

BANGLADESH: WHERE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Benozeer Ahmed ACMA, CGMA, CPA (Aust), is a Senior Manager, Business Planning and Analysis at the BRAC Bank Limited. According to him, CIMA helps to view his organisation from "both granular and helicopter perspectives". "I know how individual elements of the organisation are connected to create the whole system," he says. "I know how external forces create an impact on the way we do our business; how finance and accounting skills can be blended with business for better decision making and how information can be turned into insights that can create larger impacts. Now with CIMA I have more career options across the roles, industries and borders."

Benozeer talks about the many opportunities that exist in Bangladesh today. "Global manufacturing giants are shifting their mass production to low-wage emerging economies to compete on price," he says. "This has created opportunities for a country like Bangladesh. In this connection, CIMA accountants are better equipped to contribute to the success of the both. For example, they can help the organisation to make financially prudent decisions, drive lean manufacturing systems, manage cost strategically, improve productivity and optimise resource allocations. Beyond financial numbers, they can implement non-financial measures which are critical to business success."

“ I DREAM TO BUILD A FINANCIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE SO THAT FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS CAN STAY UP-TO-DATE AND RELEVANT TO THE WORLD OF TODAY AND THE FUTURE. ”

Bangladesh, being a developing nation, is open to positive changes and revolution in all fields. "Bangladesh, like other emerging countries, is going to be a major manufacturing hub of large MNC," says Benozeer. "The existing supply of CMAs is not enough. MNCs and some local corporate houses are complaining about it. From my level I am engaged in the system of increasing this number in the near future in Bangladesh. I dream to build a financial training institute so that finance and accounting professionals can stay up-to-date and relevant to the world of today and the future."



Benozeer Ahmed

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

CIMA

ENDEAVOUR

HERITAGE

We are surrounded by historic edifices that tell us the story of our rich civilisation and culture. Situated in the ancient confluence of Mahananda and Ganges, the district of Chapai-Nawabganj is full of historical artefacts, among which, one of the most prominent is Sona Mosque (golden mosque). An intricately decorated mosque, built with stone, with its fifteen gilded domes (gilding does not exist anymore) still amazes the visitors with its shining beauty.

The mosque is situated in the north-western district of Chapai-Nawabganj, which once constituted the ancient city of Gaur – whose ruins can still be seen in Chapai-Nawabganj and in West Bengal of India. The mosque is popularly known as Chhoto Sona mosque (small golden mosque) as there is yet another mosque with similar designs, but larger in size, located in the Indian part of Gaur, established during the same period.

Chhoto Sona mosque was built during the reign of sultan Alauddin Hussain Shah between 1493 and 1519 AD by a person called Mirza Wali Muhammad. Like many other mosques from the Sultanate period, it is situated at the corner of a huge artificial lake dug as a fresh water reservoir. The rectangular edifice is 82 feet in length, 52 feet in width and 20 feet in height. The walls of the mosque are built with chiselled black basalt stone bricks and the entire wall was decorated exquisitely with floral patterns. Five archways ensure superb ventilation inside the building. There is a space separated by a stone facade for female worshippers in the mosque.

The large gateway built with stone at the eastern side marks the entrance to the mosque premises. Some unknown graves can be seen

beside the mosque's beautiful stone carvings; which indicate that those are resting places of some of the royal members from sultan's palace. One of the most attractive parts of the mosque is its gracefully curved semi-circular and arch-type domes. The massive weight of fifteen domes has been brilliantly distributed

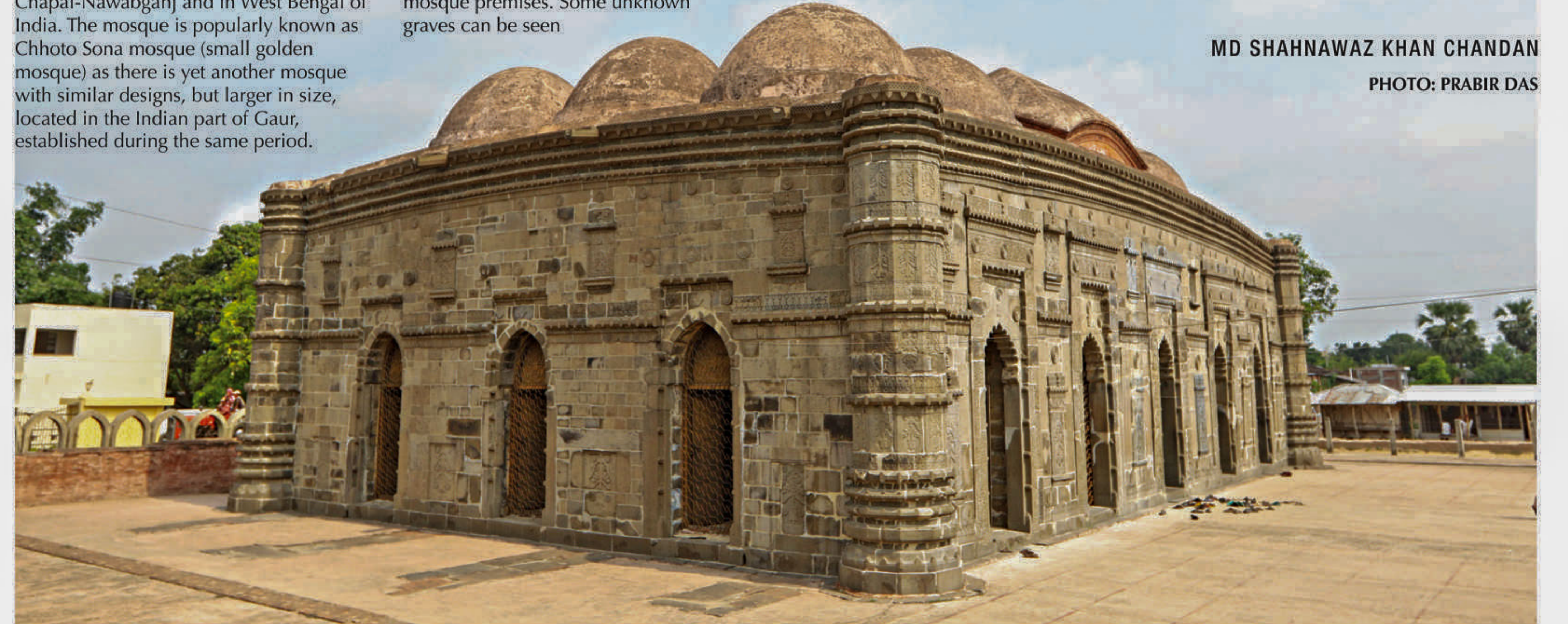
part of the wall decoration was damaged during the rebuilding process. The mosque is situated just by the highway that leads to Sona Masjid Land Port, one of the busiest cross border trading stations of Bangladesh. Regular movement of heavy trucks just beside the mosque can cause serious damage to its foundation.

RELIVING THE PAST AT THE SONA MOSQUE

THE MOSQUE THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A LOST HEAVENLY CITY IN BENGAL.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



PEARLS OF WISDOM



“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
American activist and humanitarian leader

“IF YOU HAVE COME TO HELP ME, YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME. BUT IF YOU HAVE COME BECAUSE YOUR LIBERATION IS TIED UP WITH MINE, THEN LET US WORK TOGETHER.”

LILLA WATSON
Indigenous Australian activist and visual artist



“PEACE DOES NOT MEAN JUST TO STOP WARS, BUT ALSO TO STOP OPPRESSION AND INJUSTICE.”

TAWAKKOL KARMAN
Yemeni journalist and co-recipient of 2011 Nobel Peace Prize

Just Arrived



Flood of Fire

By : Amitav Ghosh

The grand finale of the IBS trilogy - the year's most anticipated novel. One of the masterpieces of twenty-first-century fiction' - Literary review / It is 1839. The British, whose opium exports to China have been blockaded by Beijing, are planning an invasion to force China's hand. Their demands - an island base on the Chinese coast from which to continue their trade and a princely sum in compensation for their losses.

Price : 1600+ Vat

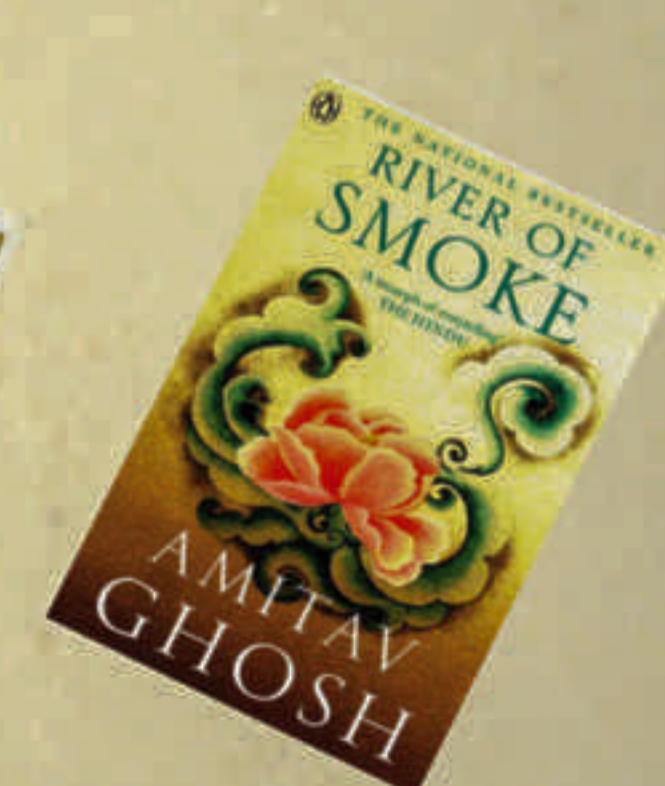
Bestseller's Corner



1. **The Imam and the Indian: Prose Pieces**
By : Amitav Ghosh
Price : 900+ Vat



2. **Sea of Poppies**
By : Amitav Ghosh
Price : 998+ Vat



3. **The River of Smoke : A Triumph of Storytelling The Hindu**
By : Amitav Ghosh
Price : 900+ Vat



Building 4, First Floor, Bangladesh National Museum (Opposite to Aziz Market), Shahbag, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

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with six stone columns. Once beautifully gilded, now, the domes are only some of the silent witnesses of lost pride of the golden age of Gaur, the lost mythical city of Jannatabad.

This exquisite heritage site was first damaged by the great Assam earthquake of 1897. Three of its fifteen domes and a part of its wall had collapsed. The then government rebuilt it; however, a large

Bangladesh's archaeological department has done an amazing job in recovering the original boundary walls and courtyard of the mosque. A rest-house for tourists has also been established. However, the site is quite unfamiliar to our people as a tourist spot. Promotional steps can make this significant heritage site a learning centre of our rich history and culture. ■

