

# Millionaire thru' integrated farming

SHYKH SERAJ

Another young agro-entrepreneur. His name is Mohammad Kibria Gazi who lives in Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila. Not so long ago, in 1995, he started fish cultivation with a single small pond. He also started a livestock farm with one cow. Now, he is cultivating fish on approximately 200 bighas (nearly 80 acres) of land in 65 ponds. He has a venture of beef fattening and fattens 150 to 200 cows every year. He raises cows for producing milk too. He also raised 18 thousand layer chickens. Now that's what I call integrated farming or it can be termed as a multipurpose agriculture farm. And, it's colossal, trust me dear readers.

Kibria is also producing biogas from the waste of his farm. He has employed 60 to 70 workers at his farm who are working on daily basis. The best thing about the farm is Kibria's success inspired many others. The messages I had given regularly during the 80s and 90s on BTV's Mati O Manush to become an agricultural entrepreneur instead of running after jobs, I can see that implemented throughout the whole country.

As far as your eyes may travel, you can see the ponds. The farm goes back to two decades. Kibria Gazi was a student back then. He started this farm with a pond at this house and with just a cow. As time flowed like streams, success gradually came closer to him and turned bigger.

"After starting with fish cultivation, I



Mohammad Kibria Gazi talks with Shykh Seraj in front of one of the fish ponds at his integrated farm in Shibpur, Narsingdi.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

also started dairy. I started with one cow at my home. I saw that I am getting calves from it and money from milk," smilingly shared Kibria.

"Moreover, focusing on Eid-ul-Azha, I started cow fattening. It is quite a profitable business if the cow is healthy and is fed properly," added Kibria.

"Before, I used raise only 4 to 5 cows. Now, there are 200 cows," conveyed the successful agro-entrepreneur.

"Do you sell cows throughout the country?" I asked.

"Yes of course and I produce biogas from the cow dung and poultry droppings as well," replied Kibria.

In front of the farm, there is a huge poultry shed where 18 thousand layer chickens are raised. Fourteen thousand eggs are produced from the poultry every day.

Kibria started fish cultivation in a

small scale first in 1993-1994. As I said earlier he had one pond. He cultivated rui, katla and other local fishes.

"I used to watch your TV show, Mati O Manush on BTV. I have seen many of your episodes and learned how to cultivate fish. I was even more motivated watching your programme," said Kibria.

"How many ponds do you have now?" I asked.

"65 ponds where I cultivate rui, katla, shing, magur, koi, pabda, telapia etc," replied Kibria.

"I had the aim to make an integrated farm, and today, you can see the result in front of you," said the confident entrepreneur, Kibria.

"Instead of running after a job for yourself, how many people have you given employment opportunity to?" I asked Kibria.

"I have 50 to 60 workers here, working

regularly at my integrated farm," replied Mohammad Kibria Gazi.

Kibria ran from this corner of the country to another to learn many techniques of fish cultivation and also has vast knowledge on marketing his agricultural products. He even visited foreign farms to gain experience. He applied all those experience at his farm. As a result, he is producing over 1,000 to 1,100 tonnes of fish every year. The whole integrated farm gives him around one crore taka profit every year. Every night, Kibria's men catch five to six tonnes of fish. His workers are very satisfied. They are well paid and valued for their work. This visionary agro-entrepreneur is also growing grass to feed his cattle and the beef fattening process is absolutely organic at Kibria's farm.

Kibria has future plans to import cattle from abroad, for both beef

and milk and digging new ponds to spread his farm.

Dear readers, commercial and planned agriculture is always profitable. Thus, we need to take each step devotedly and carefully. Those who indulged in agriculture 20 years ago, they, themselves, became very successful along with making many young successful entrepreneurs with logic, advice and motivation. They are playing a great role in the country's agricultural economy. Similarly, they play a vital part in the development of nutrition and protein. An agricultural entrepreneur like Mohammad Kibria Gazi is a great inspiration for the young generation and without a doubt, I can affirm with great hope, following his footsteps many other entrepreneurs will rise to contribute significantly to the farming sector of Bangladesh.

## Lightning kills two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A farmer and a fisherman were killed in lightning strikes here yesterday.

The victims are Sekandar Ali, 60, a farmer of Sree Rampur village in Sadar upazila, and Ershad Mia, 26, a fisherman of Kalakanda village in Muktagachha upazila, police said.

Sekandar died on the spot when he was struck by lightning while harvesting paddy at Naptakuri beel, police said.

Ershad died on the spot after being hit by lightning while catching fish in Rowa Beel in Muktagachha, police said.

## Godfather

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Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

In his speech, Ershad said people could not be killed like that without a trial as every person had a right to get justice.

"There is no such instance anywhere in the world. The world community will not accept it," said the JP boss.

He also called upon the government to enact a law keeping the provision of death penalty to eliminate illegal drug trade in the country.

Additionally, pointing to the city's traffic jam, Ershad said decentralisation of government and introduction of a provincial system of governance was needed to get rid of the gridlocks.

JP Senior Co-Chair Raushan Ershad, Co-Chairman GM Quader, Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, among others also spoke at the programme.

## 7 held while taking drugs

Mobile court removes illegal structures on footpath

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court in a drive yesterday removed illegal structures from the footpaths in the town and arrested seven drug users.

The arrestees are Farid Ali, 48, Ramjan Ali, 45, Saiful Islam, 40, Abdus Salam, 40, Saidur Rahman, 50, Moniruzzaman, 45, and Haniful Islam, 40.

Deputy Commissioner Md Jasim Uddin, Superintendent of Police Md Jihadul Kabir and Pabna municipality Mayor Kamrul Hasan Mintu jointly led the court.

During the drive, the court removed the makeshift shops from Abdul Hamid Road, Roopkatha Road and Hazi Md Mohsin Road. The drive will continue, said the DC.

They are running anti-drug movement to nab the drug peddlers and users to free the district from illegal drug trade, said the SP.

During the drive, police arrested the seven from Pabna Amin Uddin Law College premises in the town when they were taking drugs, said the police official.

## RAJBARI SADAR HOSPITAL

# Ambulance service stopped for 17 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Treatment seekers are suffering much as two ambulances of Rajbari Sadar Hospital have been lying inoperative for the last 17 days due to lack of fund for fuel.

"Our two ambulances stopped running on May 6 as the authorities of Rajbari Filling Station stopped supplying fuel due to unpaid bills. We informed our higher authorities about it," said Swapon Kumar Kundu, superintendent of Rajbari Sadar Hospital.

Generally Tk 5 lakh to Tk 7 lakh is allocated by the government for buying fuel for an ambulance every year but it is too insufficient, said Mofazzal Hossan, chief assistant of the hospital.

The unpaid bills for fuel stood at Tk 33 lakh 76 thousand and 734 on May 6, hospital sources said.

"Every day I get calls from patients' family members to transport them to Faridpur and Dhaka, but I cannot help them," said Md Mainuddin, an ambulance driver of Rajbari Sadar Hospital.

Critical patients are often referred to Faridpur Medical Collage Hospital and Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital for better treatment.

In absence of ambulance services from Rajbari Sadar Hospital, patients' have to bear additional cost for renting private ambulances.

"My grandmother is under treatment at Rajbari Sadar Hospital. Now she needs to be shifted to Fairdpur Medical College Hospital. As the two ambulances are inoperative, I shall have to rent an ambulance from outside," said Habibur Rahman of Char Laxmipur village under Rajbari Sadar upazila.

## Special dev works demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Pirojpur Zila Unnayan Sangram Parishad, at a press conference yesterday, demanded special development works in the district.

In the press conference at Gopal Krishna Town Club auditorium, Advocate MA Mannan, member secretary of the parishad, made 10 demands for the development of the district.

The demands include joining of the district with Dhaka-Bhanga-Gopalganj-Tungipara-Mongla rail line, setting up of a national grid sub-station in Sadar upazila to remove the shortage of electricity, setting up of a special economic zone, connecting the district with Barisal-Khulna gas line, and constructing a town protection embankment beside the river Baleshwar.



## SATTAR ROAD, NOT DRAIN

In the face of widespread criticism for naming of a drain after late freedom fighter Abdus Sattar, Meherpur municipality authorities on Tuesday corrected the name on the plaque erected on a drain constructed alongside a road and rewrote it as 'Freedom Fighter Sattar Road.' The authorities concerned also served a show-cause notice to the contractor concerned for writing the road's name wrongly.

PHOTO: STAR



The compound of Dhankhali High School in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has been used as a weekly cattle market for around a decade, posing health risks for teachers and students.

PHOTO: STAR

## Muktamoni

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The young girl's rare disease had captured the nation's attention when it was first reported.

She was under the observation of Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where she was admitted for treatment from July 11 to December 22 last year.

She had requested her parents to take her back home from DMCH five months ago, while undergoing treatment for the tumours in the blood vessels of her right hand.

Back home, her condition began deteriorating, Muktamoni's father, Ibrahim Hossain, said.

However, neither of them was willing to go back to Dhaka. During the past few days, her right hand would bleed and her father would change the dressing every day.

As she was losing a lot of blood, Ibrahim thought of taking her to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for a blood transfusion yesterday, but he unfortunately did not get the time.

Later, as the situation worsened, Satkhira hospital's Resident Medical Officer, Farhad Jamil, was informed and

he rushed to their house and confirmed the death.

Muktamoni was buried at her family graveyard after her janaza was held following the Zuhur prayers.

Ibrahim, a grocery shop owner, said his daughter had been sick since she was seven. He had her treated by a local doctor and then an Ayurvedic practitioner.

On August 12, doctors at DMCH removed a tumour weighing three-kilogrammes from her arm after a biopsy showed that it was in the artery of her hand. She later underwent three more surgeries consecutively.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bore all the expenses of her treatment after her story was reported in the media.

Samanta Lal said he was saddened by the news of her death. "We tried our best to save her.... It was already too late when her father brought her here," he said.

"The infection and blood loss, along with infections on her lungs, led to her demise."

Ibrahim said his daughter told him yesterday morning that she was not feeling well. "She wanted to drink some water. After being given some, she let out her last breath," he said.