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B'BARIA HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

Hanging by a thread

MASUKI HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

The once hustle and bustle of the traditional handlooms at Bancharampurupazila of Brahmanbaria is now a thing of the past.

Gone are the familiar clacking sound of handlooms and manual machines used to weave fabric. They are slowly disappearing along with the area's signature industry.

About 5,000 handlooms have been closed, leaving several thousand people unemployed. Many have long moved to other means of income such as farming.

According to officials at the Bangladesh Handloom Board, there were 9,162 handlooms in 32 villages in Bancharampur in 2005. At present only about 4,000 handlooms are in operation.

People of this area once took pride in the handmade lungi and gamcha they produced. But now, even skilled artisans discourage their heirs from taking this profession for the gruelling work and low pay.

Most handlooms are family run businesses. They are set up in sheds behind people's houses.

These old-fashioned looms are a part of the landscape of the 32 villages. It continues to be a family occupation, using traditional methods of production and designs.

Settling down behind the wooden contraption strung with colourful spools, a weaver manoeuvres his arms and legs to bring the loom to life, thread by thread. They repeat this painstaking process for hours each day.

Hossain Mia of the Rupasdi village, who has been weaving since 1987, said wages were good when he first started. "Even if we are skilled, we cannot compete with the power looms. The market price of handmade lungi and gamcha should be higher as it is of higher quality."

Competition over the years has increased in the textiles sector, particularly after the introduction of power looms that enjoy economies of scale.

On low productivity at the handlooms, Khasru Mia of

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A weaver at work in Bancharampur of Brahmanbaria. Weavers in the upazila's 32 villages are leaving the profession. Only around 4,000 handlooms are in operation now. Bottom, the training centre of Bangladesh Handloom Board in Bancharampur lies empty as there are no students anymore. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



BANANI MURDER
Killers hired from outside Dhaka
Say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four men, who took part in the killing mission of a recruiting agency owner in the city's Banani on Tuesday, were hired from outside the capital, investigators said yesterday.

"A business rival of the victim had hired the killers with an aim to have an upper hand over him in the manpower business," a top official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star.

Wishing anonymity, he said police already identified some of the suspected killers after analysing CCTV footage and information gathered from different sources.

Although the footage show four people took part in the killing of Siddik Hossain Munshi, a backup team was waiting nearby, the DMP official said, adding that they also identified some of the team members.

Four assailants entered the office of Munshi Overseas on the ground floor of a four-storey building in Banani and shot dead Siddik, the owner of the agency.

They also shot Siddik's

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Tesla unveils electric truck



CBSNEWS, Detroit

After more than a decade of making cars and SUVs - and, more recently, solar panels - Tesla Inc. wants to electrify a new type of vehicle: big trucks.

The company unveiled its new electric semi-tractor-trailer Thursday night near its design center in Hawthorne, California.

Tesla also surprised fans with another product: An updated version of its first sports car, the Roadster. Tesla says the new Roadster will have 620 miles of range and a top speed of 250 mph. The car, coming in 2020, will have a base price of \$200,000.

CEO Elon Musk said the semi is capable of traveling 500 miles on an electric charge - even with a full 80,000-pound load - and will cost less than a diesel semi considering fuel savings, lower maintenance and other factors.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Mugabe digs in

Zimbabwe ruling party moves to depose him as the 'house arrest' president makes first public appearance after army takeover

REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe yesterday appeared in public for the first time since the army took charge, as the ruling party made plans to force him to step down after more than three decades in power.

The president, who is 93, opened a graduation ceremony at Zimbabwe Open University in Harare. He wore blue and yellow academic robes and a mortar board hat and appeared to fall asleep in his chair as his eyes closed and his head lolled.

Mugabe led the country's liberation struggle and has dominated its politics since independence in 1980 but this week's army takeover signals the collapse of his authority despite his insistence he remains in charge.

A senior member of the ZANU-PF ruling party said it wanted him gone.

"If he becomes stubborn, we will arrange for him to be fired on Sunday," the source said. "When that is done, it's impeachment on Tuesday."

In contrast, the military said in a statement on national television it was "engaging" with Mugabe. It referred to him as Commander in Chief and said it would



announce an outcome as soon as possible.

The ruling ZANU-PF party has called for a mass meeting in the capital on Saturday to show its support for the War Veterans group in their bid to remove Mugabe.

Mugabe is revered as an elder statesman and independence leader but he is also viewed by many in Africa as a president who crippled his country by remaining in power too long. He calls himself the grand old man of African politics.

The army appears to want him to go quietly and allow a transition to Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose sacking last week as vice

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Indian plane catches fire at Dhaka airport

All passengers unhurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A SpiceJet plane caught fire while preparing for take-off at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in the capital yesterday morning.

The take-off was aborted and 74 passengers, four pilots and crew members onboard were evacuated from the Kolkata-bound plane, after firefighters promptly doused the fire in its nose wheel, Wahidur Rahman, station air traffic officer at HSIA told The Daily Star.

Flight operations at the airport were suspended for about an hour following the incident, officials said.

The plane of the India-based airliner was on a taxiway, approaching the runway around 10:40am when the pilot noticed the fire, Wahidur added.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

BPL MATCHES

77 including 12 foreigners caught betting

SPORTS REPORTER

Illegal betting, which allegedly claimed a life when a BBA student was killed by thugs after he tried to stop the unlawful practice in his area in Badda earlier this month, has had an impact on the Bangladesh Premier League governing council as 77 spectators involved in betting during yesterday's BPL matches were handed over to stadium security and ejected from the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNS) in Mirpur.

Member secretary of BPL governing council IH Mallick informed of the development yesterday evening. 65 of the 77 were locals while 12 were foreigners, 10 of whom were Indians. However, Mallick added that there is not much more that the BCB can do to eradicate the problem apart from creating awareness as betting is a huge racket throughout the country that only the law enforcement agencies can stop.

"Apart from creating awareness we don't have much to do as we are trying to caution spectators during the games through announcements on the giant screen. But we have nothing to do about the betting which is taking place all over the country as it's a matter for law enforcement agencies," said Mallick during a press conference in the evening.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Rohingya refugees walk with umbrellas during a drizzle at Thankhali refugee camp in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar yesterday. An estimated 618,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar since a military crackdown was launched in Rakhine in late August.

Mother, son killed in Ctg road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman and her son were killed and three others injured as an armoured vehicle of army collided with two CNG-run three-wheelers in Mirer Khil area of Chittagong's Hathazari yesterday morning.

The dead are Rokeya Begum, 65, and her son Abdus Sabur 28, of Panch

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 18
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর স্বপ্ন : নবীন চিকিৎসকরা দুই বৎসর ইন্টার্নশিপ করবেন। এক বৎসর নিজ মেডিকেল কলেজে হাসপাতালে, অপর বৎসর ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ের হাসপাতাল ক্লিনিকে।

'গণস্বাস্থ্য সমাজভিত্তিক মেডিকেল কলেজ'

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর স্বপ্নকে বাস্তবায়িত করার উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে।

"গণস্বাস্থ্য সমাজভিত্তিক মেডিকেল কলেজের" শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থা (WHO) কর্তৃক উচ্চ প্রশংসিত হয়েছে WHO প্রকাশিত Community Based Education in Health Professions: Global Perspectives (2014) বইতে।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ও BMDC অনুমোদিত এবং WHO ডাইরেক্টরী ও মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ECFMG তালিকাভুক্ত।

গণস্বাস্থ্য সমাজভিত্তিক মেডিকেল কলেজের অধ্যমাসীয়া, পানসেবনে ও প্রসাধনে বিবরত এবং মুক্তিযুদ্ধ সম্পর্কে সঠিক জ্ঞান সমৃদ্ধ মাত্র ১১০ জন ভাল ছাত্রের ভর্তির অনুমোদন আছে। আরও অতিরিক্ত ৫০ জন ছাত্র ভর্তির অনুমোদন অপেক্ষায় আছে। প্রত্যেক ছাত্রকে প্রতি বৎসর একমাস স্নামে থেকে শিক্ষা নিতে হয়। ছাত্রীদের হোস্টেলের বাবস্থা আছে।

* MBBS * BDS

ভর্তির জন্য স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের নিয়মাবলী প্রযোজ্য হবে।

গণস্বাস্থ্য সমাজভিত্তিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও ডেন্টাল ইউনিট গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সভার অফিস : জাতীয় স্বত্ত্ব স্টোরেজের কাছে নলাম, মাটার, ঢাকা।
ফোন : ০১৭১৫৮৬৯৩৭৯, ০১৭৪৮২৬৯০৮৯
০১৭২৭৬৮৮৮০, ০১৯১৫২১০৮৫

ঢাকা অফিস : গণস্বাস্থ্য হাসপাতাল, বাড়ী-১৪/টি, নোংরা-৬, ধনমন্ডি, ঢাকা।
ফোন : ০১৭১৬৮৩৮০৭৮

২০ তম
ব্যাচে
ভর্তি চাহে