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Taken over by tobacco

Farming in hills changes greatly as cultivation of rice, vegetable earns less money

MONIRUL ISLAM MONU, Bandarban

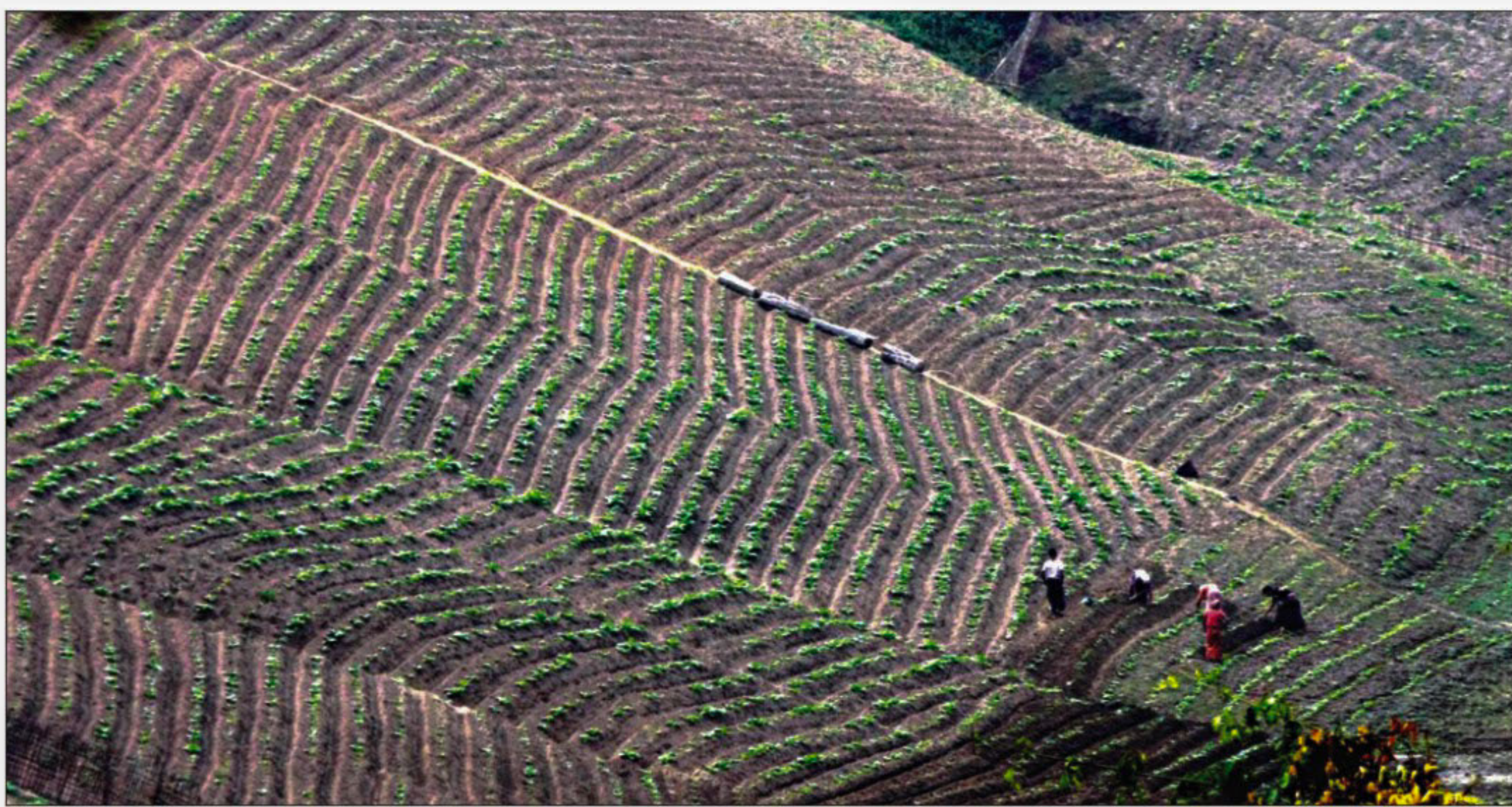
The agricultural landscape of the district's Ali Kadam upazila has changed drastically in last two decades with most of the cropland given over to cultivating tobacco.

Farmers now grow tobacco on as much as 75 percent of the farmland there, said local agriculture officials.

High price of the leaves, promotional campaigns by the tobacco industry and guaranteed buybacks are the reasons tobacco farming is expanding fast, they added.

Agriculturalists say tobacco has adverse effects on soil fertility, as it needs more fertiliser and high-power pesticide.

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In this photo taken recently in Bandarban, miles of stretches by the River Shankha are now full of tobacco plants, as hill tract farmers have opted to tobacco cultivation for more profit.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Cold wave to continue

2 killed in Satkhira

STAR REPORT

Two persons died in Satkhira yesterday because of unbearable cold as a shivering cold wave has been sweeping through various parts of the country for the last few days. Thousands of others are also falling ill with cold-related diseases.

Kripasindhu Das, 70, of Khetrapara village and Sabina Khatun, 45, of Kumarnol village under Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira died from respiratory ailments and cold-related diseases according to physicians, reports our correspondent in the district.

The Dhaka met office said

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Protect country's interest

Khaleda warns govt against failure in talks with India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday threatened to forge a movement if the government fails to protect its own country's interest in negotiations with India.

Alluding to the prime minister's upcoming visit to India, the former premier urged the government to boldly protect the country's interest.

"If you give consent to Tipaimukh dam and transit facilities, and if the maritime boundary dispute is not

resolved, then we will go for a movement. Allowing India to India corridor in the name of the Asian Highway will also not be acceptable," she warned while addressing a rally organised by BNP's associate student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Paltan Maidan of the capital, on the occasion of the latter's 31st founding anniversary.

"We will not accept any accord which will go against the country's interest," said Khaleda, in her first

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Delwar stays secy general

Salam Pintu vice president in BNP's central executive committee; JCD body declared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP last night disclosed the names of all 386 members of its central executive committee, 22 days after holding the party's national council.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain, who was asked at the national council to continue as the party secretary general until fresh election to the post, was confirmed to the position.

The BNP also announced a 32-member advisory council to the chairperson.

A number of new faces including Mosaddak Ali Falu, Jatiya Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud, former secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, Zahid Hossain, Saeed Iskander and Abdul

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17 killed as bus crashes into tree

STAR REPORT

At least 17 people were killed and 56 others injured when a bus crashed into a roadside tree in Sadar upazila of Faridpur early yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred on Dhaka-Khulna highway around 1:00am as the driver of the Dhaka-bound bus from Paikgachha of Khulna tried to give way to a truck coming from the opposite direction at Dignagor, some 10 kms from Faridpur town.

They said the bus driver lost control over the wheels and the vehicle hit a roadside tree, killing 14 passengers on the spot and injuring others. Three persons died on way to hospital.

The accident ripped the bus in three pieces, police said, adding that there were 73 passengers in the bus during the accident.

On information, police and fire fighters rescued the injured passengers and sent them to Faridpur Medical College Hospital. They also recovered the bodies.

Of the dead, seven were identified as Sizzad Joardar, 70, and

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Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW)



In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Our Bhaiya, Mr. Ahmad Shafi Maqsood, Executive Director and Founder of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) breathed his last on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at 10:25 PM. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajiun.

His Qulkhani will be held today (Saturday), January 2, 2010 after Asr prayer at the Institute's premises House 22, Road 27, Block K, Banani, Dhaka.

We request relatives, friends and well-wishers to join us in our prayer for his blessed soul.

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