

Tragedies often leave a lasting effect on every survivor's mind. Sometimes, they become the reason to strive for the better and make a difference. Three students of BRAC University's Electrical Engineering department decided to base their thesis project on their dream to make an impact. Mehbas Fairouz Nawal, Mohammad Shadman Sakib and Tahmid Rashid have come up with the prototype of Bangladesh's first ever, very own Rescuebot, designed to locate people trapped under rubble so that help can be sent to the exact sites.

"Our project supervisor and the CSE Department's assistant professor, Mohammad Khalilur Rahman's inspiration lead us this far," says Mehbas Fairouz. Khalilur Rahman has been thinking of forming a rescue team with the students of BRAC University for a while, ever since the Rana Plaza tragedy took place. The thought was reignited when recently the Nepal earthquake spread all the way to our lands. "So many times people who have gone in to save lives have lost their own," she continues, "our aim is to stop that from happening and to make saving lives easier."

"Many other countries like Japan have their own rescuebots. Our one's main purpose is to find the exact locations of the people trapped underneath. It

is designed to dig its way in," says Shadman Sakib. The bot's revolving arms help it through the rubble, while the on-board camera does the locating. "We are trying to make improvements to the prototype like designing a booster for the camera for better images. We were initially worried about finding signals in the wreckage, but then we set up an on-board beacon. There are still some adjustments to make, and hopefully once we can get the funds we can complete and implement them," Sakib continues. The bot also features an on-board adjacent torch, CO₂ sensors and a thermal camera, and is controlled by a joystick via radio frequency.

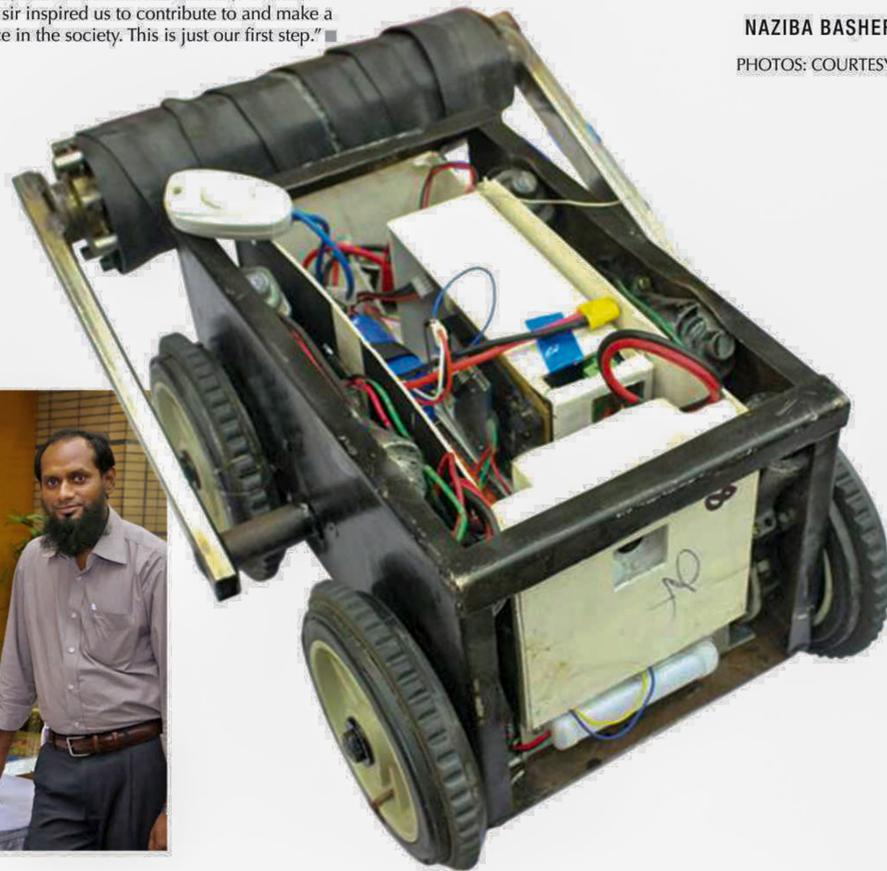
"We really just want to find a way to save more lives, faster. In a disaster-prone country like ours, we really ought to think about the best possible solutions. Sometimes it takes weeks and more lives, just trying to save a few," says Mehbas. Once the bot is tried and tested they plan to go into mass production, if successful, Sakib shares. He continues, "Khalilur Rahman sir inspired us to contribute to and make a difference in the society. This is just our first step."

INNOVATION

RESCUEBOT THE FIRST STEP

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTOS: COURTESY



THE THOUGHT WAS REIGNITED WHEN RECENTLY THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE SPREAD ALL THE WAY TO OUR LANDS.



HONESTY OF PURPOSE / GOOD GOVERNANCE ARE THE KEYS TO THE "SUCCESS"

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10.50 %	06 Months
11.00 %	01 Year
12.00 %	02 Years
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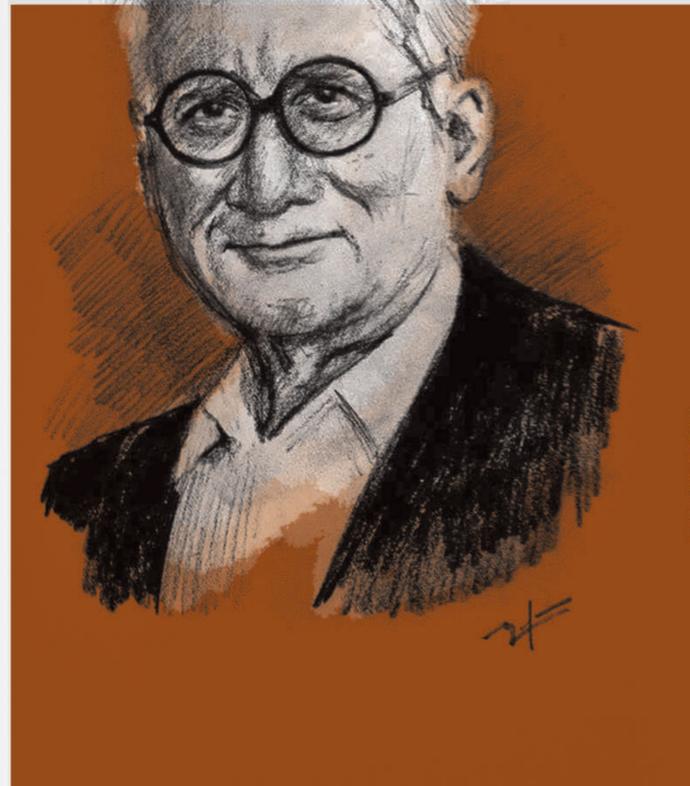
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CHARLES CORREA

1 September 1930 – 16 June 2015

Charles Correa popularly known as "India's greatest architect" was an Indian urban planner and activist. Correa was an influential architect credited for the creation of modern architecture in post-Independence India. He was noted for his sensitivity to the needs of the urban poor and for his use of traditional methods and materials.

MAD GENIUS

"WE UNDERSTAND SPACE IN FOUR DIRECTIONS, AND THE RECTANGLE IS SOMETHING VERY BASIC TO US. THE VEDICS, FOR EXAMPLE, KNEW THAT THE EARTH WAS ROUND, BUT THEY REPRESENTED IT AS A SQUARE. SO WHEN YOU GO INTO A FIVE-SIDED ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME IT'S EXCITING, BUT IF YOU DO IT REPEATEDLY YOU DESTROY THE SURPRISE. THE MORE YOU CHANGE THINGS, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME."

CERTAINLY ARCHITECTURE IS CONCERNED WITH MUCH MORE THAN JUST ITS PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES. IT IS A MANY-LAYERED THING. BENEATH AND BEYOND THE STRATA OF FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE, MATERIALS AND TEXTURE, LIE THE DEEPEST AND MOST COMPULSIVE LAYERS OF ALL."

STARDUARY

CAREFUL WHAT YOU DRINK

A few days back like many other motorists, I was stuck in Kakoli signal while trying to reach home on time for my iftar meal. There were many vendors who were selling mineral water bottles to people observing fast, stuck in the congestion. As the iftar time got closer, I thought of buying a bottle of water as I was not carrying one. As I was about to break my fast with the first gulp, to my horror I discovered that the seal of the bottle was already broken. I was absolutely baffled wondering whether it would be safe to drink or not. I realized that the vendors might fill up the bottles from random sources to maximise their profits. As the overall traffic situation has worsened during Ramadan, I would like to suggest that everyone carry a bottle of water and some dry food with themselves for the whole month. A water bottle can be a real life-saver in the face of the deception and contamination that is characteristic of the times.

Zunaed Hassan
Via Email



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

ACT RESPONSIBLY

Pets including dogs, cats and rabbits have been a part of my family since my earliest memories. Everyone in our neighbourhood was familiar with our love for animals. Recently one of my neighbours showed interest in adopting a cat, so I got him a kitten from my cousin. As I was handing the kitten over to him, I gave him some basic guidelines on keeping a cat. However within a few days, he started losing patience and interest in bearing her up and started acting extremely careless in feeding, litter changing and grooming the cat. I spent one week watching her condition deteriorate. I was so heartbroken that I decided to get the cat back from him. Seeing the cat's condition, I did not mind having one more pet in my home. Pet keeping is a serious responsibility and your pet is not your toy. If you decide to adopt a pet, then that should be a part of your life that you truly value.

Farjana Alam
Gulshan, Dhaka

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA