

# Anisur Rahman Anis

## A 13-year-old IT Entrepreneur

A student of Class 7 at the Border Guard Bangladesh Public School and College, Anisur Rahman Anis is not like your regular teenager. Anis spends his free time at his small IT business that he set up.

The son of a small-scale farmer from Kurigram, Anis is being brought up by his uncle, Joynal Abedin, a computer operator in the district education office in the town, as his father could not afford his education and upbringing. From a very young age, Anis showed an interest in the computer his uncle had in his home, and when he was in Class 3, Joynal decided to train Anis in computers.

Anis first learnt MS Word and how to use the internet. Eventually he acquired skills in various other programmes, including Photoshop, Power Point and graphics design software. He was soon able to install software as well, while also being able to scan, print, and edit videos.

By the end of 2014, Joynal rented a part of a computer and variety store in Kurigram town's Paura Bazar, where he set up a computer, printer,

scanner and internet access. From January 2015, Anis started to work there after class, willingly giving his income to his guardian as contribution to his own school expenses. Anis says that he sits in the shop after school until early evening but doesn't work when he has to study for exams.

Earning between Tk 200 to Tk 500 per day, Anis completes various internet and Word composition activities for local offices and individuals. Even the Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer of the local government engineering department, Nazrul Islam, calls Anis a "computer expert," who efficiently completes "any official task given to him."

Anis hopes that his computer skills will eventually help him, his father, and his guardian meet the cost of his higher education, as he wants to study computers at a higher level. With the right support and education, one can only imagine the heights this young entrepreneur will reach.

Source story: **ABDUL WAHED & ANDREW EAGLE**



**Seventh grader Anisur Rahman Anis works on a computer while a customer looks on inside a shop rented by Anis' uncle in Kurigram town. At an age when most people pass their time playing or watching television, Anis has established his own small IT business.**

PHOTO: **ABDUL WAHED**



**Mahmudul Hoque Moni at "Moni Corner" in his university's library that displayed photographs taken by him overseas in appreciation of his contribution.**

PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

# Mahmudul Hoque

## Of Moni Corner

Having a corner of your university's library named after you is no small feat. And Bangladeshi Mahmudul Hoque Moni achieved just that when his contributions in the community inspired the University of Sussex, where he is a Masters student of International Relations and Mass Communication and Journalism, to name a corner at the university's British Library for Development Studies after him.

There are three reasons why such a great honour was conferred upon Mahmudul Hoque Moni. Firstly, he made a short film to express the importance of the library. Secondly, in April 2016, he held a solo exhibition of photographs that he took in the UK, which also involved the contribution of some other students. He donated the 700 pounds raised at the exhibition to a charity in Sussex. Finally, he had set up a not-for-profit online community called "Say For Development", that publishes articles, opinions, reflections, photo stories and conversations related to development issues.

Two albums featuring 280 photographs, alongside a Bangladeshi flag, are also displayed at the corner. Moreover, 17 other photographs taken by Moni are exhibited at different areas of the library.

# Aung Chin: Pioneering Soft-shell Crab Farmer

Aung Chin's Irawan Trading exports soft-shell crabs to six countries, including Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand, selling about 30 tonnes of crabs in 2015, that brought in revenue of around Tk. 2.4 crore.

His soft-shell crab farm, set up on three acres of land in 2011, has gained state recognition as it won the National Fisheries Award in 2016 for its contribution in fisheries development and management.

Aung Chin's success has inspired many others to produce crabs on a commercial basis, as over 100 people have been inspired by Aung Chin to start crab farming in the region, with farm owners of Cox's Bazar exporting crabs to some 20 countries.

After completing his Masters at the Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries of Chittagong University in 1998, Aung Chin set his crab farm in the coastal village Monupara in 2011 with his own savings



and loans from friends, which amounted to Tk. 40 lakh. He began exporting crabs in the same year with the help of the Department of Fisheries under the

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. Thanks to the quality of his produce, Aung Chin soon started receiving more orders from several countries, and eventually he had to

increase production to meet the increasing demand.

The farm employs around 40 full-time employees, while the livelihood of another 80 to 100 people also depends on it.

Chin is considered to be a pioneer of commercial crab production in Bangladesh, inspiring others to start their own business, thereby leading Bangladesh to earn Tk. 199.38 crore in foreign exchange in 2015 through the export of crabs and kuchia.

In the future, Aung Chin hopes to expand his export to Europe, Australia and the US. He has already started farming crabs on another three-acre land in Nhila Union under Teknaf Upazila, and hopes that this move will further help produce great quality goods that can shape the country's image in soft-shell crab farming in the world.

Source story: **MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT & ENAMUL HUQ**