



Craftsmen show off their prepared shital pati, while others are seen busy making them in the background. This photo was taken from Hinganagar village in Tangail's Delduar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Century-old craft under threat

Tangail's shital pati makers struggle for lack of capital, as demand for plastic mat rises

MIRZA SHAKIL

The traditional craft of making shital pati mats in Tangail is facing a severe threat due to the shortage of raw materials and rising production costs. The lack of necessary capital has made matters worse for the craftsmen involved in this ancestral profession.

Shital pati mats, made with a special plant fibre that feels cool on the surface, have offered comfort to people in Bengal for ages, particularly during the summer. However, the demand for these mats has drastically fallen with the

availability of cheaper plastic and other types of mats.

The shital pati industry, which involves around 1,000 families in several villages, including Hinganagar, Mushuria, Goziabari, Atia, and Elasin, is facing an uncertain future, according to the Delduar upazila administration.

The increased prices of raw materials, especially cane, and a lack of investment, are putting the century-old profession under threat, they added.

During a recent visit to Hinganagar village, local shital pati makers expressed their plight,

saying that apart from the summer season, they have to sit almost idle. Local pati sellers said different types of shital patis are sold from Tk 500 to Tk 10,000.

However, due to the availability of cheaper alternatives, the sale of shital pati mats has reduced drastically, they added.

A shital pati market sits at Hinganagar village every Friday and Saturday, where wholesalers from across the country come and buy shital patis and sell those in different parts of the country.

The financial crisis is the biggest

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Pundit Dey gets Swadhinata Padak 2023

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

This year, renowned veteran tabla maestro, Pundit Pabitra Mohan Dey, has received the Swadhinata Padak 2023 (Independence Award) for his outstanding contribution to the country.

The government has recently honoured nine individuals and an organisation with the prestigious award for their remarkable contributions in different fields.

Pundit Dey, 86, from Mymensingh, was nominated for Swadhinata Padak 2023, under the "culture" category, for his notable role with the rhythmic instrument.

He was born to Pyarimohan Dey and Shyama Sundari Dey in the city's Akua Chukaitola area in May 1937.

At the age of seven, he started getting his tabla lessons from his elder brother Mithun Dey, who was a renowned classical maestro in the country.

His father was an eminent flute player, while his uncle Madan Mohan Dey was a cornet player.

Earlier, Ustad Dey was honoured by Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy, Udichi, Mymensingh unit, and Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad in Dhaka, for his lifelong contribution to the field of rhythmic music.

Dey played the tabla with numerous eminent artists of this sub-continent like Salamat Ali Khan, Nazakat Ali Khan, Ali Akbar Khan,

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Around 50 shops burnt to ashes in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

More than 50 shops were gutted in a fire at Thanchi Bazar in Bandarban's Thanchi upazila yesterday morning.

The fire broke out at 8:00am and spread to the adjoining establishments, said Thoiha Mong Marma, chairman of

Thanchi upazila.

Two firefighting units worked about three hours to bring the blaze under control, said the chairman.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohd Abul Mansoor said this is the second incident of fire in Thanchi upazila in last three days.

প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক

সেবাই প্রথম

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অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধিই লাখ শহীদের রক্তের বিনিময়ে অর্জিত স্বাধীনতার
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বিনির্মাণে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক।

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