

# Date juice earns forex

Bottled juice exported to USA, UK and Middle East

Hossain Seraj, Magura

Date juice from a remote village in Magura is now earning foreign exchange for the country.

Some youths working with local NGO APRP (Advancement Programme for Rootless People) in Kajoli village in Sreepur upazila in Magura district deserve credit for this.

The youths collect juice during winter, bottle it through a scientific process and export those to UK and USA, India and some Middle East countries.

The bottled juice is called Kajolir Khurir Rasa. It tastes like fresh date juice.

Along and Nandan of Dhaka buy the product from APRP and market it at home and abroad.

Owners of date trees and juice collectors are now vibrant with new hopes as date juice is exported.

APRP officials said, about four years back they started experiment to preserve and market date juice. They set up a laboratory at Kajoli Barzar, about two kilometres east of Sreepur upazila headquarters.

"After four years effort, our dream came true when BSTI (Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute) approved it for export," said Boshir Ahmed, president of APRP.

During a visit to the laboratory, director of the organisation Ayub Hossain Molla said, "The juice can be preserved for three years as it is boiled at a certain temperature and then bottled with some preservatives which are not harmful for human health".

A one 300 ml bottle of juice is sold at Tk 50 and a one litre bottle at Tk 150.

Though boiled, it tastes like fresh date juice. It can be used not only in making cake and porridge but also as jelly during taking breakfast, they said.

Bashir Ahmed said they have already exported 1500 bottles to USA and another over 2000 to UK, Canada, India and Dubai.

In Bangladesh, Arong and Nandan are wholesalers of the item, he said.



Processed date juice being bottled at a factory in Kajoli Barzar in Magura.

## 7 grenades, explosives recovered from Madhupur

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Madhupur (Tangail)

NETRAKONA: Madhupur Thana police on Thursday recovered seven grenades and a large quantity of explosives at Magoti village in Madhupur forest area in Tangail district.

Police and witnesses told this correspondent, some day-labourers found the grenades and explosives when they were cutting earth in front of the house of Abraham Master. At once they informed it to Madhupur police. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and recovered those. Police cordoned the area and an army team was asked to examine the explosives.

On contact the Acting Superintendent of Police (SP), Tangail Mohammad Shafiullah admitted to this correspondent about recovery of 'abandoned' grenades and explosives.

## Ferry service on Padma faces disruption

Dredging stopped since Tuesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry service in Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Nagarbari routes in the Padma may be disrupted any time as dredging of the channels is stopped since Tuesday morning for want of fuel.

Ferry vessels ply the routes with risk as their propellers at times touch sand underneath, their operators said while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority (BIWTA) engaged Water Development Board's dredgers with a target to remove 12 lakh cubic metres of silt from Paturia ferry terminal area at a cost of Tk 11 crore to ensure normal operation.

Four dredgers removed about 4,17,000 cubic meters of silt since the operation began on August 28, said an official of a dredging unit of BIWTA. Three more were needed to keep the channels navigable as the river is falling fast, he said.

The BIWTA official said WDB, which has been given Tk 110 crore, is responsible for continuing the dredging. But it failed.

When contacted, WDB officials here said the dredging operation remained stopped for want of fuel.

However, fuel will be procured soon through tender, they said.

## 50 injured in clash in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between villagers over realisation of a loan of Tk 300 from a person.

Isar Mia of Lupaura village in Sarail upazila had borrowed Tk 300 from Rabi Ullah of the same village some days ago.

On Thursday, in the afternoon, Rabi asked Isar to repay the money. After an exchange of words, they had a bout.

As this spread, their neighbours and supporters came with lethal weapons and clashed for an hour, leaving at least 50 people.

Twelve of them were sent to Sarail Upazila Health Complex, Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and to two private clinics in the town in critical conditions. The rest were treated at the health complex.

Sarail thana police rushed to spot and quelled the violence but did not arrest any body, police said.

## A small effort changes life

18 distressed women rehabilitated by Prothom Alo Bondhu Sabha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Sharmin Hoq is very happy. Hard days of her family are gone.

She earned about Tk 15,00 in last five days by making garments at home.

She was busy sewing garments while talking to this correspondent at her small house at Akhaura.

She said the sewing machine given by the Prothom Alo Bondhu Sabha has changed their life. She is the only earning member for her old mother, two younger brothers and a minor sister. They had hard days since her father died some years back.

There are 17 other distressed women like Sharmin who are

dreaming good days with sewing machines given by the Prothom Alo Bondhu Sabha. The machines were given on November 2 so that they can make good use of those ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr. They were trained in sewing and tailoring earlier.

Jahura Begum said she earned Tk 650 by this time. Rina Begum and Shahana Akter are two other recipients. The machines were given at the initiative of the Akhaura unit of the Bondhu Sabha.

All of them said they hope to earn handsome amounts till the Eid.

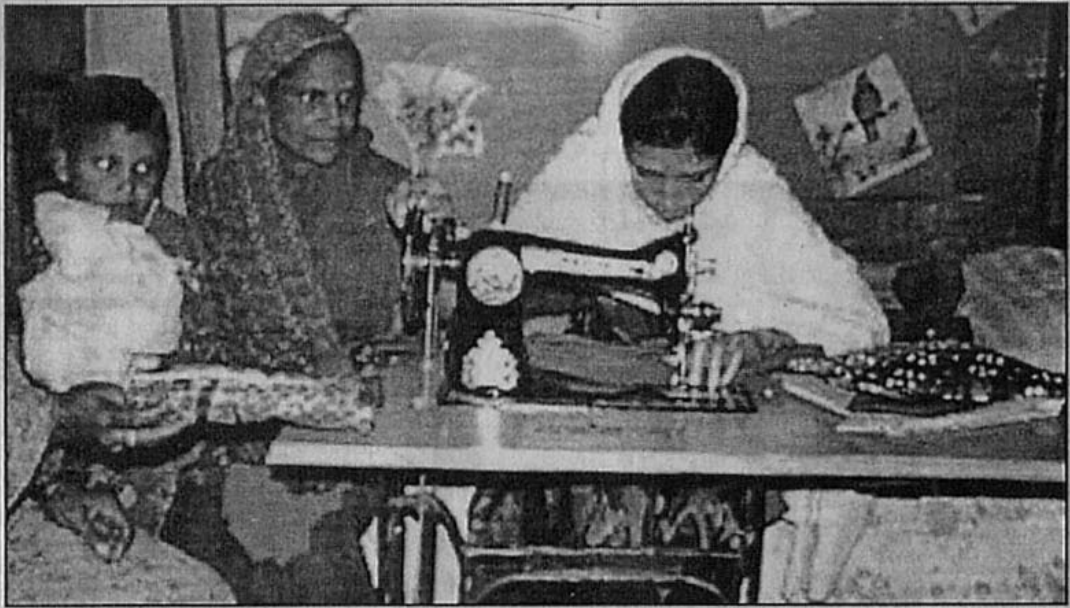
They are sewing garments on orders from traders and also from people in the area.

They were all distressed. But things will change now, they said.

Talking to this correspondent, Prothom Alo Bandhusava Akhaura unit President Prof Kamal Uddin said they trained the distressed women and then gave the machines.

Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Md Jahurul Haque was the chief guest at the simple function when the machines were handed over.

Akhaura Paurasabha Chairman Md Nurul Haque Buiyan, Upazila Nirbhi Officer Md Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, Akhaura Press Club President Md Yousuf Sarkar, Akhaura Reporters Unity President Md Manik Mia and Prothom Alo Akhaura Correspondent Dulal Ghos were also present at the function.



Sharmin Hoq working at her house with the new sewing machine

PHOTO: STAR

## RU violence: Action against students likely

ANWAR ALI AND ABU KALAM, Rajshahi

Apart from taking legal action, the Rajshahi University (RU) authorities are likely to take academic action against some students responsible for the October 30 violence.

Students who led the agitation on the day were recorded in video cameras of the university and they would be punished on completion of the probe, said university Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam.

Acting Vice Chancellor Prof KHM Shahadat Hossain Mondol told The

Daily Star that the punitive measures include cancellation of studentship and cautioning students' guardians.

The day-long campus violence ensued following intrusion of three unidentified youths into a women's dormitory on October 29 night.

The university authorities filed two cases against 54 students and 400 unidentified students.

Prof Mondol, also convenor of a seven-member committee formed

to investigate the incident expressed his belief that some student leaders of left leaning parties and a section of teachers might be involved in the 'pre-planned incident'.

Meanwhile, different students bodies, teachers and social workers continued their agitation on the day blaming the university authorities for violence and demanded removal of VC and proctors and immediate release of the arrested 54 students.

## Smuggled electronic goods flood markets in N dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

On the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, Chinese electronic goods along with Indian ones are being smuggled into the country through different border points in Nilphamari, depriving the government of huge amounts of revenue.

These are being sold in Syedpur and sent to different parts of the country.

Chinese goods like VCD, colour TV, tape recorder, audi and video cassette, walkman, table fan, video camera, electronic wrist watch, tube lights and calculators have a good market in the country because these are cheaper, it was gathered from some people involved in the illegal trade.

These goods are brought through Nepal and India by organised syndicates of smugglers in the two countries and from Bangladesh.

A big market of smuggles Chinese goods has developed at Dolabari in Nepal near the India-Nepal border. It is known as China market.

Bangladeshi smugglers cross the India-Bangladesh border through Chilahati in Domar upazila and reach nearby Holidibari in Kuch Bihar district in West Bengal, India. From there they go to Shilliguri town in India and then cross the India-Nepal border to go to Dolabari.

It takes only two hours to go to Dolabari from Chilahati.

As Indian citizens do need any passport to go to Nepal, so Bangladeshi smugglers from Syedpur with the help of their Indian partners go to Nepal posing as Indian citizen.

The goods are smuggled to Syedpur through Chilahati, Vaganpur, Hilli and Burimari border points and kept in big godowns in the small town.

Syedpur has good a road network Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and other places.

Talking to this correspondent, some traders in Nilphamari said their imported goods can not compete with cheaper Chinese smuggled goods.

## Poor awareness about AIDS

88 pc young men, 96 pc young women still do not know the cause: Study

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A day-long orientation course on HIV/AIDS for journalists was held at Gaibandha Public Library hall on Thursday.

It was jointly organised by the Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), an NGO and CARE Bangladesh.

The workshop was inaugurated by Gaibandha Civil Surgeon Dr. Habibur Rahman while Deputy Commissioner Tapon Chandra Majumder attended the concluding session as the chief guest.

Md. Mosiur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Mass Communication Department at Rajshahi University and Dr. Nazrul Islam, Programme Development Officer of CARE were present as resource persons at the workshop, conducted by Shahana Parveen, Programme

Co-coordinator of CCD.

Quoting from a report of Bangladesh Aids Information and Development Services (BAIDS), it was disclosed at the workshop that one person died of AIRD in Gaibandha. But the victim's name was not disclosed.

Quoting a report of virology department at Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka, it was told at the workshop that 57 people were attacked with AIDS in the country and 30 of them died. Besides, 363 others are carrying HIV virus.

According to a government report, an AIDS patient was first detected in 1989. In the last 14 years, the number increased alarmingly.

A report of UNAIDS on Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic-2003 said that till November 2003, 13000 people were attacked with HIV/AIDS virus in Bangladesh.

Of that 3,100 were female and 310 children.

The HIV victims are mainly sex workers, professional blood donors and drug addicts.

According to a study by UNICEF, at least 88 percent young men and 96 percent young women in Bangladesh still do not know the exact reason for HIV/AIDS attack.

A limited percentage of urban people knew about HIV/AIDS but it is completely unheard of in rural Bangladesh, the report said.

In the concluding session, the DC said although journalists can play a major role to create awareness against HIV/AIDS, it is the responsibility of all to launch a mass campaign to create awareness about HIV.

A total 33 journalists representing national and local dailies participated in the workshop.

## Cancel 'tampered' LLB results: CUTA

Implement Syndicate decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) on Wednesday demanded immediate cancellation of tampered results of examinees who appeared in the LLB examinations from 1983 to 1994.

The Teachers' Association also demanded immediate implementation of a decision taken by the university Syndicate in its 353rd meeting.

CUTA President Dr Nurul Anwar told this correspondent that they had requested the CU authorities to preserve the

findings of a probe body formed in 1996 and related documents.

He told that the Syndicate decision on tempering of results could not be implemented 'possibly due to a pressure from vested quarters'.

The university authorities took a move to collect addresses of 2,400 examinees involved in tempering mark sheets and results of LLB examinations from 1983 to 1994. The move was taken after revelation of

a result scandal of High Court Additional Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee recently.

Faizee who appeared in LLB examination from Chittagong Law College in 1989 had been allegedly involved in tempering his mark sheet on the subject of Muslim law, according to probe finding.

The probe body formed in 1996 also found involvement of 110 other lawyers in tempering their results in collusion with some university officials of the university's confidential section, according to 'varsity

SOURCES: a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
গাজীপুর-১৭০৫  
ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
এইচএসসি প্রোগ্রাম ২০০৪-২০০৫ সেশন

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বাউবি) পরিচালিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট (এইচএসসি) প্রোগ্রামে ২০০৪-২০০৫ সেশনে ভর্তি ইচ্ছুক শিক্ষার্থীদের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আশা করা হচ্ছে, ২০০৪ থেকে ১১ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বাউবি নির্ধারিত সোনালী ব্যাংকের শাখায় (আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র হতে ব্যাংকের তালিকা পাওয়া যাবে) ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা জমা দিয়ে, জমাদানের রসিদ বাউবি নির্ধারিত টিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্রে (কলেজে) জমা দিয়ে শিক্ষার্থী নির্দেশিকা ও ভর্তি ফর্ম পাওয়া যাবে। পূর্ণাঙ্গ আবেদনপত্র হতে হতে নির্ধারিত টিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্রে জমা দিতে হবে। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ শিক্ষার্থী নির্দেশিকা পাওয়া যাবে।

নিম্নলিখিত আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র (রিজিওনাল রিসোর্স সেন্টার) হতে ২০০৪-২০০৫ সালে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত টিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্রের নাম ও ঠিকানা জানা যাবে।

আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র (রিজিওনাল রিসোর্স সেন্টার) এর ঠিকানা	
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-ঢাকা ৪/ক কলেজ এলিয়া, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫ ফোনঃ ৮৬১৬০৬৫, ৯৬৭৩৬৬৯	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-বগুড়া বিশ্বরোড, বনানী (বনানীস্থ বিএডিসি ওয়ার্কশপ এর পূর্ব পার্শে) বগুড়া-৫৮০০। ফোন-০৫১/৭২৯৭৪
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-চট্টগ্রাম সিআরবি রোড, স্টেডিয়াম সংলগ্ন, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন-০৩১/৬১৯৬৩৩	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-যশোর উপ-শহর যশোর (বিআরটিসি বাস স্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন) ফোন-০৪২১/৭৩২৫০
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-সিলেট পিরিজপুর, দক্ষিণ সুরমা, সিলেট। ফোন-০৮২১/৭১৯৫২৩	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-রাজশাহী নওহাটা, পবা, রাজশাহী। ফোন-০৭২১/৮০০০০৮
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-বরিশাল রূপাতালী, জাওয়া, বরিশাল। ফোন-০৪৩১/৭১৩২২	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-ময়মনসিংহ মাসকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ। ফোন-০৯১/৫২৪০৮
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-কুমিল্লা ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম ট্রাঙ্ক রোড, নোয়াপাড়া, দুর্গাপুর, কুমিল্লা। ফোন-০৮১/৭৭৫৫৭	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-রংপুর আরকে রোড (কেন্দ্রীয় বাস স্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন) রংপুর। ফোন-০৫২১/৬৩৫৯৩
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-ফরিদপুর (নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট এর বিপরীতে) হাড়োকাঙ্গি (বরিশাল রোড), ফরিদপুর। ফোন-০৬৩১/৬৩২২৮, ৬২০৮১	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র-খুলনা রৌশনীবাগ (খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পশ্চিমে), খুলনা-৯২০৮ ফোন-০৪১/৭৩১৭৯৫

□ ভর্তির ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা : কমপক্ষে এসএসসি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।  
□ আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ ও জমাদানের তারিখ : ০৮ নভেম্বর, ২০০৪ থেকে ১১ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।  
□ আবেদনপত্র যাচাই বাছাই : ১২ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ থেকে ২০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।  
□ নির্বাচিত শিক্ষার্থীদের মূল ও অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকা প্রকাশ : ২২ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।  
□ মূল তালিকা থেকে ভর্তি : ২৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ তারিখ থেকে ১৫ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।  
□ অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকা থেকে ভর্তি : ১৬ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৫ তারিখ থেকে ২০ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।  
□ শিক্ষার্থী ওরিয়েন্টেশন ও টিউটোরিয়াল সেশন শুরু : জানুয়ারি, ২০০৪ তারিখ শুরু হবে।  
□ আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রদেয় কাগজপত্রাদি : ক) প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক এক কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত ছবি।  
খ) প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র।

বিঃদ্রঃ ভর্তি ইচ্ছুক শিক্ষার্থীকে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে উপস্থিত হয়ে ভর্তি হতে হবে। ডাকযোগে ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত কোন পত্র প্রেরণ করা হবে না। ভর্তির সময় প্রদেয় কাগজপত্রাদি ও শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করাসহ পাসপোর্ট সাইজের তিন কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি জমা দিতে হবে।

মোঃ আখতার হোসেন  
ভারপ্রাপ্ত পরিচালক  
স্টুডেন্ট সাপোর্ট সার্ভিসেস বিভাগ (পশ্চিমাকাংশ)  
বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-৬৭৬

**Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Nalka-Bogra Gas Transmission Pipeline Project  
House No. 39, Road No. 3, Sector-3  
Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

**Notice**

IFB No. GTCL/N-B/PLC/01(R) Date: 03-11-2004

Re-Tender for Construction of High Pressure Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline from Nalka (Sirajganj) to Chandaikona (MLV-1) under Nalka-Bogra Gas Transmission Pipeline Project (Group-A).

In pursuance of stay order dated 25-10-2004 issued by the Hon'ble High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh, it is hereby notified that the operation of the abovementioned Re-Tender Notice No. GTCL/N-B/PLC/01(R) dated 12-10-2004 is hereby suspended until further order.

GTPR-17/04-05 GD-678