



A date juice collector prepares to gather juice from a date tree in Sarkerpara village, popularly known as date juice village, in Kamarpukur union under Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Date juice village busy

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

With the onset of winter season, Sarkerpara village, popularly known as date juice village, in Kamarpukur union under Saidpur upazila is buzzing with activity.

Date juice collectors, locally called gachhi, are passing busy time in collecting fresh, sweet juice from hundreds of date trees. They will be doing brisk business for the next three months.

People of all ages wait eagerly for winter season every year to enjoy the traditional natural drink and tasty molasses, which is used to make delicious cakes, payes and other sweets.

On a visit to the village at dawn recently, this correspondent found long rows of juice producing date trees on every roadside, around cultivable land, and in homesteads, a sight that is not seen in other areas.

Ferdous Karim Kazol, a social worker of the village, said his grandfather late Shahanuddin Sarker, chair-

man of Kamarpukur union parishad four decades ago, had great fascination for date trees as our Holy Prophet's birth place, Arabia, is adorned with date trees.

From this sacred inspiration, his grandfather started planting date trees in the village with his own money, Kazol said, adding that Shahanuddin advised his son Aminur Sarker to continue planting date trees. Aminur followed his father's advice by planting around 600 date trees, Kazol added.

Fifteen juice collectors from nearby villages got permission from land owners to collect juice from date trees for the next three months by paying Tk 300 for the juice from each tree, said juice collector Abu Bakkar.

"We cut the tree tops with special type of curved knife to extract four to five kg of juice daily from each tree and collect it in earthen pitchers," he added.

They sell a portion of the juice to local consumers at Tk 30 per kg, who

enjoy it as a refreshing drink, juice collectors said, adding that they sell the rest to wholesalers from distant places, who condense the juice by heating it and take it to Rajshahi, Natore and other places for making tasty date molasses.

"We cannot think of making cakes, payes and other delicious food items without date juice," said housewives Momena Begum and Noorjahan.

Md Amiruzzaman, former chairman of Kamarpukur union parishad, said many people are cutting down date trees to sell to brick kilns at high price and planting fruit or woody trees to get higher profit. If this continues, date trees will disappear from the village soon, he added.

Saidpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Homaira Mondol said date trees prevent erosion. Dates can be processed to make a delicious drink that can be exported to European countries, she said, adding that investors should think about it.

Mysterious death of expat's wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The body of an expatriate's wife was recovered from her house at Tiliir Char village in Satura upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Marjina Begum, wife of expatriate Nazrul Islam.

Nazrul came to Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia recently.

Police recovered the hanging body of Marjina from inside the house.

Tilili Union Parishad member Shukur Ali said locals saw Marjina's body hanging in the house and informed the police.

Marjina was married to Nazrul about five years ago, he said.

Brick kiln near forest demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mobile court demolished a brick kiln in Chaturbazar area near Nawabganj upazila Sal forest on Wednesday.

The mobile court led by Nawabganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Moshir Rahman with the help of police and forest officials demolished the kiln set up by one Md Abdul Gafur.

Nishikanta Malakar, an official of Charkai Range Forest Beat, said building of brick kiln within two kilometres of a forest is illegal.

Earlier, the UNO's office had served several notices to Gafur to stop construction of the kiln, Nishikanta added.

KATHIN CHIBAR DAN Buddhists' biggest fest begins in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The two-day-long Kathin Chibar Dan, the biggest religious festival of Buddhist community in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), began in the district yesterday through spinning wheel.

Chakma Rani Yan Yan inaugurated the 45th festival at Rajban Bihar around 3:00pm.

Raja Barrister Devasish Roy, chief of Chakma circle, Goutam Dewan, president of Upasjak Upashika Karjonirbahi Parishad, Amiyu Khisa, secretary of the parishad and its Information and Publicity Secretary Susmita Chakma, among others, were present at the function.

"Every year we hold this Kathin Chibar Dan with religious spirit to preserve our tradition and customs," said Raja Devasish Roy.

Buddhist devotees are always polite and

sincere to people of other religions, he said.

At the time of Buddha, Bishakha (a nurse of Buddha) introduced the religious festival about 2,500 years ago to give Chibar through Goutam Buddha. Since then the Buddhist community has been celebrating the Kathin Chibar Dan every year.

Thousands of Buddhist devotees from three hill districts have gathered in and around the Rajban Bihar area since yesterday.

Goutam Deawn, president of Upashok-Upashika Karjo Nirbahi, said security has been strengthened by the district administration at all the strategic points of the area on the occasion.

Muhammad Alamgir Kabir, superintendent of police in Rangamati, said over 500 police personnel have been deployed to avert any unwanted incident during the program at Raj Ban Bihar.



Chakma Rani Yan Yan inaugurates the two-day long Kathin Chibar Dan by spinning a wheel at Rajban Bihar in Rangamati town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology

Chittagong-4349

Memo No. CUET/P&D/2017-18/IFT Notice-13, Date: 13/11/2018

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works as follows:

Tender ID & Reference	Package name	Type/method	Tender notice publication date	Tender closing date
234296, CUET/FEDC UET/17-18/PW-09	Construction of Gymnasium cum Indoor Sports Complex	NCT OTM	13-Nov-2018 16:30:00	04-Dec-2018 11:30:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Director
Further Expansion & Development of CUET
Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology
Chittagong-4349

GD-2633

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Dhaka Metro Project Preparatory Technical Assistance
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority
Nagar Bhaban (Level 14-15), Fulbaria, Dhaka

Memo No. 35.02.0000.003.53.003.2017-348 Date: 14 November, 2018

Invitation for Proposal for Staff Outsourcing through Firm/Company For DMPPTA Project-DTCA

1	Ministry/division	: Road Transport and Highways Division.
2	Executing agency	: Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority.
3	Procuring entity	: Project Director-DMPPTA Project-DTCA.
4	Invitation Ref. No	: Memo No. 35.02.0000.003.53.003.2017-348
5	Invitation date	: 15 November, 2018.
6	Invitation for	: Proposal for Staff Outsourcing [Physical Service].
7	Source of budget	: Govt. Fund.
8	Procurement method	: Open NCT (Least Cost Selection).
9	Project name	: Dhaka Metro Project Preparatory Technical Assistance Project-DTCA.
10	Package No.	: DTCA NS1
11	Package name	: Staff Outsourcing for DMPPTA Project-DTCA.
12	Last date for proposal selling	: 05 December, 2018 (during office hour).
13	Last date for proposal submission	: 06 December, 2018 at 12:00 noon (Bangladesh Standard Time).
14	Eligibility of the applicant	: Any reputed Bangladeshi Firm having at least two years of experience of providing the physical services mentioned below (or relevant positions) to any government/non-government office/project or any NGO/Consulting Firm. The firm shall have at least five years of general experience of providing physical service. Other eligibility criteria are stated in the proposal document.
15	Brief description of the service to be provided	: To provide Staff Input for the post of 01 (one) Office Assistant cum Computer Operator, 01 (one) Driver, and 02 (two) Office Assistant (MLSS) for the Office of the Project Director.
16	Contract period	: 06 months (approx).
17	Address of selling proposal document	: Office of the Project Director, DMPPTA Project, Room No. 1336, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.
18	Address of receiving proposal document	: Office of the Project Director, DMPPTA Project, Room No. 1336, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.
19	Proposal price	: A non-refundable amount of Taka 1000/- (one thousand) in cash.
20	Name of the officer inviting proposal	: Md. Anisur Rahman.
21	Designation of the officer inviting proposal	: Project Director.
22	Contact details	: Phone: 9569262, E-mail: rahman2005@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and the whole process.

Project Director
DMPPTA Project-DTCA
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka

GD-2636

Serenading souls

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swayed Dhakaites with pulsating beats produced from various western and indigenous instruments.

From neighbouring Slavic countries to the Balkans, Russia, Israel, Africa and India, proceeding further and further was inevitable: just as it is natural, for anybody of European heritage wanting to explore the Eastern "space", to embrace the "different" traditions that music has always kept at a distance. Even when "real musicians" had an addiction for folk music, considering it a reservoir of inspiration: one need only think of the nationalistic trends in post-Romantic music. At the core of a wide-ranging musical project, Dikanda's "eastern" sound conjures symbolic spaces of unmatched immensity.

Promising Indian singer-instrumentalist Satyaki Banerjee presented entertaining performances. With his accompanists playing various kinds of folk and percussion instruments, Satyaki brought forth the excitement of folk rhythms that resonated with the audience superbly.

Bigger rounds of applause were reserved for the night's ultimate performers -- Padma Shri Puranchand Wadali and his son Lakhwinder Wadali soulfully took off the musical flight on the opening night of DIFE, connecting tens of thousands of souls with the ultimate. They began with a Bulleh Shah Kalam number Tere Naam. The love between the ultimate and the musical devotees happened on stage as the maestro and his prodigal son wove a garland of melodies with a Manj Khamaj tan and soul searching pukar (repetitive emotional plea of melodies). The living legend of Sufi music, along with his ensemble later mesmerised with Hazrat Amir Khusro's compositions Main Toh Piya Se Naina and Chhap Tilak, followed by Bulleh Shah's adaptation of the Hazrat Amir Khusrow classic Dama Dam Mast Qalandar. The highly energetic performance had the audience enthralled throughout, ending the first night of Dhaka International Folk Fest 2018 on a musical high.

At the opening ceremony that followed, Chairman of Sun Foundation Anjan Chowdhury, Dhaka Bank Managing Director and CEO Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Grameenphone Deputy CEO and CMO Yasir Azman, and Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon joined the chief guest Finance Minister AMA Muhiith and special guest Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor on stage.

In his speech, Asaduzzaman Noor thanked the vivacious presence of the youth at the folk festival. "This is a platform where we present our folk music and listen to folk melodies from around the world. This is significantly developing a collective of cultured minds," said Asaduzzaman Noor.

"Music runs in the blood of Bangladeshis; they sing and dance when they go fishing, farming, harvesting and doing other daily chores," AMA Muhiith said in his speech, adding, "Culture and taste is something that must be acquired at a festival like this, where we get to hear the music of our roots."

The Dhaka International Folk Festival, presented by Meril, powered by Dhaka Bank and organised by Sun Communications, continues today and tomorrow, featuring an array of performers from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, USA, Bahrain and Spain.

Biswa Ijtema

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due to the 11th parliamentary elections.

"The Election Commission also wants that the congregation is held after the election."

He said the new date for the Ijtema will be decided after the election.

The first phase of Biswa Ijtema was scheduled to be held from January 11-13 while the second one from January 18-20.

As per the latest schedule, the general election will be held on December 30.

Executive Development Center Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) East West University Invitation for Tenders					
1	Ministry/Division	Skills for Employment Investment Program, Ministry of Finance			
2	Agency	Executive Development Center, East West University			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Development Center, Skills for Employment Investment Program, East West University			
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A			
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for	Package No.GD (a) Procurement of IT Items Package No.GD (b) Procurement of Electronic Items Package No.GD (c) Procurement of Furniture & Fixture Package No.GD (d) Procurement and Installation of software for Leather Lab			
7	Invitation Ref No	EWU/EDC-SEIP/2018-2019/GD(a)-GD (d)			
8	Date	15/11/2018			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering (National)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh and ADB			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Asian Development Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	N/A			
13	Project / Program Name (if applicable)	Executive Development Center, Skills for Employment Investment Program, East West University			
14	Tender Package No.	GD (a) - GD (d)			
15	Tender Package Name	GD (a) Procurement of IT Items GD (b) Procurement of Electronic Items GD (c) Procurement of Furniture & Fixture GD (d) Procurement and Installation of software for Leather Lab			
16	Tender Publication Date	16/11/2018			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	17/12/2018, Time: 5.00 P.M			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date		Time	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date		Time	
20	Name & Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document	Accounts Officer, Executive Development Center (EDC), Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), East West University Address: Room # 269, Block # D, 1st Floor, Plot No. A/2, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Dhaka-1212			
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS					
- Receiving Tender Document		Room # 269, Block # D, 1st Floor, EDC, SEIP, EWU			
- Opening Tender Document		Room # 418, Block # B, 3rd Floor, EDC, SEIP, EWU by Tender Opening Committee			
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Date		Time	
		N/A		N/A	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tenderer should be from ADB-member countries as listed in Section 9 of the tender document. The Tenderer shall have Updated Trade license/certificate of incorporation, VAT registration and Income Tax Certificate. The Tenderer shall not be insolvent, bankrupt or in receivership and shall not be debarred for entering into contract. The Tenderer shall not be debarred for Fraudulent, collusive, coercive and corrupt practices and for supply of defective goods. Other eligibility criteria as stated in the Tender document. 			
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	GD (a) IT Items GD (b) Electronic Items GD (c) Furniture & Fixture GD (d) Software for Leather Lab			
24	Brief Description of Related Services	None			
25	Price of Tender Document (Taka)	300.00 for each package			
26	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months/Days
N/A. Tender is invited for item-by-item basis		N/A	As stated in the Tender Document.	2% of the quoted price	120 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Dr. Tanbir Ahmed Chowdhury			
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, EDC-SEIP, EWU			
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Development Center, Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), East West University Address: Room # 269, Block # D, 1st Floor, Plot No. A/2, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Dhaka-1212			
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Mobile: 01789011624			
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				
Director EDC-SEIP, EWU					