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CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Bell metal artisans in hardship

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

It used to be that a deep metallic chiming sound was synonymous with Chapainawabganj town. The pounding sound of kansari artisans at work creating bell metal products could be heard while walking along many-a-road. But with the traditional industry on the verge of extinction, it's a sound that's fallen silent.

Twenty-five years ago about a thousand families pursued the centuries-old, ancestral profession of making household articles and utensils including plates and cups in bell metal, which is a form of bronze. Such products from Chapainawabganj earned a reputation for quality.

Nowadays only around one hundred families in Azaipur, Arambagh, Ramskrishtopur, Bat Tala and Shankarati areas around the town continue; a number that is fast dwindling.

"Our traditional products find poor market access," says Shawkat Ali of

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An elderly man, right, working with bell metal at Azaipur village of Chapainawabganj. They make, reshape and polish utensils made of bell metal. Many of the workers inherited the trade but it's now dying. Almost 90 percent of the bell metal workers of the surrounding villages have left the trade in the last 25 years.

PHOTO: STAR

Son murders mother, tries to kill himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A college student reportedly killed his ailing mother by slitting her throat before making an attempt on his own life in Gosaildanga area of the city yesterday.

The victim, Kumkum Chowdhury, 42, was wife of Sukhamoy Chowdhury from Satkania upazila in Chittagong district.

During primary interrogation the suspected assailant, Sumit Chowdhury, 20, admitted to have killed his mother with a sharp kitchen instrument (boti) that was seized by police, said AKM Mohiuddin Selim, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bandar Police Station.

Sumit is currently undergoing treatment for self-inflicted neck injuries in police custody at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

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Kumkum

DEADLY FIRE IN TONGI

Police see factory authorities at fault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police yesterday claimed they have detected neglect of the authorities concerned in the devastating fire at Tampaco Foils Limited in Tongi BSCIC industrial area that left around 34 people dead.

"We have found neglect of the factory owner, who will be placed under arrest," Harun-Ur-Rashid, superintendent of police in Gazipur, told reporters at his office.

The district police chief said primary investigation into the fire proved that the factory owner could not avoid his responsibility.

A case has also been filed against the factory owner and necessary action would be taken, the SP added.

A day after the fire that occurred on September 10, Abdul Kader, father of Jewel, one of the deceased factory workers, filed the case with Tongi police against the owner and seven others.

At least 11 people are still unaccounted for and 50 others suffered burns in the fire as the rescue operation continued for the eighth day yesterday.

A section of workers have meanwhile put the blame on Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited and demanded withdrawal of the case filed against the factory owner.

Around 100 employees and workers took part in a half-an-hour-long human chain near Ahsan Ullah Master Flyover on Tongi-Ghorashal road yesterday. The workers holding banners and festoons wanted to know from the gas company the reason behind the fire.

Titas also formed a committee to probe the reason behind the explosion followed by a massive blaze on September 11.

Family members of the victims have meanwhile expressed their worries about their future.

"I see no future at all as I and my husband used to run the family. Now after his death my in-laws will not allow me to work outside," said Nasima Akhter who has lost her husband in the fire.

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BAIL FOR 'SHOOTER'

Rickshaw puller goes to court, says no problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after he was shot in the left thigh allegedly by a Jubo League man on Friday, rickshaw puller Abdul Kabir left Dhaka Medical College Hospital for "better treatment", DMCH sources said.

But interestingly, the man, with his leg bandaged, appeared before a Dhaka court yesterday and said he would have no objection if the accused, Yusuf Sardar Sohel, got bail.

Just a day ago, Kabir had filed a case against Sohel with Banani Police Station following the shooting in Banani area.

Yesterday, police produced the Jubo League leader before the court and sought a five-day remand for him.

As it was an attempted murder case, the general recording officer was supposed to oppose the bail but he did not, citing the reason that the plaintiff himself did not oppose it.

Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi granted Sohel bail for a bond of Tk 5,000.

Sohel, joint convener of Banani Thana Jubo League, allegedly shot and injured Kabir who just wanted him to pay for the trip he made on the rickshaw from Gulshan to Banani.

Kabir, a resident of Karail slum under

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Records tumble as Modi turns 66

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday marked his 66th birthday as the government of India was eyeing three Guinness world records and one national record.

Modi started his birthday celebrations with a visit to his mother Hiraben. He spent there around 25 minutes and took blessings from her.

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Apple CEO Tim Cook, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and senior BJP leader LK Advani, among others wished him on his birthday, along with hundreds of important personalities from across the globe.

A Surat-based bakery has also baked a special birthday cake for the PM, and is aiming for Guinness World Record as the tallest pyramid cake ever made.

The gigantic 7-foot tall choco-berry-flavoured cake is prepared by a team of 30 chefs who created

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UK IMAM KILLING

IS-inspired Briton found guilty

AGENCIES

A British Muslim was found guilty on Friday of being inspired by the militant Islamic State group to help murder a respected local Bangladeshi-born imam who he believed was practising "black magic".

Mohammed Syeedy, 21, and accomplice Mohammed Abdul Kadir followed their victim Jalal Uddin as he walked home from evening prayers at his mosque in Rochdale, northern England, in February and bludgeoned him to death in a park.

Police said Syeedy was believed to have acted as the getaway driver while Kadir, who is now thought to be in Syria, attacked the victim with a hammer.

Prosecutors said the men had planned the murder for months and stalked Uddin, 72, because he practised something called Ruqya, a form of healing in which he used amulets called Taweez.

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Woman admits torturing house help

Say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Moni Begum, who was arrested Friday night for allegedly torturing her nine-year-old house help in Gazipur, told investigators that she tortured the child for "stealing food", police claimed.

Azizur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, said Moni, during primary interrogation, told police

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A relative hugs a hajj pilgrim after he landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport last night. Bangladeshi pilgrims have started to return home after performing hajj.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Trump does it again

Hints at violence against Clinton in gun criticism, proposes to see what happens after disarming her guards

AFP, Washington

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump raised the threat of violence against his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton again on Friday, suggesting her Secret Service guards voluntarily disarm and "see what happens to her."

Members of Clinton's government-appointed guard detail should abandon their weapons because she wants to "destroy your Second Amendment," Trump said, referring to the US Constitution's clause that enshrines the rights of Americans to bear arms.

"I think that her bodyguards should drop all weapons," the real estate billionaire told a cheering rally in Miami. "I think they should disarm. Immediately."

"What do you think. Yes? Take their guns away. She doesn't want guns. Take them. Let's see what happens to her. Take their guns away, OK. It will be very dangerous."

Secret Service agents protect both Trump and Clinton as presidential nominees.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook condemned Trump's remarks, saying they "should be out of bounds for a presidential candidate."

"Whether this is done to provoke protesters at a rally or casually or even as a joke, it is an unacceptable quality in anyone seeking the job of commander in chief," he said in a statement.

"He is unfit to be President and it is time Republican leaders stand up to denounce this disturbing behavior in

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION