

# Story of a woman agro entrepreneur

SHYKH SERAJ

A few days back, I went to Faridpur's Modhukhali upazila's Salamotpur village. I heard a lot about a highly successful woman entrepreneur. She started from zero. After completing her formal education, she could not find any job for quite a long time. Eventually she got one but deep in her heart, she believed she had to do something which would really make her self-reliant.

Hard work, interest, and dedication made her what she is now today. She has built her own integrated farm named Alif Goat and Dairy, which has brought her much desired self reliance. Many others, especially women, are now following her footsteps. She is Sabina Yeasmin, a farming hero in my eyes.

Sabina rides her scooter from her village to the city to know more about what agricultural goods people need. Over the years, she came to build her own farm. She



PHOTO: HRIDOEY MATI O MANUSH

**Sabina Yeasmin at her integrated agro-farm in Faridpur's Salamotpur village.**

education and joined Saudi Embassy. Since then, she started raising goats at the village.

"Then, I felt agriculture is the only way which can change my life," said Sabina.

She finally started her goat farm in 2013. Sabina tried different ways for a better life. Now, she has a large integrated cattle farm on around 1.60 acres (four bigha) of land.

"I get plenty of milk from this farm. I give away some for kids," says Sabina.

Sabina sells around 160 litres of milk at the local market. She also prepares curd and supplies it to Dhaka.

"What's your profit from milk?" I asked. "I don't think much about the profit. I am doing this out of passion," she replied.

"With the money I earn from selling milk, I raise calves and 200 goats. I also pay my farm staff," she added.

Friesian, Mundi and Jersey varieties of cows are available at Sabina's farm. 14 bulls are being raised through organic method.

"I don't do anything for business, but the passion is bringing me money," says Sabina.

She is rearing couple of bulls for two years. She believes she can sell those for around 1 crore taka (approximately USD 118,216) after fattening. She has a total of 20 female calves. Sabina believes if they become mothers each will be sold at around 2 lakh taka (approximately USD 2364). She can make at least 40 lakh taka (approximately 47,286 USD) from them. Her expenses behind the cows and bulls are not more than 50 lakh taka but she with her right strategy can make more than one crore taka.

At a glance, the farm seems to have different houses for different animals. And in the middle, raw grass is being cultivated in open space.

She has Black Bengal, Jamuna Pari, and Brown Bengal varieties of goats. Even though goats bring plenty of profit, there are high risks, says the entrepreneur. So she believes it is a must to remain careful. First, she bought 34 goats. Within a week, 15 of them died.

"The reason behind might have been my inexperience and wrong management", as she says.

"Perhaps, when I bought the goats some were not vaccinated," she doubts.

Sabina learned a lot from this loss and became even more careful in her future farm monitoring.

"I have more than 150 goats now. If I sell 50 in every six months, then I will be able to earn 12 lakh taka (approx USD 14186) yearly," she says.

"But there will be more. Because, when I will have more breeding, I will have more in quantity," she strongly believes.

Goat milk is regularly collected and marketed. She has orders for goat milk from Dhaka.

"Goat milk is not conventional; how much is for a kg?" I asked.

"500 taka (approx 5.91 USD)," she replied.

"It's very costly," I said.

"Because of the purity and quality of the milk," she replied.

"People also drink it for medicinal purposes," she says.

At her farm she also has local chicken, turkey, partridge, goose, pigeon and many

other birds. She has started with a few. Because after starting with goats, she faced a crisis. So she is being careful while rearing the birds. She's observing whether or not they are affected with any diseases, what they are habituated to. Local chicken have less diseases.

Sabina's husband Hamidur Rahman Chunnu is a true inspiration for her.

"Sabina's dedication and my support brought her to this position today. We worked together during troubles and in good times," says her husband.

"Many social obstacles will come in the way of business. But I told her that it doesn't matter what others think," says Hamidur Rahman.

Many people are inspired looking at the works of Sabina. Many entrepreneurs come here to buy cows for their farm.

Sabina believes every women should be self-reliant. And, every girl should be educated to make their own way. There is no free bread for anyone and one must work with honesty to achieve the goal, says Sabina.

"Whatever development you're seeing here, there is no bank loan or financial institution behind this," says Sabina.

"I have always followed Hridoy Mati O Manush and I have waited 20 years to meet you," says a beaming Sabina, looking straight at me.

"Your programmes informed and inspired me to be here only in six years," says Sabina.

She also has fisheries, poultry and interestingly she has started working on her own tiles factory very recently.

"There was a time when I was not able to feed my daughter milk or buy her a nice dress," she says, recalling her struggling days.

Today Sabina has helped her daughter study at Cambrian School and College in Dhaka. And now after getting good score in IELTS, she has been enrolled at Manitoba University in Canada. She will leave in coming September.

"If I could do it, why not other women?" she puts a question.

Dear readers, women like Sabina Yeasmin are immensely contributing to production and development.

Development at all levels -- family, society and nation -- is every citizen's goal. I do hope, not only in farming sector, but also in the overall economic development of the country, women's participation will increase even more where we will see Sabina (s) from different sectors.

## 2 AL, BCL men among 3 murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people, including two Awami League and Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, were murdered in Pirojpur and Patuakhali yesterday and the day before, report our correspondents.

An AL leader and a grocer were stabbed to death in Sadar and Nesarabad upazilas of Pirojpur.

The deceased are grocer Md Halim Hawlader, 60, of Sadar upazila headquarters and wood trader Jakir Hossain Bepary, 45, son of Mansur Ali Bepary of Borchakathi village in Nesarabad. Jakir was also the president of Ward 3 unit AL in Shohagdil union in the upazila.

Rani Hawlader, nephew of Halim, said Halim went out of his shop on Tuesday night and did not return home.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from a ditch near Royerkathi Government Primary School in the morning and sent it to Pirojpur Hospital for autopsy.

The body bore injury marks made by a knife, said police.

Meanwhile, a mentally challenged youth named Mahir Pal stabbed AL leader Jakir dead in Nesarabad upazila on Tuesday night, said local UP member Samsul Alam.

Mahir also stabbed himself, said Samsul.

In Patuakhali, police recovered the body of a BCL leader in Baufal upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Shuvonkar Hawlader alias Shuvo, president of ward 1 unit BCL in Nawmala union and a student of Patuakhali AKM College. He went missing since Monday.

## Lightning kills three, injures one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least three people were killed and another injured when they were struck by a thunderbolt in Biral upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased are Sumanta Chandra Shill, 45, son of late Kangsha Chandra Shill of Harishchandrapur village; Sharnik Chandra Roy, 40, son of Jibita Chandra Roy of Nasu village; and Mahmuda Begum, 40, wife of Saiful Islam, Godhupukur village under Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur.

The injured is Ranjit Chandra Roy, also from Godhupukur village.

Golam Rasul, officer-in-charge (OC) of Biral Police Station, said the four people took shelter under a tin-roofed shed of a Hindu temple in Laxmirhat village of the upazila around 8:30pm when a thundershower started.

After a thunderbolt hit the shed, Sumanta and Sharnik died on the spot, while two others were left injured. Both the injured were soon taken to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital where Mahmuda succumbed to her injuries, the OC added.

says how difficult it was at the beginning.

"When my baby was 15 days old, I found it difficult to give her what she required," she says.

Sabina used to work from 7:00am till 10:30pm, thinking about her baby's future.

"It was really difficult for me to manage milk for my baby," Sabina says.

Later on, she completed her master's

## Free eye screening camp for underprivileged people

**The joint initiative by Rights and Sight for Children (RSC), Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) and Faraaz Hossain Foundation will provide eye treatment who can't afford it**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) and Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), in partnership with the Faraaz Hossain Foundation, organised a free eye screening camp at the Gabrol Siddiquia Govt Primary School in Jaldhaka's Nilphamari upazila on Tuesday.

The goal of the eye screening camp was to identify and treat every underprivileged people who was in need of eye surgery, the medicine or eyeglasses, but were financially unable to seek treatment, said a press release of the DCI.

According to the press release, 889 underprivileged children and adults

received free eye treatment from the camp.

Among them, 154 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and 300 patients with refractive errors and were provided with 215 eye glasses from the camp, the press release added.

Rest of the patients will receive eye glasses on July 2 at Gabrol Siddiquia Govt Primary School. They will be provided with corrective surgeries and eyeglasses free of cost.

The eye screening camp was held in memory of late Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain.

According to the press release, Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain exhibited extraordianry courage, amazing selflessness and deeply rooted values as he stood for humanity. Being a

Bangladeshi Muslim, Faraaz was given the chance to flee, yet he refused to abandon his two dear friends during the Holey Artisan Bakery attack on July 1, 2016.

On that fateful night, Faraaz chose to stand by his friends, to stand by a humanity that transcends the man-made boundaries of race, religion and nationality. He demonstrated the highest standards of moral and ethical values, which DCI strives to nurture in young adults through volunteerism and leadership, the press release added.

DCI Founder and Executive Director Ehsan Hoque sent a special message for the eye camp and wished great success of the camp.



**The Rights and Sight for Children and Distressed Children & Infants International, in association with the Faraaz Hossain Foundation, organised a free eye screening camp at the Gabrol Siddiquia Govt Primary School in Jaldhaka's Nilphamari upazila.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Rangamati's Sajek sees rise of malaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Cases of malaria is on the rise this year in Sajek union of Baghaichhari upazila.

Baghaichhari Upazila Health Complex is seeing an increase in malaria patients from the union, especially over the last few months.

Officials at the medical facility said cases of malaria in Machalong, Konglak, Arun Karbari Para, Raina Para, Juppui, Sial Dah, Tui Chui, Balapeda, Badal Chari, Betling and New Thang Gui Thang areas of Sajek union are rising alarmingly.

Nuyen Khsa, family planning officer of Baghaichhari Upazila Health Complex, said last year they recorded 93 malaria patients, whereas this year the number already reached 119.

Three medical teams were dispatched to different remote areas in Sajek union for diagnosis and treatment of malaria patients. Furthermore, mosquito larvicides provided by Brac Pharmaceuticals are being sprayed in the area, he added.

Urging the authorities to take immediate measures to control mosquitoes, locals said the situation is worse than it appears as not all cases are reported from inaccessible hilly areas of the union.

Juppoi Thang Tripura, member of Sajek Union Parishad, said the government needs to take immediate steps as malaria cases have increased in the entire Sajek area over the past month.

## War crimes suspect lands in jail

STAR REPORT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent a war crimes suspect of Thakurgaon to jail after police produced him before it in a case filed for committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Accused Abed Hossain, 65, was arrested on Tuesday, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrant against him following petition by the prosecution, said Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman.

Abed of Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila was a member of local razakar camp, Rezia said.

The tribunal asked the prosecution to submit investigation report, if have any, of the case on August 18, she added.

Hari Debnath, investigation officer of the case, said investigation into the case started in July last year.

He has already found evidence of Abed's involvement with crimes, including abduction and killing, committed in 1971.

ময়মন আবর্জনা নালা, নদীমায় ফেলবেন না।



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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chittagong City Corporation  
Anderkilla, Chattogram  
www.ccc.org.bd

Dated: 26/6/2019

## e-Tender Notice/Procurement

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date specified on tender notice.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents	Opening date & time
1	PPPDCM00103	Supply of 1000 Bag Cement in Dampara Store	336529	08-		