



From torn paper to art

MINTU DESHWARA, Sylhet

Shopna Begum is a busy woman.

Not only the mother of a teenage boy stays occupied taking care of her family, but also helps her husband in his business.

Yet, amid work and daily chores, the 45-year-old finds time to pursue her passion, which is to create busts of her childhood heroes and eminent personalities.

Shopna makes those out of torn papers and napkins that she gathers from her house or buys from the hawkers.

While visiting her residence in Sylhet city's Chowdakhi area, this correspondent was greeted by busts of eminent personalities including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, poet Rabindranath Tagore, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Ataul Gani Osmani -- made from torn papers, but the care and respect is evident.

"I have been making busts with papers for around 10 years. My younger sister Richna taught me. But she had to put an end to her dreams to support her



family," she said in a melancholic tone.

She said it takes around two to three days to complete one, made with rice starch and papers, and then they are dried for around two weeks. "It gives me a lot of pleasure to create something out of almost nothing."

"My husband has always supported my passion," she said smilingly while



informing this correspondent that the first bust she made was of his.

She has made around 300 busts so far.

"My dream is to exhibit my work and inspire women by teaching them. It is not only about passion but also a way of remembering those we admire and love and ultimately be happy," she said.

She said she is seeking assistance in this regard.

We have no link to BNP's programmes

Says Prof Anu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP can protest the Rampal power plant in their own way if they want, said Anu Muhammad, member-secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports, yesterday.

"But we don't have any link with BNP's programmes," he added.

He said BNP will not be able to take any political mileage centring the ongoing anti-Rampal power plant movement waged by the Committee.

Anu Mohammad told The Daily Star, "We have been waging the movement...since 2011. But we did not hear any voice from BNP against the power plant causing serious adverse effects on the Sundarbans."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday told reporters that his party supported the Committee's movement against the power plant.

Referring to an experience of getting such expression of support from then opposition Awami League to their movement against the Phulbari tragedy, Anu Mohammad said, "Now BNP and the party-led opposition alliance are talking about extending their support to our movement against the power plant."

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RAMPAL POWER PLANT

BNP waiting for govt's reaction to its demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will decide on whether to launch a demonstration after seeing the government's response to its demand for cancelling the Rampal power plant project, party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"We will wait to see how the government reacts to our demand," he told reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

BNP insiders said the party may announce a programme after return of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia from Hajj.

Khaleda already discussed the next course of action with party standing committee and 20 parties in the alliance, but they did not finalise the date and type of the programme yet, the sources said.

Fakhrul visited Zia's grave as part of

observing the founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal, a pro-BNP platform of freedom fighters.

In his brief statement, Fakhrul said BNP supported the left leaning organisations' movements against the Rampal power plant.

He also criticised ruling Awami League leaders as they rejected BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's call to scrap the power plant.

Khaleda demanded scrapping of the coal-fired plant project, considering the impact it would have on the Sundarbans.

On Wednesday, she termed the proposed plant "anti-people" and "unprofitable" and urged the government to step back from the project.

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson's advisers Amanullah Aman and Ahmed Aazam Khan have stepped down from

Two 'criminals' die in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two alleged criminals were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj early yesterday.

They are Sanwar Hossain Sanu, 32, of Bharanga village of the upazila, and Lutful Ali, 55, of Ankutia village in Pabna's Chatmohar.

The two stood accused in eight criminal cases with different police stations, Rab said.

Shahabuddin Khan, commander of Rab-12 in Sirajganj, said Rab members arrested Farhad Ali, one of the prime accused in Awami League leader Mahbub Alam Milton murder case, on August 9.

On June 19 this year, Milton, also an UP member in Kamarkhand, was hacked to death by criminals. A case was filed with Kamarkhand Police Station in this connection.

The elite force later took over the charge of the case, sources said.

During interrogation, Farhad mentioned some names, including

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STABBING KAKRAIL GIRL 'Assaulter' yet to be held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police are yet to arrest an assailter who allegedly stabbed a schoolgirl on her way home from school in the capital's Kakrail on Wednesday.

The attacker, Obaidul Khan, used to stalk the girl, an eighth-grader of Willes Little Flower School, according to police and family.

Her family filed a case with Ramna Police Station the same day mentioning Obaidul as the lone suspect.

The victim's physical condition did not improve much, and she is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said family and hospital sources.

Mentioning that his daughter is still unconscious at the hospital, the victim's father demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment for the culprit.

She was stabbed on Wednesday around 12:30 when returning home in Siddique Bazar, said schoolmates and family.

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Papaya All Year Round

The papayas, previously exotic and rare fruits, are now available throughout the entire year in the local market of Bangladesh. They are usually used in mixed vegetable dishes or cooked separately with spices and served with a steaming bowl of rice as comfort food. A lot of adults even to this day will enjoy simply boiled papayas with little spices when they feel an upset stomach setting in or when they just feel under the uncomfortable weather. Aside from all that, both ripe and unripe papayas are normal in Bangladeshi cuisine.

Papayas have fibre and contain a good amount of antioxidants such as, Vitamin A,B, C and K along with flavonoids and pathogenic acid.

Consuming papaya and other plant foods reduce the risk of many lifestyle-related health conditions. The antioxidant, zeaxanthin found in papayas filters out harmful blue light rays and is thought to play a protective role in eye health and prevent damage from macular degeneration. Nutrients like beta-carotene in papayas lower the risk of asthma and colon cancer. It also helps significantly in digestion and warding off heart diseases, inflammation and skin healing.

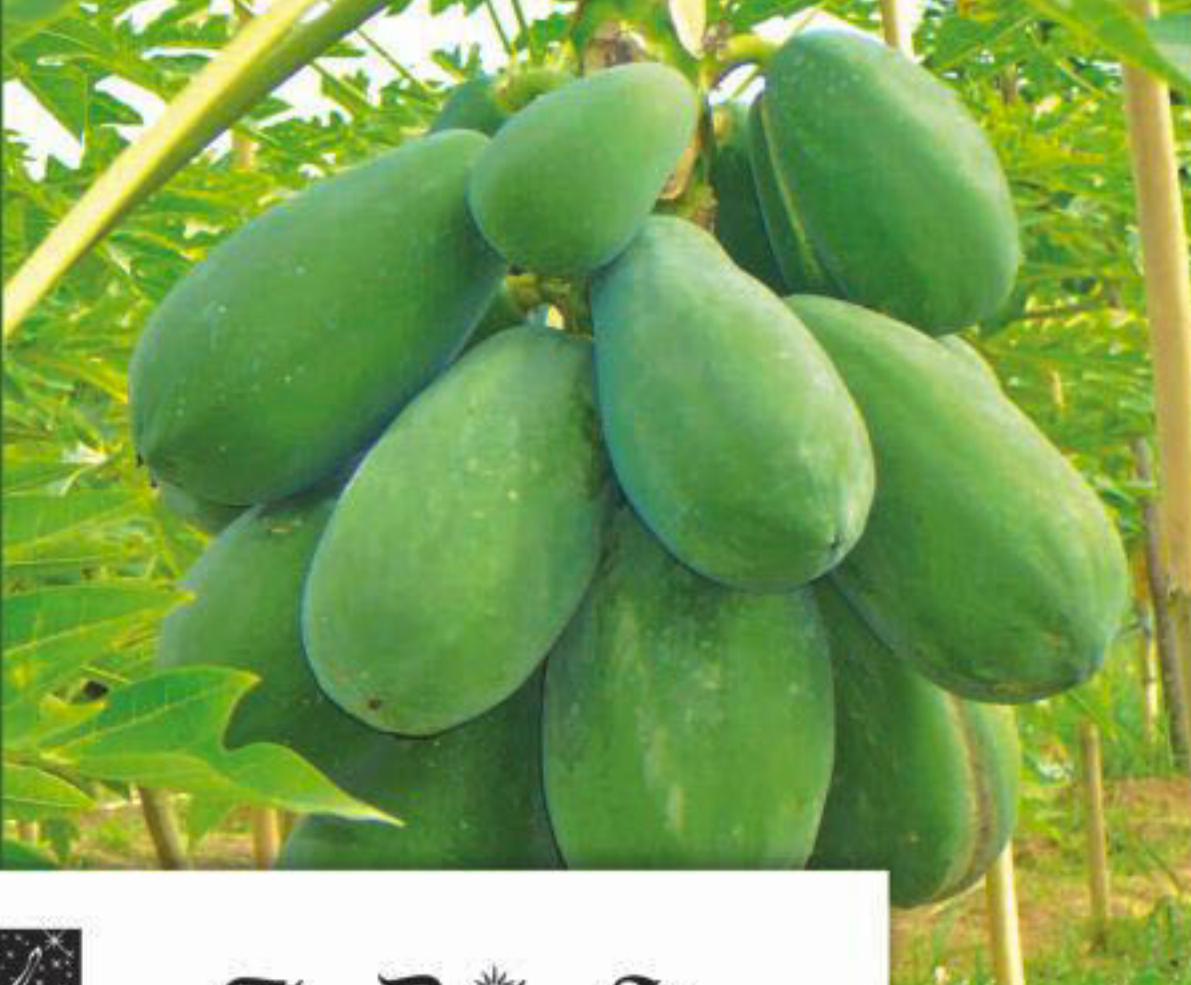
Proper consumption decreases the risk of obesity and overall all mortality, diabetes, heart diseases, lower cholesterol levels, maintain bone health and promotes complexion and hair. It also gives a boost to energy and overall lower weight.

Among the many farmers Shwabno acquires their papayas from, Mohammad Sohidul Islam from Rangpur is one of them. He cultivates papaya like many other farmers. It takes about six or seven

months for the papayas to reach maturity. The process of the cultivation usually starts with the placement of the seeds in small poly bags with soil and natural fertilizers. When the seeds grow to a certain size, they are sown in the fields and every papaya seed is placed with a five feet gap from the next. Shwabno offers papaya weighing at least half a kilo to one and a half kilograms.

Overflowing with many essential and necessary nutrients, vitamins and antioxidants, papayas have become a beloved food in the homes of health conscious Bangladeshis. Mashed, fried or cooked with other vegetables and as a curry now you know more about your food.

Photo: Mahmudul Hasan



The Daily Star