

Country's 'lone' woollen blanket weaver looks for successor

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

The only known artisan who still makes hand-woven blankets with pure sheep wool in the country is Abdul Khaleq from Nayagola area of Chapainawabganj town.

Khaleq inherited the craft from his parents, with origins in India's Bihar. His grandfather Fazlur Rahman's family, along with about 25 other families, emigrated from Bihar during the partition of the subcontinent in the late forties.

The blankets Khaleq, now 63, makes are really warm and comfortable, but not as heavy or thick as one would expect. The natural woollen blankets woven in Khaleq's handloom are safe for the environment and being sold in prominent stores not just in the country, but also across the globe.

Khaleq collects wool for each and every blanket from household sheep raised all over the district and he processes the wool in his own workshop by himself.

Orders had always been abundant since he started to learn the craft from his father at the young age of ten. But lately, the orders for new blankets have started to exceed his capacity due to his old age, Khaleq said.

His daughter is married off and the two sons took on different professions for a living.

Since he does not have any of his successors to pass on the craft to, he

would gladly train someone outside the family on how to extract wool from sheep, the techniques to process the wool with natural colouring and weave blankets on handloom with the wool, Khaleq also said.

The work is quite demanding physically, but it literally pays off travelling to different places to trim sheep for wool as the owners

Khaleq collects wool for each and every blanket from household sheep raised all over the district and he processes the wool in his own workshop by himself.

pay more or less Tk 50 to trim each sheep.

From extraction of wool to the completion of the weaving on handloom, it takes him about eight to nine days to finish a blanket and each blanket usually sells for a price range of around Tk 2,500 to Tk 4,000, depending on size, type and pattern.

After buying from him, many people are also exporting the blankets overseas, Khaleq said proudly.



Abdul Khaleq displays an intricately crafted blanket that he made from pure wool on handloom at his workshop in Nayagola area of Chapainawabganj town.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR

Success in Darjeeling variety orange, malta cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Abdul Karim in Jashore's Monirampur upazila has achieved success by growing and selling oranges and maltas of Darjeeling variety.

Initially, Karim, 52, brought one bigha of land under orange and malta cultivation. After getting bumper yield and fair prices, he has cultivated the fruits on 15 bighas of land.

Seeing his success in the fruit farming, many people have started cultivating oranges and maltas of the varieties, said locals.

Karim of Mujgunni village said he cultivated the fruits on one bigha of land on experimental basis and found success in growing the delicious oranges and maltas a few years ago.

"Five and half years ago, I bought 125 saplings of maltas and 25 saplings of orange of the Darjeeling varieties from Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation in Jashore. Over a year after plantation, it was found that it had been good yield," he said.

Karim added that in the first phase, total income and costs were equal. The following year, he earned around Tk 2.50 lakh while the next two years, Tk 4 lakh was earned from selling the fruits of the foreign varieties.

"This time, I have earned Tk six lakh from selling the oranges and maltas," he said, adding that the taste of the varieties is much better than any other oranges and maltas in the markets. The fruits are quite large in size.

Every day people from different places are flocking to see his garden and take saplings from there.

Zakir Hossain from Patkelghata in Satkhira said "I mainly cultivate kulboroi. I heard about Karim, who found success in cultivating oranges and maltas of Darjeeling varieties. I



Abdul Karim at his orange garden in Mujgunni village of Jashore's Monirampur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

have recently come to see his garden and taken 400 saplings of oranges and maltas from there."

Karim said educated youths in the country are now looking for jobs. By cultivating these fruits, they can be self-sufficient.

He is now cultivating the fruits on 15 bighas of land.

Karim said he regularly sprays pesticides in the fruit land. Large size oranges and maltas have been sold at Tk 130 per kg.

Karim added that "I invested Tk

25 lakh in the venture in the last few years. I hope I will be able to sell fruits worth Tk 50 to Tk 60 lakh in the coming year."




Apart from fruits, Karim sold saplings of oranges and maltas. Around 20,000 saplings are sold from his land every year.

Monirampur upazila agriculture officer Hiralak Kumar Sarkar said, after seeing the success of Abdul Karim, about 150 bighas of land in the upazila have been brought under the Darjeeling variety fruit cultivation.



Members of village police under the banner of 'Barguna Village Police Employees Union' form an hour-long human chain in front of Barguna Sadar Police Station yesterday morning, demanding implementation of the National Wage Scale.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
 Population & Housing Census 2021 Project
 Parishankhyan Bhaban (Block-B, 1st Floor)
 E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.bbs.gov.bd

Re-Advertisement of Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1.	Ministry	Ministry of Planning.
2.	Division	Statistics and Informatics Division (SID).
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Population & Housing Census 2021 Project, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
4.	Expression of Interest for	Senior Data Processing Consultant (intermittently).
5.	Eol Ref. No. (Re-Advertisement)	52.01.0000.409.39.197.20.495
6.	Date	28.12.2020
7.	Procurement method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC).
8.	Budget and source of fund	GOB.
9.	Project code	224295100
10.	EOI closing date and time	3.00pm of 12.01.2021 and be marked on Envelope "Expression of Interest for Senior Data Processing Consultant" (Re-Advertisement). Submitted EOI(s) will be opened by the Tender/Proposal Opening Committee at 3.30pm of 12/01/2021 at the project office.
11.	The consultant will work closely with the Project Director (PD) to develop database & application related technical guidance and to facilitate smooth implementation of database aspects of the aforementioned census.	
	1) Qualification criteria	<p>a) Education: At least 04 (four) years Bachelor degree with specialization in IT/CS/CE/CST/EEE/ECE etc. or Statistics/Applied Statistics/Mathematics from any reputed universities. Advanced academic/professional qualifications in relevant field from recognized institutes will be added preference.</p> <p>b) Experience: i) Minimum 10 (ten) year's work experience in the related field in any government/semi-government/autonomous organization/reputed private sector organization and progressive experience handling large database. ii) Programming skills in PHP/Java/net framework and Android as back end. iii) Should have advanced understanding on RDBMS. iv) Should be capable of Data migration across various databases. v) Knowledge on Oracle Forms development. vi) Certification on Oracle Database Administration. vii) Sound understanding on data management, analysis & reporting using various tools. viii) Strong communication skills in Bangla and English.</p>
	2) Scope of services	<p>Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>a) Design and development of Geo-Spatial and GIS-Database, Census Databases and Other Databases;</p> <p>b) Install, upgrade, configure, scale, maintain database and applications related processes and servers;</p> <p>c) Ensure high levels of performance, availability, sustainability and security;</p> <p>d) Analyze and handle database network connectivity issues in real time;</p> <p>e) Monitor system's health and performance of Census Database;</p> <p>f) Ensure optimum use of network, monitoring application and databases;</p> <p>g) Develop DFD, ERD and other data models;</p> <p>h) RAC, Cluster, storage configuration;</p> <p>i) Database, Data Guard Installation, Develop processes for optimizing database security;</p> <p>j) Set and maintain database standards, SQL optimization, performance tuning of database systems;</p> <p>k) Diagnose and troubleshoot database and application errors;</p> <p>l) Create and manage database reports, visualizations, and dashboards;</p> <p>m) Create automation for repeating database tasks;</p> <p>n) Build database systems of high availability and quality depending on each end user's specialized role;</p> <p>o) Define users and enable data distribution to the right user, in appropriate format and in a timely manner;</p> <p>p) Minimized database downtime and manage parameters to provide fast query responses;</p> <p>q) Perform tests and evaluations regularly to ensure data security, privacy and integrity;</p> <p>r) Monitor database performance, implement changes and apply new patches and versions when required;</p> <p>s) Database Backup Policy and Manage Historical Backup;</p> <p>t) Maintain all liaisons with concern data processing firm of the project and give feedback to the Project Director.</p> <p>u) Develop proper disaster recovery plan & recover all databases within shortest time on demand.</p> <p>v) Any other task assigned by Project Authority.</p>
	3) Remuneration	A contract will be signed for 24 man months (intermittently) with the selected candidate as per PPA 2006 and PPR 2008. Remuneration will be paid in local currency (BDT). Payments will be made at the end of every month from the commencement with the condition of satisfactory performance report.
	4) Duration of the contract	Tenure of employment will be initially for 24 man months (intermittently) or till the end of June, 2024, which one ends earlier. The duration may be extended subject to the approval of the competent authority.
12.	Number of individual consultant	01 (one).
13.	Name of the official inviting EOI	Mr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed.
14.	Designation of the official inviting EOI	Project Director, Population & Housing Census 2021 Project, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
15.	Address of official inviting EOI	Project Director, Population & Housing Census 2021 Project, Parishankhyan Bhaban (Block-B, 1st Floor), E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
16.	Contact of the official inviting EOI	Phone: 02-55007008; Email: pd_phc21@bbs.gov.bd
17.	Information is available at	Website: www.bbs.gov.bd and www.sid.gov.bd
Interested candidates are invited to submit their EOI indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, details of experiences and required qualifications stated above. Interested candidates are also requested to submit the photocopy of all academic certificates, proof of experience. The candidate must mention his/her educational qualifications and required experiences according to 11.1) a) 11.1)b) of this EOI in the Curriculum Vitae (CV) along with the filled in EOI/application. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.		

Sd/
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 Project Director
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