



PHOTO: STAR

Weavers busy making traditional shawls with handloom at Abadpur village in Delduar upazila under Tangail district as the relatively cheap warm clothes are in high demand as a cold wave sweeps over the country.

Shawl makers in Delduar have no time to waste

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

With the winter setting in, the shawl makers in Delduar upazila are now busy producing various colourful pieces of the item as they consider it as their peak season.

Local weavers here have already gained popularity for shawls, locally known as *chador*, like that of their traditional sari.

Although produced in many places in the upazila, shawls made in the two villages -- Abadpur and Elasin -- are of great fame. Over 100 families in the two villages have been maintaining their livelihood by producing the item for years.

Shawl is produced in handlooms and the weaving process is similar to that of sari.

The varieties of shawl produced in Delduar include *du suti*, *pair*, *kirkiri*, *noyon tara*, *bohurupi* etc and their prices range from Tk 300 to Tk 1000, workers said.

Local handloom owners said, they produce shawl often as per designs given by the wholesalers.

The wholesalers also supply the necessary yarn, they said.

The period from October to February is the peak season for producing the items while the rest period of the year generally sees dull business, they added.

While visiting Abadpur and Elasin villages, this correspondent saw that not only the family members of the weavers, but also the poor women and their children in the localities were engaged in the job.

Local handloom owners Safar Ali, Jahangir Mollah and Iqbal Bhuiyan told this correspondent that depending on designs, they get Tk 60 to Tk 80 from the wholesalers for producing each shawl.

"I can earn Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 per month through producing shawls in my eight handlooms during the peak period," said Lutfar Rahman of Abadpur village.

Weaver Budu Miah of the

same village said, they can make six to seven items a day and earn Tk 40 to Tk 50 per shawl.

"I can earn Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 a month during the peak season," he added.

Wholesaler Iqbal Hossain said, he, like the others from Dhaka, gives alternative designs and colourful yarns to the handloom owners to produce their shawls.

"The demand for shawls is increasing at different markets in the country due to their eye catching designs and reasonable prices," he said.

"Of course, they see highest sale in the winter time", he added.



Come to aid of a veteran journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Critically ill veteran journalist Shamsul Haque, 80, is passing his days at Gafargaon upazila health complex almost without treatment.

Haque suffered a massive brain hemorrhage while at work at Shaheed Belal Pathagar in Gafargaon Thursday evening.

He was first taken to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) and later shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka. For better treatment, he was also taken to a private hospital there.

But as Shamsul Haque, a confirmed bachelor, needed Tk. six lakh for operation and he had no way to manage the amount, he returned to Gafargaon upazila health complex yesterday evening.

We are doing whatever possible although we have little scope to treat him here, said Dr. K. Zaman, upazila health and family planning officer.

Shamsul Haque founded Shaheed Belal Pathagar (library) at Gafargaon and he had been the honorary librarian since its establishment in 1962, locals said.

He also founded Gafargaon Press Club in 1960 to develop the professional skills of the rural journalists, they said.

Shamsul Haque also established an elderly learning centre (night school) and Padma Papri, an organisation for children in the 1980s.

In his youth, Shamsul Haque joined journalism in 1956 and worked at a local newspaper of Mymensingh. He was appointed Gafargaon correspondent of The Daily Ittefaq in 1958.

Ataur Rahman Minto, Ittefaq correspondent in Gafargaon, also president of Gafargaon Press Club called upon all to come to the aid of the veteran journalist.

For sending assistance Savings Account No-8777 at Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Gafargaon Branch, Mymensingh, has been, he said.

25 hurt in fresh post-poll clash in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 25 people were injured during a clash between the supporters of an elected councillor and a defeated councillor candidate in the city yesterday.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, said Shahjalal Karim Bakul of Babukha area was elected councillor of Ward No 22 in the recently held Rangpur City Corporation election, defeating his rival candidate Hakibuzzaman Bakul of Goneshpur in the same ward.

Following an altercation between some supporters of Shahjalal and Hakibuzzaman at noon, people belonging to both sides, equipped with bamboo sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons locked in a fierce clash.

At least 25 people from the clashing groups sustained injuries during the clash that continued for half an hour from 12:00noon. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and charged batons to disperse the feuding groups.

The law enforcers also arrested 30 people of the two rival groups from the spot.

Four of the injured--Lebu, Sujon, Jhony and Shimul--were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while rest given first aid at the hospital.

Zakir Hossain, assistant superintendent of police, said police have been deployed in the ward to avert any further incident.

On December 22, post-election clash between the supporters of two defeated councillor candidates left a man dead and 15 other injured Kishamat-Bishu area in the city.

Police and local people said the supporters of Belal Hossain and Shamsul Alam, two councillor candidates from Ward No 31, blamed each other for their defeat in the city corporation election soon after the results were announced on the night of December 20.

As a sequel to the altercation, Shamsul's men equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house of Belal at Kishamat-Bishu area in the city at around 11:00am on December 22, prompting his supporters to retaliate.

One of the injured named Dalim Hossain, 40, supporter of Belal, succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur medical College Hospital at around 6:00pm on the day.

One killed, 40 hurt as rival groups trade fire in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man was shot dead and at least 40 others were injured, five of them bullet hit, during a fierce clash between two rival groups at Dhamaura village under Aruail union in Sarail upazila on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Suab Mia, 32, of Gazi group of the village.

According to eyewitness, hospital and police sources, there had been a long-standing rivalry between Talukder family and Gazi family over establishing supremacy in the village.

On Sunday evening, both groups equipped with lethal weapons including firearms locked in an hour-long clash over a trifling matter.

Suab Mia of Gazi group was shot dead on the spot while at least 40 others from both groups were injured. At least five houses and shops of both the groups were also damaged.

Of the injured, at least five people sus-

tained bullet wounds. Conditions of Emdadul Haque, 23, Akkas Mia, 22, Kawser Mia, 20, Mukter Hossain, 22, Abdus Satter, 25, Sakil Mia, 9, and Marjina Begum, 30, were stated to be critical at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) Uttam Kumar Chakrabarti of Sarail PS said they deployed additional forces to avert any further trouble.

A case has been filed, he added.

In Moulvibazar, a man was killed and six others were injured when two rival groups attacked each other following a dispute over a piece of land at Mubarakpur village in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

The deceased was Kazi Nesar Miah, 50, of the village, reports UNB.

Nesar Miah's son Kazi Rajon said that Noel Miah of Shahbandar village in the upazila, along with his men swooped on their house in the afternoon as a sequel to a previous enmity over a piece of land, leaving Nesar killed and six others injured.

Catalysis for **Positive Change** 2013
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Catalysis wishing well health to all of our well wisher

new partner

Welhealth promise renewed

blue VIUSID RENALOF ONCOXIN melani catalysis South Asia Operations Casao cicatrix

Glittering with the joy of welcoming another year we set our destiny with that of our valued clients and well-wishers...

Happy New Year 2013

BASIC Bank Limited
Serving people for progress
A STATE OWNED SCHEDULED BANK

Happy New Year 2013

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই ইংরেজি নববর্ষের শুভেচ্ছা

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ
website : www.agranibank.org

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND 2013 Happy New Year radio today 89.6fm THE 1ST PRIVATE RADIO STATION