



Turning the page

Tangail youth leaves white-collar job, finds success in farming

MIRZA SHAKIL

After finishing his MBA from a private university in 2017, Habib Khan, 32, landed a job in the garment sector in the same year. After four years in the much-coveted job, he was still struggling to support his family.

It was then he came up with the idea of a farm. Many had discouraged him at the time as it was too risky a venture to pursue, especially when one was beset with a shortage of land and funding.

But Habib put his conviction and leadership skills to work, turning considerable chunks of land in his village in Tangail into a model farm in less than just two years.

Started in 2022 in Kalianpara village under Gajaria union in Tangail's Shakhipur upazila, Khan Agro has grown to be a successful farm that produces a variety of crops including sugarcane, papayas and bananas.

"While working in the apparel sector, I realised my future will remain the same if I don't think of an alternative," Habib said.

"Alongside the job, I decided to farm my ancestral land. So, I began with hybrid papayas and bananas last year. I quit my job at the beginning of this year and returned to my village permanently," he said.

After talking to others and watching several video clips on YouTube, he decided to grow crops that are more profitable than paddy. But despite his conviction, it was not entirely smooth sailing.

The small pieces of his family land were not enough to pursue an ambitious agricultural project. Nor did he have a lot of cash to purchase more lands.



Children and adults on the roof of a moving train near the Khilgaon level crossing yesterday. They seem to be oblivious to the risks of such journeys, which are quite prevalent in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Dance pioneer Zeenat Barkatullah no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak winning dancer and actor Zeenat Barkatullah passed away at her Dhanmondi residence at 4:45pm yesterday. She had been suffering from old-age complications. She was 72.

The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by Ahsan Habib Nasim, president of Actor's Equity, Bangladesh.

Zeenat is survived by her two daughters, actor Bijori Barkatullah and Nusrat Barkatullah Kajori.

Earlier in March, the artiste was admitted to a

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MONEY LAUNDERING Cash, assets worth \$1.76b seized, frozen in S'pore

AFP, Singapore

Singapore police have seized or frozen more than \$1.76 billion (Sg\$2.4 billion) worth of assets in one of the biggest money laundering cases ever uncovered in the city-state, local media reported yesterday.

Authorities had seized assets worth nearly \$750 million in sweeping raids against a suspected international money laundering ring last month.

During the operation, police arrested 10 foreign nationals -- from China, Turkey, Cambodia, Cyprus and Vanuatu -- members of a group suspected to be laundering proceeds from overseas criminal activity including scams and online gambling.

Bank accounts, cash, documents with information on virtual assets, properties, vehicles, and luxury items such as bags and watches were seized during the raids.

Police yesterday said they had conducted additional operations and seized additional assets, bringing the total amount involved to more than Sg\$2.4 billion (\$1.76 billion), according to local media.

The trove of seized assets now includes bank accounts containing an estimated value of over Sg\$1.127 billion (\$828 million) and more than \$55.8 million in cash.

It also includes 68 gold bars, 294 luxury bags and 164 luxury watches, jewellery and electronic devices, local broadcaster CNA reported.

More than 110 properties and 62 vehicles with a total estimated value of over Sg\$1.242 billion have now been issued with the prohibition of disposal orders, CNA reported, meaning they cannot be sold.

Police did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

Singapore is a global financial hub, and has strict laws against laundering illicit funds, which can carry up to 10 years in jail.

JOURNO MURDER SC stays HC bail for prime accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till November 20 a High Court order that granted bail to a suspended UP chairman accused of killing a journalist in Jamalpur in June.

Mahmudul Alam Babu, who was the chairman of Sadhurpara Union Parishad in Bakshiganj at the time of the crime, and some of his cohorts are accused of killing journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim.

Yesterday, Justice M Enayetur Rahim passed the order following a petition filed by a prosecutor.

Babu cannot be released from jail now, Assistant Attorney General Saiful Alam said.

A leave to appeal petition will be moved before an SC full bench on November 20 against the HC bail order, he added.

Nadim, the Jamalpur correspondent of Banglanews24.com and a reporter of Ekattor TV, was attacked by supporters of Babu on June 14. He died the next day.

On September 18, an HC bench granted bail to Babu.

ROW OVER SIKH LEADER'S MURDER India tells its citizens in Canada to be cautious

REUTERS, New Delhi

India yesterday urged its nationals in Canada, especially students, to exercise "utmost caution" as ties deteriorate after each nation expelled one of the other's diplomats in an escalating row over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader.

Tension has grown since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday Canada was investigating "credible allegations" about the potential involvement of Indian government agents in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

"In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there, and those contemplating travel, are urged to exercise utmost caution," India's foreign ministry said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has categorically rejected Canada's suspicions that Indian agents had links to the murder.

"Given the deteriorating security environment in Canada, Indian students in particular are advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant," the ministry added in a statement. New Delhi's advisory followed Ottawa's advisory to Canadian citizens in Indian-ruled Kashmir issued late on Tuesday.

Scientists rediscover small Brazil tree, 185 years on



AFP, Rio De Janeiro

A species of small holly tree that was last seen nearly two centuries ago and was feared extinct has been rediscovered pluckily clinging to life in an urban area in northeastern Brazil, scientists said Tuesday.

The tree, "Ilex sapiiformis," was found in the city of Igarassu, in Pernambuco state, by an expedition that spent six days combing the region in hopes of finding it, said the conservation group that backed the project, Rewild, co-founded by Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio.

Better known as the Pernambuco holly, the tree was first documented in Western science by the Scottish biologist George Gardner in 1838.

His collection was the only confirmed sighting -- until March 22, when the new expedition found four of the trees on the bank of a small river in the city of Igarassu, just outside the state capital, Recife.

Habibur new chief of DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Inspector General of Police Habibur Rahman has been made the new commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The home ministry's Public Security Division yesterday issued a circular, signed by Deputy Secretary Sirajum Munira, in this regard.

Habibur, now the chief of Tourist Police, will replace Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq, as the 36th DMP chief after he retires on September 30, said DMP sources.

This appointment at the DMP top post comes months before the national election.

Born in Gopalganj in 1967, Habibur graduated from Dhaka University. He joined Bangladesh Police as assistant superintendent of police through the 17th BCS in 1998.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Ramchandrapur canal in Mohammadpur's Adabar area is full to the brim with garbage. A sign placed by the Dhaka North City Corporation right near says, "Let us stop littering our canals, let us make tomorrow's Dhaka more liveable." The photo was taken recently.