

Quilt makers passing busy time as winter approaches

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,
Nilphamari

Quilt makers in the district are now passing busy time from morning till midnight as demand of the item has increased amid fall of temperature in the area ahead of the winter.

Temperature in the district fell by 8-10 degrees Celsius from previous 26-28 degrees in last two weeks and it was 17 degrees Celsius on Saturday morning, weather office in Dimla informed.

The temperature is likely to fall drastically from mid-November and it might be as low as 3 degrees Celsius in December-January, said Zakir Hossen, in charge of weather office in Dimla.

As low-income people in the poverty stricken district suffer from lack of stamina due to malnutrition and often fail to manage sufficient warm clothes, they become the worst sufferers of the severe cold affecting the northern region.

People are crowding the shops of quilt makers in both towns and rural areas of the district to buy new quilts or get the old ones repaired to fight the winter.

"Around 700 quilt makers in the district are now passing very busy time. One can make 5-6 quilts a day and take Tk 200 as making

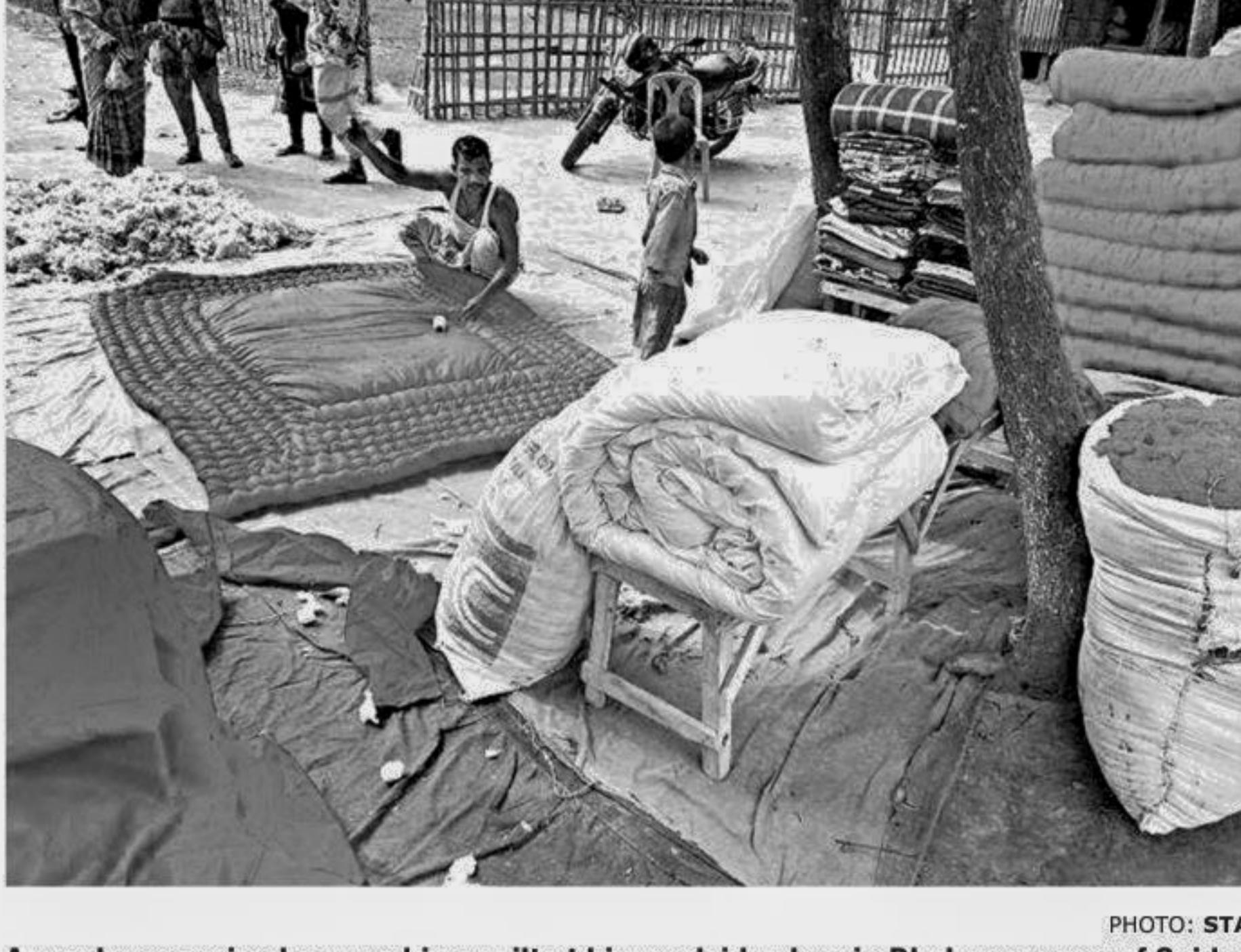


PHOTO: STAR

A comber remains busy making quilt at his roadside shop in Dhelapeer area of Saidpur municipality under Nilphamari district as demand of the item sees rise with the early arrival of winter in the country's northern region.

charge, which was Tk 175 last year," said Rabiul Islam, convenor of district quilt combers group.

Insolvent people usually buy quilt made of low quality cotton obtained by processing thrown away cut pieces from garment factories.

Such cotton is selling for Tk 80-Tk 100 per kg compared to last year's Tk 70-Tk 80.

An 8 feet by 5 feet 'double sized' quilt usually needs 6-

7 kg of cotton and the total cost including that for cotton, cloth, thread, sewing and making charge stands at Tk 1200-Tk 1500, which was Tk 1000-Tk 1200 last year, quilt makers said.

Solvent people want to get quilt made of quality cotton and cloth and it costs Tk 2500-Tk 3000 each.

But high quality cotton, costing Tk 300-Tk 350 per kg, is not that much available in the local market.

Md Nehal Hosen, a quilt maker at Dhelapeer market in Saidpur municipality, said the work continues for three months from November to January when he can make 500-600 quilts.

"We are taking Tk 200 as making charge for each quilt. We do business only in winter and have to maintain family throughout the year with the income. We can make hardly any savings to change our lot," he said.

Two arrested with bomb making materials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Law enforcers arrested two people and seized materials for making chocolate bombs from their possession from Silam bypass point on Sylhet-Jakiganj road under Dakkhin Surma upazila of Sylhet district on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Tajul Islam, 22, son of Ayub Ali of Balutikar village under Shahparan Police Station, and Balai, 23, son of Sonam Uddin of Lohar Mahal village in Jakiganj upazila.

Khairul Fazal, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dakkhin Surma Police Station, said a team of police, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in the area and intercepted a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

They recovered seven sacks of bomb making materials after searching the three-wheeler and arrested the duo.

Robbers kill housewife

UNB, Khulna

A housewife killed by a gang of robbers in Textile Mills area of the city on Sunday night.

The deceased is Shefali Rani Banik, 50, wife of late Gobinda Lal Banik of the area.

Police said a gang of four stormed into Shefali's house around 8:00pm. As she cried out for help, the gang stabbed her. She died on the spot.

Woman 'commits suicide' after killing son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman allegedly committed suicide after killing her 10-month-old son at Kulunia village in Sadar upazila of the district on Sunday.

Police arrested one Nazma Begum, mother-in-law of the housewife, in connection with the incident.

The deceased are Poly Khatun, 20, wife of Jalal Uddin, and her son Jubayer Hossain of the village, said family members.

Poly took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room after strangling Jubayer, suspected Abdulla Al Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

On information, police

rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Whether it is a case of suicide or murder, it will be confirmed after getting the autopsy report, said the OC.

Jalal Uddin and his father went into hiding soon after the incident, he said.

JSC EXAMINATIONS

Four sent to jail for writing answers outside centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Four people were jailed and two others fined for preparing answer sheets outside Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination centre at Mokamtola High School in Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The convicts are Azmol Hossain Sabuj, 40, headmaster of Gangnagar Girls' High School, Zakir Hossain Saju, 32, a teacher

of Gujia High School in the upazila, guardians Shahidul Islam, 42, Probir Mohanta, Mukul Mia, 40, owner of a photocopy shop in the area, and Bhabesh Shah, 45, a resident of the area.

Of them, Sabuj, Saju, Shahidul and Probir were sentenced to two months' imprisonment each while Mukul and Bhabesh were fined Tk 10,000 and Tk

5,000 respectively. On information, Executive Magistrate Aminur Rahman, who led a mobile court, detained the six in the area at noon while they were preparing answer sheets outside the centre and later pronounced the verdict.

Ahsan Habib, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, confirmed the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

A man barks the upper portion of a date tree at Baliadanga village in Kaliganj upazila under Jessor district on Sunday to collect tasty juice from there as the seasonal delicacy starts becoming available, heralding the advent of winter.

Her mission blue stays

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hundreds holding one another's hands on the street. They stood in silence seeking justice.

Asma Kibria, on behalf of her family, continued the programme for several years.

For the last 10 long years, she had waited to see the punishment to the culprits responsible for the killing of Shah AMS Kibria, Awami League leader and former finance minister, and those of others.

But her wait for justice came to an end yesterday.

She died of cardiac arrest at the United Hospital in the capital. She was 78.

Asma Kibria breathed her last around 9:10am. She was suffering from multiple complexities for quite a long time; her son Reza Kibria, a physician, told The Daily Star.

Apart from her son, Asma who was also an eminent painter left behind a daughter Nazli Kibria and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shocks at her death.

Born in 1937, Asma Kibria studied at the UN Art School in New York. She later went to the Corcoran School in Washington, where she was influenced by the new styles in non-objective painting by contemporary American artists.

At least 10 of her solo painting exhibitions were held in different cities, including Bangkok.

Her husband Shah AMS Kibria, then opposition lawmaker, and four others were killed in a grenade attack on a rally at Baidyer Bazar in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

Kibria was Bangladesh's finance minister in the Awami League government between 1996 and 2001.

The day after the grenade attack, Abdul Mazid Khan, organising secretary of Habiganj district AL, filed two cases -- one for murder and the other under the Explosives Substance Act.

Asma Kibria had expressed dissatisfaction over the investigation into the murder case during the tenure of the then BNP government. She also filed a petition with the Habiganj court expressing "no-confidence" in the investigation.

Even during the tenure of

the immediate past AL government and the incumbent one, she expressed her frustration over the slow progress in the case.

The murder case is now under trial at the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal while the explosives case at the District and Sessions Judge's Court.

In the latest development in the murder case trial, the court framed charges against 32 people, including ex-home minister Lutfuzzaman Babar, former Sylhet mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury and Huji leader Mufti Hannan.

Thirty-two people, including Babar, Ariful and Mufti Hannan are accused in both the cases.

Of the accused, 15 are in jail, eight on bail while nine others are on the run.

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Strong awareness

FROM PAGE 16

The report titled "Getting the evidence: Asia child marriage initiative" cites that while around 60 percent of Pakistanis and Indonesians consider marrying girls off early to prevent sexual violence, only 14.4 percent in Bangladesh think that way.

The root cause behind the high rate of early marriage in Bangladesh is not religion as the two other countries surveyed are also Muslim majority nations, said Senait Gebregziabher, country director of Plan International Bangladesh.

He stressed the need for further research to understand why people's understanding of the disadvantages of early marriage is not translated into action here.

However, the study concludes that patriarchal norms insisting on male dominance and control over females cause early marriage of girls.

Across the three countries, 89 percent respondents agreed with the statement "a wife should be subservient to her husband" while more than 90 percent think that "a husband should be the head of a household".

The report quoted a Bangladeshi boy as saying, "I must choose a bride who is younger than me so that I can control her. Moreover, she will be able to satisfy my demands... If I marry an older woman, she will try to have authority over me and might not satisfy me sexually."

The study, which began in 2010, was conducted in Dinajpur and Gazipur of Bangladesh, in three districts of Pakistan and two of Indonesia. It covered 2,742 individuals -- 484 females and 306 males -- in Bangladesh, 767 females and 414 males in Pakistan and 472 females and 299 males in Indonesia.

The report recommends addressing the issues that encourage child marriage, including poverty, lack of access to education, community safety and impunity for violence against girls and women. It also calls for increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, strengthening law, sensitizing people to child marriage and promoting gender equality.

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