

Kurigram potters need tech, financial help for survival

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Potters belonging to 56 families of Paal community at Kumarpara of Krishnapur village under Kurigram municipality are passing hard days as their products are of no longer in popular demand.

Now they are in need of financial and technical help to diversify their products to meet changing taste of the customers.

Visiting Kumarpara a couple of days ago, this correspondent found male and female potters busy making different kinds of clay materials including well-rings, pitchers, big disks (locally called chari), stocks, plates, toys, earth-bank, flower-tubs etc.

"Most of the pottery items have lost demand as plastic things have occupied their place. Now we are giving preference to make clay articles like terracotta, ceramic tiles and flower tubs," said potter Shobha Rani Paal, 45.

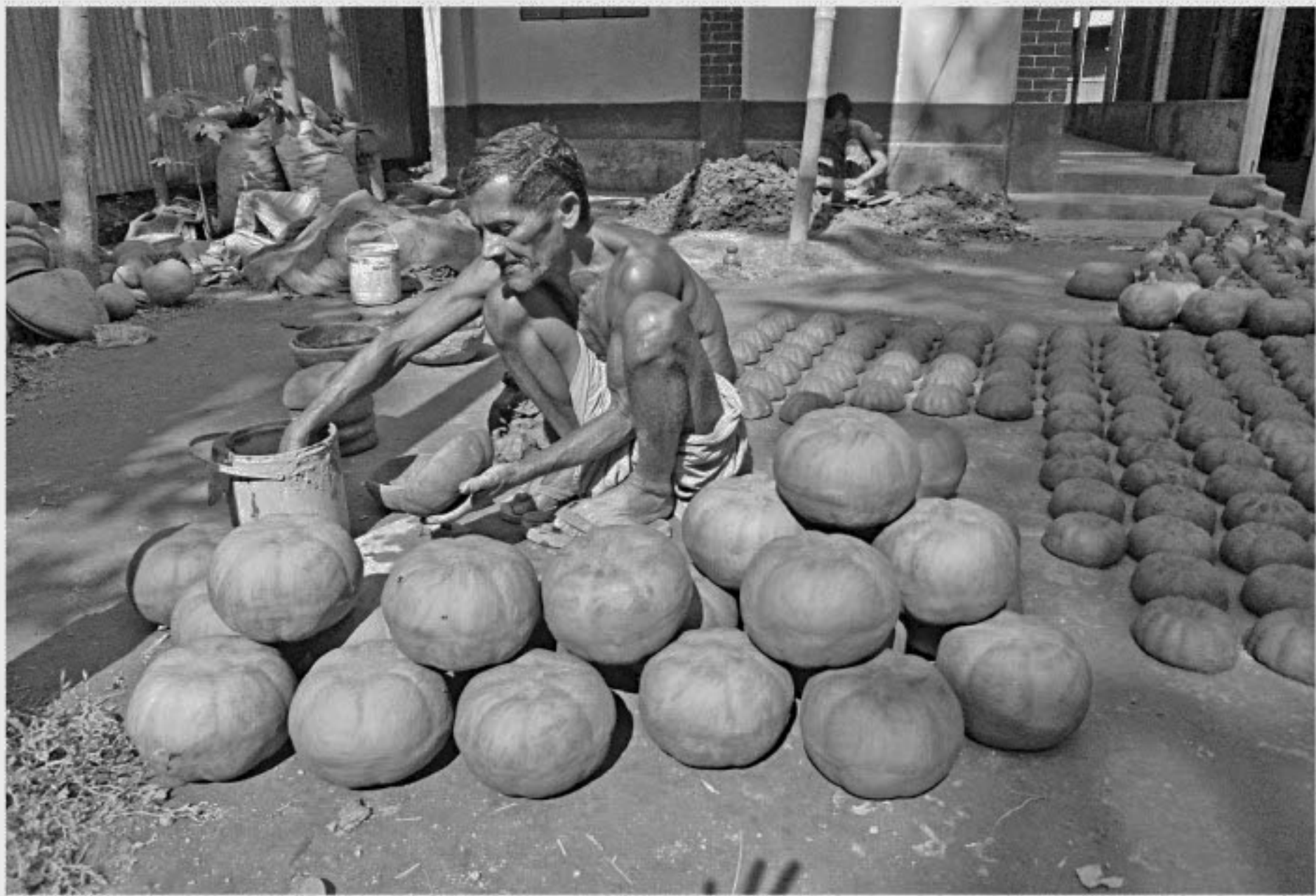


PHOTO: STAR

A potter makes earthenware at Kumarpara in Kurigram town.

"We do not have even suitable places for selling our products in markets. We have been selling the items beside a dustbin at Zia Bazar of Kurigram town for last several years," said potter Bisnu Kumar Paal.

"It has become very difficult to survive with this profession. We need motor-run wheel-machines for making different clay articles to give them touch of modernity, but we cannot afford it," said potter

Shaudha Rani Paal, 75.

Liton Chandra Paal, 23, urged the authorities concerned for arranging easy term loan from agencies like BSCIC to help them sustain the traditional profession.

Outlaw held with firearm

UNB, Rajbari

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an activist of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lal Potaka) along with a firearm and bullets from Rahim Khan brick field area in Goalanda upazila early Friday.

The arrestee was identified as Kadam Ali, son of late Kobbat Ali Sheikh of Tenaponcha village in the upazila.

On secret information, the elite force conducted a drive in the area early in the morning and arrested Kadam along with a pistol and five bullets.

Later, the arrestee was handed over to Goalanda Chat Police Station.

Housewife stabbed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A housewife has been stabbed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Sadar upazila of Habiganj district.

Police arrested the victim's father-in-law in connection with the incident on Friday.

She was identified as Sefa Begum, 24, daughter of Samad Miah of Auspara village and mother of a six-month-old girl.

Police and family sources said Sefa married Moin Miah, son of Gias Uddin of Ripatpur village in Nabiganj upazila, two years ago.

After the marriage, Moin and his family members often tortured Sefa for dowry.

On Thursday afternoon, Moin stabbed Sefa indiscriminately, leaving her seriously injured following an altercation over the issue. She was rushed to a local hospital, said Ibrahim, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station.

Later, a case was filed in this connection.

Police arrested Gias Uddin, father-in-law of the victim, in the town on Friday night, said the SI, adding that prime accused Moin went into hiding after the incident.

Man commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man allegedly committed suicide at Bashudevpur village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Barun Chandra Raoy, 42, son of Debendranath Roy of the village.

Locals said Barun took his life by hanging himself from a mango tree beside his house early in the morning.

BSF returns 9 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned nine Bangladeshis who were detained from different border points on charge of entering the country without valid documents.

BSF handed them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) following a flag meeting held at Sonamasjid check-post in Shibganj upazila around 1:30pm.

The returnees include eight women and a child. They all hail from different upazilas of Natore, Naogaon, Cox's Bazar, Madaripur, Joypurhat and Bogra districts.

Shamsul Islam, camp commander of Sonamasjid BGB Camp, said BSF detained them from different bordering areas on charge of illegal entry into India and handed them to police stations.

Later, they were sent to a shelter home in Malda district in Paschimbanga of India.

BSF in association with the Indian police and a local NGO handed them to its Bangladeshi counterpart.

Bangladeshi shot dead by Khasias

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian Khasia people shot dead a Bangladeshi national at Guabari border point in Jaintapur upazila under the district on Friday.

The victim, Kudrat Ullah, 30, of Guabari Adarshagram village, was grazing his cow in the border area at 11:00am when some Indian Khasias opened fire on him, leaving him dead on the spot, said sources of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) later took the body, said Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, OC of Jaintapur Police Station. BGB yesterday protested the killing at a flag meeting with BSF, said police.

Bullet-hit Pangsha UZ vice-chairman dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Pangsha Upazila Parishad Vice-Chairman Munshi Nader Hossain, 55, who was injured in a gun attack at Katchripara village in the upazila under Rajbari district on Friday, died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) early yesterday.

The slain Nader Hossain was also president of the Rajbai district unit of

Krishak League. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sahidul Islam of Rajbari Sadar Police Station said Nader was shot by unidentified criminals in front of his house at Katchripara village in the morning.

Witnesses said a gang of 4 to 5 criminals swooped on Nader when he came out of his house at around 9:30am to go to the upazila parishad office.

The gang shot the upazila vice-chairman in the chest

and abdomen and left the scene in two motorbikes, they added.

Nader was rushed to Rajbari Sadar Hospital and then shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where he died early yesterday.

No one was arrested in connection with the killing as of 5:00pm yesterday. Police said they are trying to unearth clue to the incident and arrest the criminal involved.

Bid to snatch accused from cops, ASI injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) of Police was injured when a gang of criminals attacked law enforcers in a bid to snatch an arrested accused from their custody at Ambari village of Chirirbandar upazila yesterday.

The injured policeman, Abdur Rahman, 33, is undergoing treatment at Chirirbandar Upazila Health Complex.

Police said a team of the law enforcers led by ASI Abdur Rahman, raided the village around 12:00noon and arrested listed crim-

inal Mohammad Sangram, 35, son of Momtaz Mollah of Punutri village.

When the law enforcers were returning to the police station along with the arrestee, his cohorts equipped with bamboos and sticks swooped on the policemen in a bid to snatch him.

The gang beat up ASI Rahman mercilessly and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured.

The other policemen, however, managed to take Sangram to the police station foiling the snatching bid, police said.

Cold diarrhoea spreads in C'nawabganj

Adhunik Sadar Hospital struggles to deal with growing number of patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

With the cold weather approaching, diarrhoea is spreading in the municipality and other areas of Sadar upazila in the district.

Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital sources said over 129 people, mostly children and women, were admitted there with the waterborne disease in last one week.

Seventeen diarrhoea patients were admitted there yesterday morning till 11:00am.

Visiting the hospital yesterday, this correspondent saw many diarrhoea patients being treated in the hospital corridor as the 10-bed ward meant for diarrhoea patients is too inadequate.

"Twenty-five to 30 diarrhoea patients come to the hospital daily, causing serious accommodation problem for them. There is enough oral saline, IV fluid and necessary medicines at the hospital, but we are struggling to deal with the growing number of patients due to shortage of

manpower," said a senior staff nurse of the hospital.

Forty to 50 diarrhoeal patients also receive treatment at the outdoor section every day, hospital sources said.

"Mostly children are being attacked with cold diarrhoea as winter is approaching. There is no crisis of oral saline, IV fluid and necessary medicines at Adhunik Sadar Hospital in the district town to tackle the situation," said Dr Shafiqul Islam, resident medical officer of Adhunik Sadar Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Admitted diarrhoea patients stay on the veranda of Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital as its 10-bed Diarrhoea Ward fails to accommodate the rising number of patients.

Clash over control of cattle market in Jessore

Villagers' clash leaves 20 hurt in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Two rival groups of the local unit of the ruling party clashed at Samta Bazar in Sharsha upazila of Jessore on Friday night over taking control of Satmile cattle market near the bazar.

Sahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sarsa Police Station, said the supporters of local Awami League leaders Liakat and Akbar Member locked in the clash over taking control of the cattle market and establishing supremacy in the area at around 9:30pm.

Both sides chased each other and blasted at least 12 crude bombs during the

clash, leaving the people injured.

Being informed, police went to the area and dispersed the clashing groups. They also seized an unexploded bomb from the spot.

In Faridpur, at least 20 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over previous enmity at Kamdia village in Saltha upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said there had been a long-standing enmity between Nurul Islam Matabbar of the village.

As a sequel to the enmity, Siddik Matabbar's men hit Mohammad Fakir, sup-

porter of Nurul Islam Matabbar, in the morning, leaving him seriously injured.

Later, supporters of Teharuddin Matubbar of adjoining Laxandia village, backed by Siddik, locked in a clash with Nurul Islam Matabbar's men, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

At least 20 houses were vandalised and looted during the clash. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police also arrested Teharuddin Matabbar and his brother Sayeed Matabbar in connection with the clash.

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