

Silk business faces tough times

FROM PAGE 12
According to handloom owners, the silk clothing business peaks during Pahela Boishakh and the two Muslim festivals of Eid-ul-Fitre and Eid-ul-Azha.
Already two festivals have gone and the other is only a few months away but still there's no sign of buyers, weavers lamented.
Many owners like Monojit and Samir, who took loans from banks, NGOs, private moneylenders and bought the yarns on credit, are now worried about timely repayment.
The workers are in worse condition. Their daily earning of Tk 250 to Tk 350 from weaving clothes has vanished since the shutdown.
Probol Chandra Singha, a handloom worker of Laharpur village,

has to depend on relief rice and loans from his employer to survive the pandemic days.
Another handloom worker Shafigul Islam of Nayalavanga village in Shibganj upazila had to work as farm hand during the Boro harvest to feed his family of four.
Niranjon Das, Secretary of Baroghoria Weavers Association, said there are over 1,200 handlooms at Horinagar, Kansat, Biswanathpur and Chaturpur villages of Shibganj, and Laharpur and Bohorom villages of Sadar upazila.
Though on April 5, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled a Tk 20,000 crore stimulus package for cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises, Niranjon said weavers in the area have not received any help from the

government.
Mohammad Azad Hossain, assistant general manager of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), told this correspondent that a 17-member committee was formed on June 9 for preparing a list of small business owners, who will be able to avail soft loans.
The committee, led by the deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj, includes bank officials as well as representatives of small entrepreneurs and Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce.
Weavers will also get loans under this list of affected businesses, Azad added.
However, he could not specify the loan amount or the number of businesses that will be covered.

Latest outbreak in Beijing

FROM PAGE 12
lockdowns that devastated economies. Europe also remains the hardest-hit continent with over 190,000 deaths.
Facing the biggest recession in the EU's history, leaders held a virtual summit on the European Commission's proposal for a 750 billion euro (\$840 billion) rescue fund.
The plan is seen as a key gesture of solidarity and unity for the troubled bloc.
But opposition is fierce from the "frugal four" -- Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Austria -- who have promised to fight to rein in spending.
On the other side are countries such as Italy and Spain that were the first and hardest hit by the pandemic, having already been crippled by overstretched finances.
"It is clear that we expect no essential agreements at this summit," said a German government official, with a French source describing it as "warm-up round".
Leaders are instead likely to land a compromise in late July, as urged by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
'CAME FROM EUROPE'
China, where the disease first publicly emerged in December last year, has been cracking down on a fresh outbreak in the capital Beijing.
Authorities launched a nationwide campaign to inspect food imports after a cluster at a food market in Beijing,

Tens of thousands of people are also being tested while neighbourhoods have been locked down and schools closed.
The resurgence came after China had largely brought the virus under control and eased restrictions on movement inside the country.
Chinese authorities said studies of genome data, which it had shared with the World Health Organization, suggest the new outbreak in Beijing "came from Europe", but is different from what is currently spreading there.
"It is older than the virus currently circulating in Europe," Zhang Yong of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.
He raised the possibility of the virus lurking in imported frozen food or in the wholesale market itself, resulting in similarities to older strains.
VIRUS CAME TO ITALY IN DECEMBER
Chinese scientists have said the virus likely emerged in a market that sold wildlife in the central city of Wuhan in December, but Beijing officials have recently suggested that it may have originated elsewhere.
In Italy, a study by the national health institute said the coronavirus was present in two cities in the north in December, over two months before the first case was discovered there.
Researchers discovered genetic

traces of SARS-CoV-2 -- as the virus is officially known -- in samples of waste water collected in Milan and Turin at the end of last year, and Bologna in January, the institute said Thursday.
The results "help to understand the start of the circulation of the virus in Italy," the ISS said.
Italy was the first European country to be hit by the virus and the first in the world to impose a nationwide lockdown. It has recorded over 34,500 deaths.
NO MORE LOCKDOWNS IN US
The United States still leads the world in the number of confirmed infections and deaths, with the fatality toll approaching 120,000.
Its economy has also been brutalised with layoffs topping 45.7 million, putting pressure on US President Donald Trump as he seeks re-election in November.
But Trump's infectious diseases tsar Fauci said in an interview with AFP that the US does not need more widespread lockdowns.
He predicted it would instead focus on "trying to better control those areas of the country that seem to be having a surge of cases".
Fauci added he was optimistic the world would soon have a vaccine to end the pandemic, calling early trial results "encouraging".
Normality is returning to cultural and sporting events disrupted by the virus.

Man shot dead

FROM PAGE 12
information and sent it to Rajbari General Hospital morgue for autopsy.
No case was filed as of 8:05 pm yesterday in this connection.
Meanwhile, police were conducting drives to detain the miscreants.
Virus claims
FROM PAGE 12
received by the SBMCH authorities after his death, showed he was positive for coronavirus, said Bakir.
Emdad left his wife, who is also a doctor, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.
More than 1,000 doctors have been infected countrywide with the virus.

No tariff

FROM PAGE 12
getting this as an LDC.
"It is in addition to the preferential duties that we are already enjoying from China under Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)."
This announcement opens the doors for Bangladeshi exporters to enjoy zero tariff for 5,161 more items to enter the Chinese market from July 1.
This declaration comes as per China's commitment to zero tariff treatment for 97 percent of the products of the least developed countries that have established diplomatic relations with China, said a notification from the Ministry of Finance of China on Tuesday.

China releases

FROM PAGE 12
on the poor and vulnerable households.
The current loan will be the second to India from AIIB under its COVID-19 crisis recovery facility apart from the earlier approved \$500 million loan for the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project, reported our New Delhi correspondent.
On Thursday, Indian foreign ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said that Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar would take part in a previously scheduled virtual meeting with counterparts from Russia and China on June 23.
Jaishankar spoke to senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on Wednesday and they agreed not to take any steps to escalate matters.
But Jaishankar and Wang Yi traded blame for the deadliest border clash since 1967 and called for the other side to rein in its troops.
Since the clashes, military officials have held talks but there is no sign of a breakthrough. And a day after the funerals of some of the soldiers in their hometowns, the public mood was hardening in India, with growing calls for revenge and a boycott of Chinese-made goods.
With his nation in shock over the loss its soldiers lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces one of the most difficult foreign policy challenges since he came to power in 2014.
Modi chaired an all-party meeting in New Delhi yesterday to discuss the crisis. The video meeting began with Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the foreign minister briefing the parties on the deadly brawl at Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh.
Congress President Sonia Gandhi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were among the leaders who attended the meeting via video conference and conveyed their strong support to the government.
Some 76 soldiers were injured as the Chinese assaulted them with hand-made weapons like spiked clubs, rods wrapped in barbed wire and rocks, Indian sources said.
US SYMPATHY
The United States offered condolences to India yesterday over the deaths its soldiers, reports Reuters.
"We extend our deepest condolences to the people of India for the lives lost as a result of the recent confrontation with China," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a message posted on Twitter.
"We will remember the soldiers' families, loved ones, and communities as they grieve."
Having actively sought greater economic engagement with China, Modi is compelled to review the state of those ties, just at a time when Sino-US relations have also deteriorated.

As a non-aligned nation, India has always sought to balance the influence of super-powers, while maintaining an independent course in foreign policy matters.
But in the past two decades, New Delhi has built closer political and defence ties with Washington, and the United States has become one of India's top arms suppliers.
In the wake of the rising tensions with Beijing, there are rising calls from top former Indian diplomats for an even tighter relationship with the US and its allies such as Japan to help face the economic and military might of China.
"This is an opportunity for India to align its interests much more strongly and unequivocally with the US as a principal strategic partner and infuse more energy into relations with Japan, Australia, and Asean," former foreign secretary Nirupama Rao wrote in The Hindu newspaper.

Deceitful plants!

FROM PAGE 12
them alive and confuses hungry herbivores.
"Easily distinguished odours are to the herbivores' advantage and plants' disadvantage," said Professor Phil Stevenson, a researcher at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
"So, we have an information arms race. Plants want to avoid being located and eaten so do their best to smell like other plants."
Thursday's study was the first time scientists were able to analyse the interactions between such a wide variety of plants and insects, lead author Pengjuan Zu at Massachusetts Institute of Technology said.
Previous attempts to understand the cat-and-mouse evolution game between plants and insects relied on the study of only individual plant species in controlled environments.
This is a far cry from the ensemble of plant and insect species that coexist in real-life forests, the authors wrote.
To do this, Zu collected chemical odours emitted by nearly two-dozen plant species in silicon tubes, which

were then brought back to Kew to be analysed.
Through a combination of "information theory" -- a technique for understanding communication patterns in humans -- and existing understandings of evolutionary biology, scientists were able to construct models of these plant-herbivore communication networks.
"We now know that all the chemicals produced by plants carry information which has an important role in chemically camouflaging plants in a complex plant community," Zu said.
The study could also help scientists better understand how information is passed between different species in the food chain, such as carnivores and insect-eating herbivores -- potentially paving the way for future research.
"Herbivores, consequently, have to evolve to be finer tuned with the information for locating specific plant hosts," Zu said. "The information can be further shared by carnivores that hunt insect herbivores, resulting in an information chain along the food chain."

MP Shahid earned

FROM PAGE 1
exchange for facilitating his work by bringing in workers from Bangladesh," the report said.
Shahid is accused of human trafficking and money laundering. Till Thursday, five were arrested in this connection.
Among the five, three were Kuwaiti officials. Four more were detained for interrogation on Thursday.
Of the three officials, one is an employee in the Public Authority for Manpower which is the government agency concerned with labour affairs in Kuwait.
The official's sister has a manpower company and has a deal with Shahid to bring workers to Kuwait from Bangladesh.
The prosecution on Thursday listened to the owner of the Kuwaiti manpower company but she denied any illegal involvement.
Shahid pleaded innocent after he was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department in Kuwait on June 6, but he gradually confessed to the charges.
The four were interrogated based on the information that he paid large sums of money to high-placed officials, including a security official, former and serving Kuwaiti lawmakers.
He told the investigators that certain Kuwaiti quarters within

the government were involved in residency trade which paved the entry of Bangladeshi workers to the Arab country in exchange for money.
Shahid is a Kuwaiti citizen co-own a big recruitment company named Marafie Kuwaitia.
He is accused of charging each worker, mostly Bangladeshi ones, up to 3,000 dinars for sending them to Kuwait.
The workers also paid huge sums to the company for renewing their residency every year.
Following a complaint filed on February 16, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission opened an enquiry into an allegation that MP Shahid amassed Tk 1,400 crore by trafficking people to Kuwait and laundered the money to different countries.
Also in February, Kuwaiti media reported that three Bangladeshis were operating a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country.
On February 12, a report in the Arab Times said one of the three was a "member of parliament in Bangladesh".
According to the report, the trio "occupied sensitive positions" in three major companies that brought over 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391.6 crore.

Trump moves court

FROM PAGE 12
Where it Happened" violates secrecy laws because it was not properly vetted.
Bolton's side will argue for freedom of speech, saying that the manuscript was in fact put through extensive examination by the White House, which simply doesn't like the contents.
It wasn't clear when the judge might rule.
The book, scheduled to go to bookstores on Tuesday, is Bolton's portrait of Trump after seeing him up close for 17 months before he was ousted in September.
The picture -- which Trump says is "fiction" -- is ugly.
According to Bolton, a lifelong Republican who stands firmly on the right of the party, Trump is not "fit for office."
He describes Trump "pleading" with Chinese President Xi Jinping during trade negotiations to boost his chances of re-election this November.
He claims that Trump, a real estate tycoon who never held office before winning the White House, was so ignorant that he thought Finland was part of Russia.
Bolton also backs up the allegations at the center of Trump's impeachment last year that he pressured Ukraine to try and dig up dirt to weaken his Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden.
Not only this, but Trump committed other "Ukraine-like transgressions" in his wielding of foreign policy for personal gain, Bolton alleges.
The Justice Department was granted

yesterday's emergency hearing after it sued for a temporary injunction to block the book on national security grounds.
The legal maneuver comes late, given that the book has already been printed and sent to warehouses around the world, ready to distribute. Advance copies have been given to the media, resulting in publication of copious extracts.
Bolton himself is on the television interview circuit to promote his work.
The sensationally blunt appraisal from someone who had that level of access has rocked the White House when the president is already mired in criticism over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and race tensions.
But Bolton finds himself shunned both by Republicans, who see him as a saboteur, and by Democrats, who blame him for not coming forward earlier -- particularly when he had a chance to testify in the impeachment.
The backlash from Trump loyalists and the president himself has been savage. The government could still seek to force Bolton to surrender proceeds or even file charges against him.
Trump called him "a sick puppy," a "boring fool" and a "washed-up guy."
"Said all good about me, in print, until the day I fired him," he tweeted Wednesday.
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo branded Bolton "a traitor."
"John Bolton is spreading a number of lies, fully-spun half-truths and outright falsehoods," Pompeo said in a statement.

Chinese fighters breach Taiwan defence zone

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan said a Chinese fighter jet entered its defence zone yesterday, the fourth incursion in as many days as Beijing's warplanes buzz the island with an unprecedented frequency.
The defence ministry said at least one J-10 fighter flew into Taiwan's southwestern air defence identification zone (ADIZ), prompting Taipei to scramble its own jets.
"The Chinese communist aircraft left our ADIZ after we broadcast warnings to leave," the ministry said in a statement.
The ADIZ stretches beyond Taiwan's airspace and is used to give an early warning of possible incursions. China

maintains a similar air defence zone.
Breaches used to be rare, but in the last two weeks six incursions by Chinese jets have been made public by Taiwan.
The sudden uptick came after a US military plane flew through Taiwanese airspace with permission.
Beijing views democratic and self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.
It has ramped up military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Taiwan since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who refuses to acknowledge that the island is part of "one China".
The pressure has done little to dent Tsai's popularity and she won a landslide second term in January.

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Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12
Welfare, today calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence. He discusses Bangladesh's entry into this international organisation. SD Gokhale praises Bangabandhu's leadership and says that the whole of Asia is looking up to him as a role model for emancipation of oppressed people. Bangabandhu expresses his gratitude and says that he wants to build the society of Bangladesh in such a way where every citizen will be an epitome of idealism and self-sacrifice.
BANGLADESH ACCEPTS RED CROSS'S PROPOSAL OF CIVILIAN EXCHANGE
Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today says that the government accepts the Red Cross proposal of exchanging civilians between Bangladesh and Pakistan on a one-to-one basis. He informs the decision at a meeting with the new Red Cross Chief A Scheifele, who is currently visiting Dhaka. According to this proposal, initially 1,000 ill and injured civilians will be exchanged between the two countries.
SOURCES: June 21, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

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Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.001(Part-1).18.2716

Date: 18/06/2020

e-Tender Notice

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| Sl. No. | Package No. | Name of works | Tender/ Proposal ID No. | Method of tender |
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| 8. | GSIDP/COM/SDW-520 | Improvement of Bhananipur Central Jame Mosque, Union: Boroshalghor, Latitude: 23.67606, Longitude: 91.03941 under Debidwar Upazila, District: Cumilla. | 472057 | LTM |
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The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd.

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GD-1014