

Hard labour pays off for Rangamati poultry farmer



Binoy Jyoti Chakma is seen at his poultry farm in Rangamati.

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati
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HARD labour at his poultry farm for the past 19 years has made Binoy Jyoti Chakma what he is today -- a successful entrepreneur.

He now owns a beautiful house, a profitable business, an orchard of fruit trees and a vegetable garden near his house. He provides an example of how to keep poverty at bay.

Binoy belongs to a poor family of village Boradam in Moghban in Rangamati Sadar.

He began with a capital of Tk 50,000 and raised 200 layer chicks in a small farm. He earned Tk 510 by selling 170 eggs harvested a day, making an average profit of Tk 200.

Now he has around 2,500 poultry birds in his farm. Of the birds, 90 percent lay eggs every day. He earns Tk 16,500 a day only from egg sales and bags Tk 7,000 in profit.

Binoy received the 'National Youth Award' from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2009 as a successful poultry farming youth.

"I felt proud when I received the award from the prime minis-

ter. I was inspired by the award, as it's an outcome of my relentless hard work," Binoy said.

"Nothing is impossible for anyone. Anybody can achieve anything, really, if he believes in himself and has determination and dedication to a cause," he said.

Binoy is an example of a successful youth in his society, as many in the locality have set up farms following in his footsteps.

Binoy is the eldest of seven children of the late Nirendra Lal Chakma and Shibu Rani Chakma.

"I supply eggs to the wholesale markets at Banarupa, Vedvedi, Reserve Bazar and Tabalchhari in the town. Sometimes, dealers collect eggs from my farm directly."

A dozen of eggs are now priced at Tk 90 in the retail market. "It makes me happy when I collect eggs from my farm," he said.

He never sought any help from any government offices.

"Starting from vaccination of the birds, feeding and removal of waste, I do everything by myself. I also play the role of a doctor, so no doctor from the livestock office is needed. It would be an extra cost if I had to seek such assistance."

"Sometimes necessary vaccines are not available in Rangamati. So, I have to maintain a buffer stock by buying vaccines from Chittagong," he said.

Binoy's monthly income is about Tk 5 lakh now. He owns about an acre of land and a house that he built in 2008 spending about Tk 4 lakh.

The father of two sons grows vegetables beside the poultry farm. His landed property is worth around Tk 60 lakh to Tk 70 lakh.

Niloy Chakma, the older child of Binoy, is in class VI and the younger son Nirjhar Chakma studies in nursery.

"Earlier, we used to buy vegetables from the market for our consumption. Now I grow almost all kinds of vegetables like tomato, potato, eggplant, pumpkin, sweet gourd, bitter gourd and green chilli on my own land," said Binoy.

He also bore the cost of education of one of his younger brothers -- Biswa Jyoti Chakma who is now a primary school teacher -- and two sisters-in-law Runu Chakma and Inu Chakma.

He set up a bio-gas plant that is operated with the bird faeces collected from his farm. Binoy supplies bio-gas to some seven families adjacent to his house to help them with bio-fuel regularly.

"I want to expand my farm and start a dairy farm in future. I am doing all these for my sons," he continued.

Binoy said his wife Mina Chakma helps him running the farm.

"I assist my husband everyday alongside doing my household chores as he cannot manage everything all by himself and becomes tired at times," said Mina.

"It would be impossible for me to achieve my goal if I did not take training from the Youth Development Department," Binoy said.

He started his own enterprise after taking part in three-month training on poultry farming in Sylhet in 1992.

StanChart group head of HR due today



Tracy Clarke

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tracy Clarke, group head of human resources and communications of Standard Chartered, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today for a three-day visit.

This will be her second visit to Bangladesh, the bank said in a statement yesterday.

During the visit, she will meet the bank's staff and see for herself its sustainability efforts.

Clarke spent most of her career with Standard Chartered in senior roles both in the UK and in Hong Kong.

Her priorities are to ensure human resource enables the bank's growth through its people strategies for resourcing talent, learning and development.

She is a member of the Institute of Financial Services and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personal Development.

She will be accompanied by David Gareth Thomas, global head of country HR, and Madhavi Lall, regional head of HR for India and South Asia.

Reaping the benefit of the awards

The first woman winner of Bangladesh Business Awards praises the recognition

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

THE Bangladesh Business Awards is not a mere award; it helps bring the award-winners into limelight and helps expand business, past awardees said yesterday.

"Recognition is very important for whatever you do. It is a big achievement for the winners," said Salina Akther, who was the first woman to win in the Outstanding Woman in Business category when the award was launched in 2000.

She said the award has been given a wider image by adding Bangladesh's name to it. "It is a big thing."

Akther said there should be more publicity about the award so that more people can know about it, as people at large do not know much about the award.

"If the award could reach more people across the country, we would hear more business ideas or social enterprises."

"After being awarded, many people came to know about my venture. It was not possible for me to inform people about the quality of my work. Many also expressed intentions to do business with me. It helped us advance in the business."

Akther thanked the organisers for the continuation of the award. She thanked The Daily Star and DHL Express for awarding women entrepreneurs. The award should also not be limited to the award-giving ceremony only, she said.

Akther also moved to set up other ventures after winning the award. She has been running a home for the aged and the destitute for a decade along with Aakor, a handicraft item maker.

She also plans to set up a social

enterprise.

Monjulika Chakma, who won the Outstanding Women in Business award in 2003, said: "It is the most prestigious award among all the awards I have got so far."

"When I was selected for the award I was working in Rangamati, one of the most impoverished regions in the country. I won the award along with three others. I was never on a par with them."

She said the award inspired her to work harder and achieve more successes. "I became more familiar among the people after winning the award."

Monjulika said, following her achievements and successes in busi-

ness many young people felt encouraged. "When I started, there were a few handicraft item-makers. The number of women in the trade is also increasing gradually."

Monjulika's Rangamati-based

Bain Textiles initially made traditional readymade and fabrics items. Now she also prepares trendy home textiles, including cushion cover, bed-sheet and bags.

Her items are sold in major fashion houses in the capital. She owns four showrooms -- three in Rangamati and one in Cox's Bazar. In her factory, she employs around 100 people, mainly women of her locality.

This year Bangladesh Business Awards stepped into the 12th year.

The Daily Star, the country's most-read English newspaper, and DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, introduced the award to honour the country's best business enterprises and the people behind them.

This year's awards ceremony will be held at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on Friday.



Bharti Airtel in money laundering probe

REUTERS, New Delhi

INDIAN authorities are investigating top mobile phone carrier Bharti Airtel under its money laundering and foreign exchange rules in what a company source said was a probe related to the grant of airwaves a decade ago.

Bharti shares fell as much as 5.1 percent during trade on Tuesday after Minister of State for Finance SS Palanimanickam told parliament that the Directorate of Enforcement was investigating the company. The shares pared most losses to close 1.2 percent down.

Indian mobile market leaders Bharti and Vodafone's local unit are not involved in a massive scandal over alleged below-market-price sale of lucrative telecoms licences in 2008 that has rocked the once-booming sector. They are, however, being investigated over airwave grants during 2001 and 2002.

Bharti, controlled by India's fifth-richest man Sunil Mittal, said in a statement it was cooperating with investigators. It did not give the reason for the investigation, but a company source told Reuters that it was related to the probe over airwave grants.

"Bharti Airtel maintains the highest standards of corporate governance and regulatory compliance... We have already provided all relevant details asked for by the relevant authorities in this matter and will be happy to cooperate further," Bharti said in the statement.

The minister, who was replying to questions from a lawmaker through a written statement, declined to give further details.

Bharti, nearly one-third owned by Southeast Asia's top phone company, SingTel, operates in 20 countries across Asia and Africa and is the world's fifth-biggest mobile phone carrier by subscrib-



ers. India is its biggest market.

Shares in Bharti, valued at more than \$21 billion, lost 3.6 rupees to close at 304.15 rupees, after hitting an intra-day low of 292.05 rupees.

A series of corruption scandals during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's second term have rocked the government and businesses, sparking street protests by anti-graft activists and spurring a flurry of investigations of companies.

The scandal over the 2008 licence grant has ensnared prominent politicians and high-profile corporate executives. Police have charged a total 19 people and six companies in the scandal, which the CAG has estimated has cost the exchequer as much as \$34 billion in lost revenue.

Last November, police conducted searches at offices of Bharti and Vodafone India seeking details of airwaves allocated to them in 2001 and 2002 by a government then led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), now in opposition.

The investigation is continuing and police are yet to file any formal charge against the companies. Both Bharti and Vodafone India have denied any wrongdoing.

The BJP had attacked the Congress-led government over the corruption scandals and forced a near-shutdown of parliament for much of last year. The BJP had alleged that the government was trying to "divert the attention" by probing spectrum grants during its term in power.

JP Morgan: When basis trades blow up

FELIX SALMON

I'M not sure if it was the biggest quarterly loss of all time, but Merrill Lynch's \$16 billion loss in the fourth quarter of 2008 certainly ranks very high up there in the annals of investment-bank blowups. It happened after the bank had already been taken over by Bank of America, and it was in the middle of the financial crisis, so it didn't get nearly the amount of attention it deserved. But it was not simply a case of assets plunging in value. Instead, it was, in very large part, a basis trade blowup.

The basis trade is an arbitrage, basically. There are two different ways the market measures credit risk: by looking at credit spreads -- the yield on a certain issuer's bonds, relative to the risk-free rate -- or by looking at CDS spreads, which are basically the same thing but set in the derivatives market rather than the cash bond market. Most of the time, CDS spreads and cash spreads are tightly coupled. But sometimes they're not. And at Merrill, a huge part of that \$16 billion loss was reportedly due to a bad basis bet: the basis on many credits became very large and very negative during the financial crisis.

This time around, the basis-trade disaster has happened at JP Morgan, where the famous London Whale seems to have contrived to lose \$2 billion on what was meant to be a hedging operation. And once again, although the details are still very murky, the culprit seems to be the CDS-cash basis.

I've been meaning to write a post about the CDS-cash basis for a few days now, which is why I happen to have this chart handy, showing the basis for various European banks as of Tuesday May 8.

These are very big numbers, for very big banks: UBS is at 75bp, Deutsche is at 83bp, Natixis is at 116bp, and IKB is at a whopping 392bp. And this is just the banks -- other corporates have seen similar price action.



People walk outside JP Morgan Chase & Co headquarters in New York.

The cost of protection has gone up sharply, while the cash bonds are still trading at very low spreads.

Bruno Iksil, the London Whale, had a massive long position on corporate CDS in general, and the CDX.NA.IG.9 index in particular. He was selling protection, betting that credit spreads would go down, rather than up. The position was meant to be a hedge, although it's a bit unclear how JP Morgan could have some massive short position in corporate debt that it was hedging against. In any case, CDS spreads went up -- and credit spreads, in the cash market, didn't.

Cue a \$2 billion loss.

Rarely has a position been as widely publicized as Iksil's, and I wouldn't be at all surprised to learn that the credits with the highest basis were precisely the credits CDX.NA.IG.9 index. Whenever a trader has a large and known position, the market is almost certain to move violently

against that trader -- and that seems to be exactly what happened here. On the conference call, when asked what he should have been watching more closely, Dimon said "trading losses -- and newspapers". It wasn't a joke. Once your positions become public knowledge, the market will smell blood.

Of course, this loss only goes to show how weak the Volcker Rule is: Dimon is adamant, and probably correct, in saying that Iksil's bets were Volcker-compliant, despite the fact that they clearly violate the spirit of the rule. Now that we've entered election season, Congress isn't going to step in to tighten things up -- but maybe the SEC will pay more attention to Occupy's letter, now. JP Morgan more or less invented risk management. If they can't do it, no bank can. And no sensible regulator can ever trust the banks to self-regulate.

Felix Salmon is the finance blogger at Reuters.