

MADE IN TANGAIL

Sari makers in overdrive

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

After a two-year-long wait owing to the pandemic, Tangail sari weavers have finally been able to dust off their looms.

With Eid-ul-Fitr coming ever so closer, they are now at the peak of the rush, producing various hand-loomed saris.

"Tangail saris", produced by local hand-loom weavers, are famous across the country and are almost always in demand. For their various designs and price flexibility, Tangail saris see a boost in sales in local markets ahead of Eid, as they continue to attract an increasing number of buyers from both home and abroad.

Local weavers said they have been making Eid saris for the last three months. They weave saris with prices ranging from Tk 400 to 20,000. They are being shipped to different markets and shopping malls throughout the country.

Weaver Raghunath Basak, president of Tangail Sari Traders' Association, said the design and colour of saris have to be changed every season to keep pace with the changing trends and tastes.

Swapan Basak, a sari trader in the same area, said, "We've added new designs to our collection to attract customers. The number of buyers is increasing as Eid approaches."

The same enthusiasm could be seen among customers as well.

Shahana Akhter, a resident of the city's Thanapara, came to Pathrail with her in-laws to buy saris for Eid.

"We've not been able to celebrate any festivals in the last two years due to the pandemic. So this year, I've



A weaver family of Pathrail in Delduar upazila are processing their yarn, readying themselves to weave the ever-popular Tangail sari. Pre-Eid preparations have kept them busy, after a long hiatus because of the pandemic. This photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

“We've suffered a lot in the last two years. Many hand-loom had closed and many left for other professions. I just hope we can make up for the loss.”

CHANDAN BASAK
Sari trader

come to purchase saris for myself, my daughter and in-laws."

"There are many sari shops in Tangail town, but I prefer coming to the weaving village and making direct purchases from their stores. The prices are relatively low here," she added.

There are several weekly markets for hand-loom saris produced in Tangail. Among them, the century-old Karatia market at Sadar upazila and Bajitpur market adjoining the district town are the most popular ones.

Throughout the year, wholesalers from all over the country come to these markets to buy saris. While visiting the weekly Karatia market recently, this correspondent saw buyers thronging the markets and purchasing their favourites.

Sari trader Ashraf Islam came to Karatia market from Rajshahi. "The saris I bought last month have already been sold out, so I came here again this week," he said.

Traders at the market, however, said the number of wholesalers and buyers before Eid is fewer than their expectations. Chandan Basak, a sari trader in the market, said, "I will not say that there is no sale at all, but it's not as expected."

"We've suffered a lot in the last two years. Many hand-loom had closed and many left for other professions. I just hope we can make up for the loss," he added.

Rabiul Islam, an official of Tangail Liaison Office of Bangladesh Handloom Board, echoed him.

"If the demand for hand-loom products, including saris, increases, skilled weavers who have left the profession will return," he said, adding that government support is vital in this regard.

TEMPORARY TEA WORKERS

Equal wage remains elusive



MINTU DESHWARA

Several thousand temporary tea workers in the country, especially in Sreemangal, don't get the same daily wages as the permanent ones do. Moreover, they are also being deprived of various government benefits.

As per the new wage agreement of September 2020, permanent workers are now getting Tk 120 as daily wages, which was Tk 102 earlier. Meanwhile, most of the temporary workers are receiving Tk 102 or less than Tk 100, said Kartik Nayek, president of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union's Sunacherra tea garden unit.

Temporary tea workers in rubber plantations get Tk 100 as daily wage. For applying pesticides, the daily wage is Tk 82-85; for weed cleaning, it is Tk 75, while leaf picking yields a wage of Tk 100.

Koloti Robidas, a temporary tea worker, said she works the same as permanent workers but gets less wage and benefits.

"It's a matter of survival. If I skip work for a day or two to bargain about wages or other benefits, my family will starve," she added.

Nipen Paul, acting general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Workers Union, confirmed that benefits are mostly offered to permanent workers.

"In the 2015-16 agreement, it was mentioned that permanent and temporary tea workers will get equal wages. However, it has not been implemented yet," said Nipen.

Satram Kairi, another temporary tea worker, said, "I can't go to work outside the tea garden because of linguistic barriers. We also have to face discrimination if we seek work outside of the

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Tied to tree, AL leader beaten up by rivals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A local Awami League (AL) leader was tied to a tree and beaten up in Hayndgaon union of Chattogram's Patiya upazila yesterday afternoon.

Injured Jiten Kanti Guha, a former president of AL's Hayndgaon union unit, was admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital following the incident, said police.

The incident occurred over rivalry within the party, according to local AL sources.

Local AL leaders claimed that followers of Hayndgaon Union Parishad Chairman BM Jasim carried out the attack over organising an iftar mahfil in the union.

AKM Samsujjaman Chowdhury, president of AL's Patiya upazila unit, said he heard that Jasim's supporters attacked Jiten after Jumma prayer for not inviting Jasim to the iftar mahfil.

Jiten sustained head injury and his hand was broken, he said.

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Commuters in peril

Excessive fare charged by transport staff for Patiya

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Nahida Khanam, along with her seven-year-old son, came to a makeshift bus terminal at Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area in the port city on Wednesday afternoon. The plan was to go to her village home in Patiya upazila.

Waiting for around an hour, she found that not a single bus there was going to Patiya.

Like Nahida, several hundred Patiya-bound people were seen waiting under the scorching sun.

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North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.122 Date: 28/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	656328	Supply of Spares for Instrument Compressor.	26/04/2022	16/05/2022, 15:45 PM	17/05/2022
2	691220	Spare parts of GT and ST BOP control system and field equipment.	27/04/2022	30/05/2022, 15:45 PM	31/05/2022
3	691267	Spare parts of BOP Field Instruments.	27/04/2022	30/05/2022, 15:45 PM	31/05/2022
4	690658	Supply of Spare Parts for different Pumps.	28/04/2022	25/05/2022, 15:30 PM	26/05/2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-900

Fresh notes, a hot Eid commodity

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Every year before Eid, fresh currency notes become a hot commodity. Though the sale of currency notes is illegal, buyers and sellers have been busy bargaining over fresh notes in New Market and Kotwali areas of the port city.

During a recent visit, people were seen queued up to buy the notes, while 15 to 20 people were found displaying notes of different denominations.

A bundle containing 100 notes of Tk 10 was being sold for Tk 1,100; a bundle of Tk 20 for 2,150; bundle of Tk 50 for Tk 5,250 and bundle of Tk 100 for Tk 10,400. "There are huge demands for Tk 2 and 5 notes. However, Bangladesh Bank has not circulated those this year," said a seller, adding that it had been hampering their business a bit.

Shafiqul Islam, who came to buy fresh notes in New Market area, said children become excited if they receive fresh notes as Eid salami.

Mizanur Rahman, who has been selling currency notes in the area for 22 years, said those who could not get fresh notes from banks come here to collect them after paying some extra money.

"Sometimes, we have to collect fresh notes from other districts like Bogura, Dinajpur and Rajshahi. We have to pay extra Tk 5,500-6,500 for each lakh," he said.

Contacted, an official of Bangladesh Bank, Chattogram office, said, "After receiving fingerprints, we provide fresh notes of a maximum of Tk 18,000 -- a bundle of 10, 20, 50 and 100 each -- to one person from 10:00am to 2:30pm every working day."

There are also six private bank branches designated for the exchange of new notes, he added. According to sources at Bangladesh Bank's Chattogram office, this year the central bank has released fresh notes worth Tk 1,804 crore for its Chattogram office.



স্মরণ

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