

## MA Kashem elected NSU trustee board chairperson

CITY DESK

Noted educationist and industrialist MA Kashem has been elected North South University's trustee board chairperson.

He is one of the founder members of NSU, said a press release.

He has served as its chairperson thrice, and was also chairperson of NSU Foundation's endowment committee several times.

Kashem served as a syndicate member of Jahangirnagar University and Bangladesh Open University; chairperson of Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh; president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries and founder chairperson and director of Southeast Bank.

He also founded M Kashem Trust, which aims to foster education by providing scholarships and stipends to underprivileged students.



## Academic quality

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papers were published by 188 teachers of seven departments -- Bangla, History, Economics, Marketing, Physics, Chemistry and Political Science.

After 30 years, around 251 teachers published 60 papers in 2016-2017 session, according to DU's annual report. Contacted, Pro-VC (administration) Prof Muhammad Samad said academic achievements of DU in 100 years are not up to the mark. "There should have been more academic advancement. Over time, library facilities, research apparatus etc were not improved. Also, there are some departments in the university which are not compatible with the demand of time, it needs reform. We should take initiatives to develop the standard in line with the top universities of the world," he said.

The 99th founding anniversary of DU will be marked by limited activities this year due to the Covid-19 situation.

Celebration will kick off by hoisting the national and university flags and releasing balloons at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury senate building premises. Later, a virtual discussion will be held in which National Professor Dr Rafiqul Islam will deliver the keynote speech.

## Wari to be

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DSCC will be used as an isolation centre.

All entrances except two will remain closed, and law enforcing agencies volunteers will work to execute the plan. He said they will make residents of the areas aware about the lockdown in the next three days through loudspeaker.

He added they are going for the complete lockdown in the areas, after receiving a letter from LGRD ministry yesterday.

Earlier, Directorate General of Health Services identified 28 areas of DSCC and 17 areas of DNCC as red zones.

## Unwanted pregnancy

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between boy and girl children, with the former getting more preference.

Such practice in Bangladesh, however, is not significant though it is present.

Dhaka University Population Science department's Prof Mohammad Bellal Hossain said according to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014, son preference in Bangladesh is 9.6 percent, which however, is far less than that of 22.6 percent in 1993.

Dr Asa Torkelsson said though this phenomenon is not significant in Bangladesh, authorities need to be vigilant of the situation as technology of detecting sex of the fetus is now becoming more available.

Women and Children Affairs Ministry Secretary Kazi Rawshan Akhter said the government is trying in various ways to increase awareness against child marriage and violence against women.

## Govt mulling

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written statement before the annual UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) conference on "Reflection on Rule of Law, Human Rights and Social Contact" virtually held through video conferencing yesterday afternoon.

Minister Anisul Huq participated in the conference as a representative from Bangladesh as a legal expert, human rights activist and civil society member, law ministry's Public Relations Officer Md Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star.

The law minister told the UNDP conference that the cabinet has discussed the urgency of this law on Monday, and have planned to enact the same very shortly.

"We hope it will help reduce cost and the time spent in resolving cases and increase the efficiency in dispensing justice," he said.

Anisul Huq also said the government has a plan to bring reforms in the law including amendment of the evidence act in order to remove the gaps in the legal proceedings.

## Govt, ADB

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connecting roads to promote domestic and international trade."

Given the impact of Covid-19, improving transport connectivity is critical to ensure robust local and global supply chain. Highlighting the opportunities that such projects would offer for the private sector, Parkash noted that multi-modal transport can accelerate economic activities including international trade. "It will also help accelerate economic activities by reducing transportation costs and time, and increasing competitiveness, and efficiency," Parkash said.

## HC yet to

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He said the Bangladesh Government Press will publish its copies very soon, and then the death reference and appeals will be placed before the HC for its hearing and disposal.

The SC spokesperson said the HC authorities have sent the relevant documents to the press early this year. But, it could not finish the job due to the recent closures, said Saifur.

He, however, could not say whether the convicts have filed any appeal with the HC, challenging the trial court judgement.

On July 1, 2016, five militants, armed with guns, machete and grenades, stormed the upscale eatery in the diplomatic zone in Gulshan and held the diners hostage before brutally killing 20 of them. The deceased included three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian citizen.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation by army commandos. Two police officials and a chef of the café were also killed during the 12-hour standoff while another injured staffer of the eatery died later.

A Dhaka court on November 27 last year sentenced seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack, terming it a disgraceful attack aimed at assassinating the non-communal character of Bangladesh.

The Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal acquitted one accused as it found him not guilty in the atrocity. The court handed down death sentences to seven for their involvement.

## A day to

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these troubling times.

Our doctors, nurses, policemen, those who carrying out social initiatives and every individual on the front lines are the heroes that are helping us navigate through this crisis. The heroes who continue doing their part in standing by those in need. Doctors and nurses have lost their lives to the pandemic, in their tireless effort to save lives. The police continue to serve the people. A multitude of organizations have carried out relief initiatives for those in dire need. Even the neighborhood shopkeepers who had stayed open to be there for their communities have stepped up to support their communities. They will always be remembered as the brave souls who fought till the end to serve the people of Bangladesh.

July 1st, was intended, by the terrorists, to be remembered as one of the most terrifying nights in our history but Faraz's valiant sacrifice changed the narrative to one of courage. By staying back to protect

his friends, he showed us that true heroes rise in the face of extreme danger. Times of distress show ones true colors, and Covid-19 has brought every part of our society together in a united fight to make it through.

In the midst of Covid-19, it is without a doubt, that we are shaken by fear but most of all by uncertainty of what the future may entail. As we dream of the day the dust settles, we can today proudly say that our heroes give us a reason to keep going forward, they give us hope. By staying back to protect his friends, Faraz's valiant act changed the entire narrative of July 1st, displaying an example of what a youth of Bangladesh can do. Today, our heroes serving the nation during this paralyzing pandemic give us hope for a brighter tomorrow.

July 1st has been the day to remember Faraz's heroic sacrifice, and in the same spirit, it should be a day for us to celebrate the heroes who continue to inspire us.

## I created

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that you have deprived your ghostwriters financially. You did not pay the promised amount as well as royalty to them.

QAH: Consider someone has got Tk 12,000 to 15,000 but feels he deserved Tk 60,000. He can think like that and I have nothing to do with it. The issue is whether they got the promised amount for what they wrote. I have never deprived anyone financially or cheated them. Why did they write if they had felt that they were financially deprived? I have not forced or intimidated anyone to write.

What should be their logic to write for 45 long years if I had not paid them? I have fulfilled my promise of paying onetime honorarium. They have signed and taken the money without complaint. Those vouchers are still with me. Someone can think I paid them less, can feel they could have been better off if they had got more. You cannot make someone happy with money. They wrote only after accepting my proposal.

A few days before Sahadat Chowdhury died, I rang him and said I owed him some money. I asked him if he would be able to come or I will send somebody at his home with the money.

He became surprised and asked me, what money? When I told him that it was his honorarium for writing, he told me he would come because it would also be an opportunity to see each other.

No writer except him (Sheikh Abdul Hakim) has ever complained that I have not paid them their dues.

TDS: Did you sign any contract with writers at that time?

QAH: No. We never signed any written contract, and never thought of doing so nor did they ask for it. It was also the case with Sheikh Abdul Hakim. It has always been considered as gentlemen's agreement.

TDS: Has he ever demanded money from you before submitting a copy

right lawsuit?

QAH: No, not like that. When he left Sheba Porkashoni, he told me that his doctor advised him not to walk a distance and that it would not be wise for him to go to his workplace in Segun Bagicha from his residence in Mirpur. He had an open-heart surgery and I paid his medical expenses. Anyway, when he left, he told me that he would be able to write a book in a month or two. After two months, he sent me a legal notice and threatened to file a defamation suit if I fail to agree to make a deal with him. I did not find anything to compromise with him. After a few days, he demanded that I owe him Tk 2.9 crore, showing the calculation of a few books.

TDS: Was that claim meant unpaid royalty?

QAH: It has nothing to do with royalty. I paid them onetime money for their write-ups.

Both Sheikh Abdul Hakim and Sultan Mahmud were preparing to file cases against me. I responded to their lawsuits and categorically said their demands were beyond their rights. Sultan Mahmud backed out.

After that they went to the copyright office from where I was first served with a legal notice and then summoned for a hearing at court. I conveyed through my lawyer that I was physically not in a position to be present for hearing but they insisted that I must appear at court.

At one stage, the court awarded the rights of six Masud Rana books and one from Kuasha series to Sheikh Abdul hakim. The reason behind that was his name was printed in those books' inside pages although my name was in the covers. The writers who have written their own plots in a book, I have carried their names.

I have carried his name because he requested me. His logic was that if his name was mentioned in the Masud Rana books, it would help promote sales of his other by-name titles.

I have tried to convince the court that he cannot have the rights this way

because the series is mine. He wrote as a ghostwriter.

TDS: Are you aware of any such lawsuit by a ghostwriter in the international arena?

QAH: I'm not aware of such lawsuits anywhere in the world. It would also not happen here had the greed not gotten the better of him.

TDS: The copyright court has awarded the rights of 260 books to Sheikh Abdul Hakim. What will you do now? QAH: I did not get justice. I have tried to convince the court that Sheikh Abdul Hakim's name was not anywhere in the book. How come he won the rights? I will take the next course of action in line with the law. There are 466 books in the series and 260 of them have been awarded to him, it's unacceptable.

TDS: Can Sheikh Abdul Hakim bring out a new book of Masud Rana series? QAH: Not at the moment. But he will be able to do so if he finally gets the rights.

However, if I can prove in the higher court that he is not the creator and writer of the series, he will not get the rights.

TDS: People in the social media have been critical against you for using your name while the books are written by others. They are also questioning your ethical position for that act.

QAH: Ghostwriting has been going on for a long time. I have paid them to write and I don't find it unethical. I never tried to force or intimidate them to write.

TDS: Was there any scope to use his name instead of yours in the books?

QAH: Masud Rana series is mine and no one else can have their rights.

TDS: You had a very good relationship with Sheikh Abdul Hakim. But it has turned bitter now. How do you react to that?

QAH: I have nothing to say. He has done what he felt was good for him. Now it's time for me to embark on my own journey alone.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Today is our father's birthday. He was the principal of Chittagong Government Women's College.

Jayati Biswas  
Dhruba Biswas D-86

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**

আপনি কি অতি উচ্চমানের ফ্ল্যাট কিনতে চান? তাহলে এলিসিয়াট রোড, শামীবাগ/ মধুবাগ (হাতিরঝিল সংলগ্ন)/ বসুন্ধরায় ফ্ল্যাটের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন- ০১৭৫৫৫৫৫২৪, ০১৭৫৫৫৫৫১৮

**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**  
Registered Office  
26 Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

**NOTICE OF THE 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Virtual Shareholder Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all concern that the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Pubali Bank Limited will be held on **Thursday, 30 July 2020 at 10.30 AM** (Dhaka Time). The AGM will be held virtually by using digital platform to transact the following businesses:

**Agenda**

- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To declare Dividend for the year ended 31 December 2019 as recommended by the Board of Directors.
- To re-appoint Auditors of the Bank for the year 2020 and to fix their remuneration.
- To appoint Corporate Governance Compliance Auditor for the year 2020 and to fix their remuneration.
- To elect / re-elect Directors.

All the honourable Shareholders of the Bank are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting virtually in time.

Dated: Dhaka  
25 June 2020

By order of the Board of Directors  
sd/-  
**Zahid Ahsan**  
General Manager & Company Secretary

**NOTES:**

- The members whose names will appear on the Members/Depository Register as on the "Record Date" i.e. **Thursday, 09 July 2020** are eligible to attend/participate and vote in the **37th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** and also entitle to receive dividend.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's **Order No. SEC/SRMIC/04-231/932 dated 24 March 2020**, the AGM will be **virtual meeting of the Members**, which will be conducted via live webcast by using digital platform.
- The Members will be able to participate at 37th Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 July 2020 at 10.30 AM through video conferencing by submitting Registration Form online via link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020** from 12 July 2020 at 10.00 AM to 27 July 2020 up to 4.00 PM. On acceptance of Registration Form, User ID, password and a link will be sent to the registered email address. Shareholder will receive one time password both in email and Mobile Number as and when required to login/participate in the Digital Platform meeting.
- Full login/participation process for the Digital Platform meeting will be available in the Bank's website: **www.pubalibangla.com**
- A Member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a Proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. He / she shall have to submit his / her proxy form, duly filled in, signed and stamped (along with other necessary papers, if any) through online after successful completion of Registration /Paper based Manual form no later than 72 hours before commencement of the AGM i.e. Monday, 27 July 2020 up to 10.30 AM.
- A Shareholder/Proxy holder is qualified to attend and vote at the poll shall cast/exercise voting right personally or by proxy through the link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020** or manually from 10.30 AM to 12.00 PM on Thursday, 30 July 2020.
- The last date of submission of nomination paper through link **www.pubalibangla.com/AGM2020** or manually for election of Directors is 12.07.2020, up to 5.00 PM. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be completed on 14.07.2020 and will be published the eligible candidates list in the Notice Board of the Bank's Registered Office by the Chief Election Commissioner and also in the bank's website by 5.00 PM. Last date of withdrawal of nomination paper through email to "chiefelectioncommission@pubalibankbd.com" or paper based manually on 16.07.2020 up to 5.00 PM and list of names of final candidates to be published in the Notice Board of the Bank's Registered Office by the Chief Election Commissioner and also in the bank's website on 16.07.2020 after 5.00 PM.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/208/Admin/81 dated 20 June 2018, the soft copy of the Annual Report 2019 is being sent to the email addresses of the Members available in their Beneficial Owner (BO) accounts maintained with the Depository. The Members are requested to update their email addresses through their respective Depository Participant (DP). The soft copy of the Annual Report 2019 will also be available on the Investor Relations section of the Bank's website at: **www.pubalibangla.com**.
- Honorable Shareholders are requested to update their Mailing Address, Bank Account no., Branch Routing no., Signature, Mobile Number and other related information through Depository Participant (DP) of their BO Account before record date i.e before 09 July 2020.**
- Hon'ble Shareholders under BO are requested to update their respective BO Accounts with 12 Digits Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) through Depository Participant (DP) and Hon'ble Shareholders under Folio are requested to provide their e-TIN Certificate to Share Department of the Registered Office before record date, failing which Income Tax at Source will be deducted from payable Dividend @ 15% (Fifteen Percent) instead of @ 10% (Ten Percent) as per amended under section 54 of IT Ordinance 1984.**
- Merchant Banks and depository participant (DPs) are requested to email the soft copy of their margin clients list (in MS Excel format) as on 'Record Date' at **boardpbl@pubalibankbd.com** within 23 July 2020 for facilitating payment of Cash Dividend.

**Payment of Dividend:**

- Cash Dividend amount will be credited to the respective bank account of the shareholder through BEFTN.

## Masud Rana known

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home and offered me to write for Masud Rana series. My brother who was also present at that time told him (Qazi Anwar Hossain): "He can easily write; you can pay him Tk 500 for each write-up. At one point of the discussion, Qazi Saheb said: "Don't get upset, you start writing again."

I started writing again. (Along the way) so many dramatic events had taken place... I stopped writing for him on a number of occasions.

TDS: Did Qazi Anwar Hossain discuss the plot of each and every book of Masud Rana series with the writers including you?

SAH: Not all the time. He gave me a general concept while I built a story. Sometimes, I turned to him for advice. And because of that some people said I have tried to copy the style of Qazi Saheb. But that was not possible. His style of writing was very rich. It was impossible for me to emulate him. I have always tried to follow my own style. And Masud Rana is known to readers more for my style of writing. He wrote 20 books. I wrote 260. Around 2,000 copies were published during his time while it was 18,000 during my time and many books sold over one lakh copies. He paid me Tk 6,000-7,000 for each book.

TDS: Do you feel you were deprived? Qazi Anwar Hossain claimed that you have got the promised amount. He also said he paid the expenses for your bypass surgery.

SAH: He said a lot of things. He once

said I did not write a single book of Kuasha series. Then he retracted and said Sheikh Abdul Hakim wrote books for both Masud Rana and Kuasha series through appointment. He never disputed that I have written 260 books. He, however, failed to show any appointment letter.

TDS: Do you claim that you were supposed to get more than what you were paid for writing books?

SAH: No, not that. I have learnt from an incident that I'm not getting the royalty that I deserved.

TDS: Were you supposed to get the royalty? Wasn't that one-off amount?

SAH: I have got the proof that he has been paying royalty to different writers for the last 36-37 years. In an interview in 2008, he said he pays royalty to each of his writers. The royalty money is deposited in the writers' names every month and they have the liberty to take the money any time they wanted.

TDS: Do you think you could have gotten similar response had the books of Masud Rana or Kuasha series been published by your name instead of Qazi Anwar Hossain?

SAH: Probably not. But had it been the case from the very beginning, it might have started slowly before picking up the pace.

TDS: Why did you not then think of carrying your name?

SAH: I did not focus on so many things at that time. I got the money and kept on writing. Never thought of carrying my name.

TDS: If you get the rights of Masud Rana series, will you bring out new books by your name?

SAH: Definitely.

TDS: Do you think the books will be as popular as it was before?

SAH: Definitely not. A book of Masud Rana series used to sell over one lakh copies before.

TDS: Do you have a proof of that?

SAH: Many books saw as many as 18 editions. I have got papers showing up to seven editions. Even if I count only seven editions, they would probably owe me around Tk 12 crore. I can prove that in the higher court.

TDS: What is your basic demand now?

SAH: Some might interpret it differently or a few might consider it as my weakness, but still I want to say if they properly compensate me, I will forfeit my copyright of 260 books. But those books must carry my name.

TDS: Qazi Anwar Hossain claimed Masud Rana is his series, every character is his creation.

SAH: Apart from a few characters of Masud Rana series, rest are creation of mine. There are around seven characters like Masud Rana, Rahat Khan, Sohana and Sohel Rana created by him [Qazi Anwar Hossain]. I will not keep those names.

TDS: What do you mean by proper compensation?

SAH: I have demanded Tk 4 crore. They can come and negotiate with me. But my principal demand is the rights of my own books.