers rushed to the spot and doused the fire but Nabi could not come out of the house and died inside.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

20 injured in Faridpur AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) in Shalta upazila yesterday.

Police said there was a longstanding conflict between former Gotti union unit AL General Secretary Wadud Matabbor and Gotti union unit AL Vice-President Nuru Matabbor, over establishing supremacy in the area.

The two rival groups, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked each other yesterday, leaving 20 people from both sides injured. They also vandalised ten houses during the clash.



Students of Sakao School and College in Boda upazila of Panchagarh show green card to humanity and patriotism, and red card to drug, stalking and child marriage at an oath taking ceremony organised by Lal Sabuj Unnayan Sangha, a voluntary organisation run with the money saved from the students' tiffin allowance. Boda Police Station Officer-in-Charge AKM Nurul Islam conducted the oath.

PHOTO : STAR

Two hacked to death in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Armed criminals hacked to death two youths in Begumganj upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Ali, 24, son of Mohammad Solaiman, and Robin, 22, son of Abdul Kader, were residents of Uttar Eklashpur village in the upazila.

Ali's father Solaiman said his son left the house with Robin on a motorcycle for Eklashpur Bazar to go to Dhaka early in the morning.

When they reached Madhyam Eklashpur a gang of eight to ten people, equipped with sharp weapons, waylaid them. At one stage, when Robin tried to run away, he fell on the road and the gang members hacked him dead

and dumped his body in a nearby pond.

In the meantime, Ali managed to flee the spot and took shelter in his uncle's house, but the criminals entered the house and hacked him to death there, Solaiman said, adding that they also beat up Ali's uncle when he tried to resist the gang.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Begumganj Police Station Feroz Hossain Mollah said slain Ali was a listed criminal and he was accused in at least nine cases, including for murder and robbery.

After preparing the surathal (inquest) report of the bodies, Begumganj police sent those to Noakhali General Hospital for autopsy in the morning. Noakhali Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ilias Sharif said.

Madrasa loses recognition, but teachers get salary

The institution in Mirzaganj is now without students, only 11 students passed Alim exam in 13 years till 2017

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Ten teachers of Lamua Chandrakanda Alim Madrasa under Mirzaganj upazila in the district have continued receiving a total of Tk 2.30 lakh per month from the government coffers although the education board cancelled its academic recognition last year due to non-fulfilment of the criteria.

The madrasa was set up in 1941 but currently there is no student enrolled with the institution.

As per instruction of the education ministry, such an institution requires passing of minimum 10 students every year for running its academic activities.

In 13 years from 2005 to 2017, only 28 students took part in the Alim (Higher Secondary level) examination from the madrasa and of them only 11 examinees passed, says a letter signed by Professor AKM Saif Ullah, chairman of Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board (BMEB) that cancelled academic recognition.

The board also sent recommendation to the director general of the Secondary and Higher Education Department to cancel its MPO (monthly payment order) on September 20 in 2017.

Ten teachers have continued receiving Tk about 2.30 lakh per month as salary and the UNO is approving the bill.

aging committee. Visiting the institution on March 1, this correspondent found all the rooms locked and there was no teacher there. Eunus Ali, who introduced himself as a fourth class employee of the madrasa, said now no student come there.

Md Jahirul Islam Lotus, chairman of the immediate past managing committee, also president of Mirzaganj upazila unit Jibto League, said three-year tenure of the committee headed by him expired about six months ago.

Maulana Md Alauddin, acting principal of the madrasa, said, "Now only 10 teachers and employees are working there but there are no students. Irregularities were done during the tenure of the previous principal who retired about six months ago."

He did not make any reply when asked why they were taking salaries without work and in violation of the letter from BMEB.

Assistant District Education Officer Md Ruhul Amin, who is in charge of the office during the ongoing leave of the district education officer, said, "I didn't know about the matter and I will take step regarding the matter very soon after visiting the madrasa."

Contacting Mirzaganj UNO Shah Md Rafiqul Islam said, "I didn't get copy of the letter from the madrasa board regarding the matter in time. Someone gave it to me only two days ago. From the next month I will not approach the salary bill for the madrasa."

Invitation for Re-Tender (Local)				
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
1 Ministry/Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.			
2 Agency	Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board			
3 Procuring entity name & district	Project Director, Distribution Network Expansion for 100% Rural Electrification (Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna & Barisal Divisions) Project.			
4 Invitation for tender name	Electrical Line Construction Materials.			
5 Invitation Ref. No. & date	27.12.2000.162.07.001.17.577 Date: 07/03/2018			
6 Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), NCT.			
7 Budget and source of funds	GOB.			
8 Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
9 Project/programme name	Distribution Network Expansion for 100% Rural Electrification (Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna & Barisal Divisions) Project.			
10 Tender package No.	DNE(W)-G-08.			
11 Tender publication date	Within 11-03-2018.			
12 a) Tender last selling date	27-03-2018 up to office time			
13 a) Tender closing date and time	28-03-2018 for Package No. G-08			
14 a) Tender opening date and time	28-03-2018 for Package No. G-08			
15 Pre-tender meeting	20-03-2018			
16 Name & address of the office	Address			
- For selling tender document	PD, DNE 100% (RRKB), 6th Floor, Head Quarter Building, BREB, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.			
- For Receiving tender document	BREB Auditorium, 1st Floor, Head Office Building, BREB, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.			
- For opening tender document	BREB Auditorium, 1st Floor, Head Office Building, BREB, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.			
- For pre-tender meeting	PD, DNE 100% (RRKB), 6th Floor, Head Quarter Building, BREB, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17 Eligibility of tenderer	Bangladeshi manufacturers/tenderers.			
18 Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 3,000.00 (per document).			
19 Brief description of goods and amount of tender security				
Tender package No.	Sub package No.	Description	Tender security amount in Tk	Delivery schedule & places
DNE(W)-G-08	Lot-1/1	Pole, Wooden	57,00,000.00	As per delivery schedule
	Lot-2/1		57,00,000.00	
20 Regarding tender document	Tender document can be purchased by the interested tenderer on submission of a written application to the address below upon the payment of non-refundable Tk 3000.00 (Tk three thousand) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of PD, DNE 100% (RRKB), BREB, Dhaka, Bangladesh. No tender document will be sent by courier or by mail. One tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposals by more than one tenderer. One tenderer, however, may submit tenders against any number of sub-packages included in the tender document by purchasing only one copy of the tender document.			
21 Mode of payment	Payment will be made directly to the tenderers in local currency (BDT).			
22 Delivery period	Delivery period shall begin with effect from the date of signing of contract or 28th day from the date of notification of award which to be earlier.			
23 Special instruction	Tender document can be viewed at BREB website that is www.reb.gov.bd for information only.			
24 Name of official inviting tender	Md. Zohirul Islam.			
25 Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, "Distribution Network Expansion for 100% Rural Electrification (Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna & Barisal Divisions).			
26 Address of official inviting tender	Headquarter Building, 6th Floor, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229.			
27 Contract details of official inviting tender	Tel # 8900323.			
28 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				