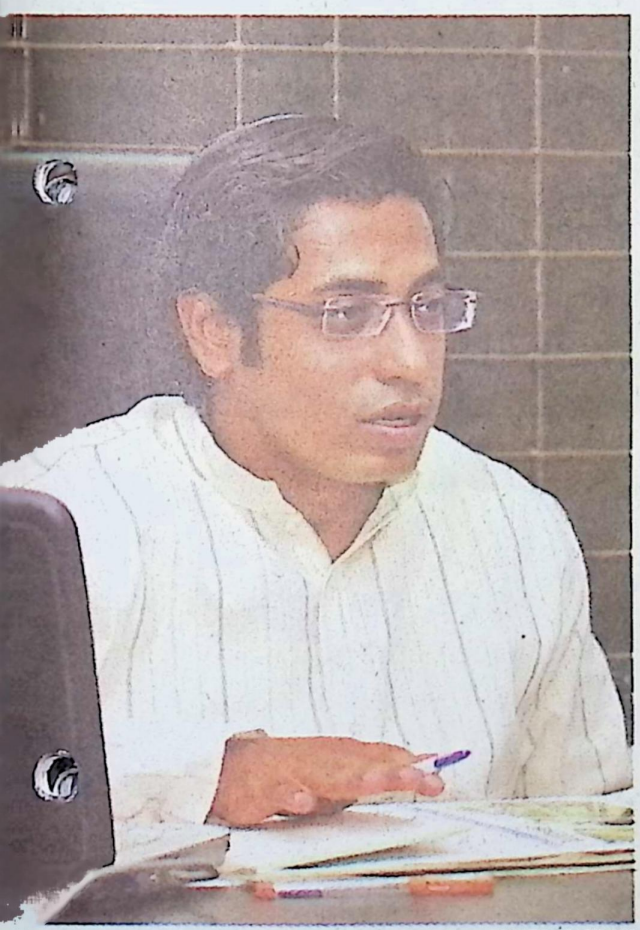
Even though Nahim Razzak's father Abdur Razzak was a famed politician, and member of the Awami League Advisory Council, Nahim had never felt the urge to follow his father's footsteps. He had studied abroad and always held the view that there was no future in Bangladeshi politics. It was only when a friend and adviser of his father criticised his lackadaisical attitude, saying that the younger generation did not have any right to complain if they themselves decide to settle abroad without caring for their country, that made him change his mind.



Nahim Razzak PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

"I remember him saying that 'who do you think will bring about the change if not the youth of the country'. And that's when my whole attitude towards politics changed," says Nahim.

Nahim says that particular focus is needed to be given on education, healthcare, employment, youth development and economic development. As a standing committee member of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nahim plans to build a number of youth welfare centres all around the country, from where skilled labourers can be sent abroad. Few of these centres have already been established, and 31,000 skilled labours have gone abroad through them in the last five months. Young people can also take a loan of Tk 50,000 to Tk 70,000 from the centre, to start up their own business but Nahim will propose for an increase in this allocation in the upcoming budget session.

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"Life is a learning process, and I'm still learning and gaining experience in the political arena. Hopefully, this education process will help me to serve my people better," concludes Nahim.

Unlike Nahim Razzak, Kazi Nabil Ahmed, the elected representative of Jessore-3, is an experienced politician, as he was involved in grassroots level politics for around 12 years before being elected as a member of the parliament. As a director of the Abahani Samarthok Gushti, Nabil is deeply engrossed in sports, and constantly tries to encourage youngsters through various programmes.

Unlike Taposh, Nabil is of the view that the current state of student politics might be worrisome but it is definitely not a threat to the country's future. "It's not necessary that student leaders will arise from political wings like Jubo League or Chattra League. I was not a part of Chattra League but have still managed to become an elected MP," he says.

The country can only wait and watch to see how the new crop of politicians will succeed in areas where veterans have failed. They have given us a flicker of hope to realise our dream of a developed Bangladesh that will be able to stand on its own feet in the coming years. Now we are waiting to see the promised change in the next five years. ■