

EARTHQUAKES DON'T KILL PEOPLE,  
BUILDINGS DO! BUILD SAFE!PROUD  
CONSTRUCTION  
PARTNER OF  
PADMA BRIDGE

# Compositions of a carpenter

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, Gazipur with OSAMA RAHMAN

Nazrul Islam is a true artist masquerading as a professional carpenter. The man full of humour can't tell you his actual age. With a shy laugh, he says he is around 60. His age though is irrelevant to his legacy. Nazrul Islam harbours a one-of-a-kind love for all things made of wood. His clothes are testament to that fact because there the manifestation of his adoration is plain for all to see. His hat and his spectacles are both made of wood. Look down and one sees that his shoes are also made of wood. These fashion statements are fruits of his own labour, each accessory made by his own hands.

Nazrul Islam was born to a farmer's family of Chatarkandi village under Gopalpur thana of Tangail district. Currently, he resides with his family in a house adjacent to Boro Deora old mosque in Tongi, Gazipur. During his formative years, he cultivated the land with his father. A son of the soil, he immediately fell in love with the smell and touch of nature. He spent many an hour moulding the earth he worked with to make different toys and figurines.

One day his friend, Siddiqui Rahman, pointed out that he worked with clay which meant his creations would not last long. He urged Nazrul to craft things with wood, which is a more durable material and one that could attract buyers. Thus began Nazrul's love story with wood; he started making wooden toys and gift items. Gradually, he began designing various significant architectural symbols of the country.

On the noon of May 7, he sat with this correspondent to tell his story. He said he had to come to Tongi in 1978. In 1981, he began making wooden toys and gifts as a hobby. Eventually, this turned into his profession. Did he have help along the way? "I have no master or teacher. I learned this on my own but my friend, Siddiqui Rahman, helped me a lot in

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Nazrul Islam with one of his many wooden creations. A self-taught artist, he can make almost anything, even a miniature ship, inset, out of wood.

PHOTO:  
STAR

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Public places mostly unsafe for women

Finds a survey on four cities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cities hardly have any public place where women do feel safe, be it hospital, public transport or police station, according to a research by ActionAid Bangladesh.

The organisation has come up with the observation based on a survey of 400 people (50 percent male and 50 percent female) conducted in Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Narayanganj city corporations in the first quarter of 2016.

Their experience while seeking services from police, city corporations, transport authorities, market authorities and hospitals was compiled in preparing a report on "violence against women in public places".

Important public service sectors in Bangladesh are not people oriented due to lack of investment, implementation of policies, transparency and accountability. For these reasons, people, especially women, face numerous problems and harassment while seeking urgent services like health, education and transport," the international non-government organisation said in a press release.

At least 42.5 percent women service seekers face rude behaviour at hospitals by

42.5%	women service seekers face rude behaviour at hospitals
50%	women face unwanted touch at markets
30%	women face eve-teasing at police stations

service providers while 50 percent women face inappropriate touch at market places, according to the research titled "Public services on the context of violence against women in public places."

Seventy percent of the female participants during the survey said buses and bus stands were not safe for them.

Women face harassment even at police stations as, 30 percent women said they had experienced eve-teasing at police stations while 35 percent said they had suffered physical torture in incidents involving law enforcers.

Most of these public service providers do not have any mechanism to prevent violence against women. In most of the cases

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## RISING ACID ATTACKS Britain considers life sentence

CNN ONLINE

The British government is set to launch a review on tougher sentencing for perpetrators of acid attacks after Home Secretary Amber Rudd said those found guilty should "feel the full force of the law."

Rudd announced the move in the aftermath of the latest acid attack to hit the streets in London, in which five men were attacked over a 70-minute period on Thursday.

A 16-year-old suspect has been charged in connection with the attacks.

Writing in The Sunday Times, Rudd said that "life sentences must not be reserved for acid attack survivors."

According to a report released by the Metropolitan Police Service in March, acid attacks are on the rise in London. In 2014, there were 166 filed incidents, rising to 261 in 2015, and 454 in 2016. Police have told CNN that trend has continued this year.

One of the proposals being considered by the government is to ensure that acid and other corrosive substances will be considered as a dangerous weapon.

The review will also ascertain whether it could impose measures on retailers to restrict the sale of such substances.

"Acid attacks are horrific crimes which have a devastating effect on victims, both physically and emotionally," Rudd said in a statement yesterday.

"It is vital that we do everything we can to prevent these sickening attacks happening in the first place."

"We must also ensure that the police and other emergency services are able to respond as effectively as possible,"

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## India set to elect new president

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
New Delhi

India's lawmakers are going to elect a new president today from two main contenders -- Ram Nath Kovind backed by ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance and opposition-supported Meira Kumar, a former speaker of parliament.

The election to the top constitutional post will take place at the Parliament House and in all state legislative assembly secretariats where all elected members of the two houses of parliament -- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha -- and legislative assemblies of states will exercise their franchise to choose the successor to Pranab Mukherjee, the first Bengali to be elected to the highest office five years ago.

To become the next

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## ATM spits out pleas for help



AFP, Washington

When an ATM at a bank in Texas started spitting out handwritten notes calling for help, rather than tens and twenties, bemused police thought they must be the victim of a prank.

But the officers duly investigated the cash dispenser at a waterfront Bank of America office in Corpus Christi, after clients said they had received perplexing notes saying "please help."

Far from a candid camera-style hoax, the officers were amazed when a little voice came out of the machine, The Washington Post reported Friday.

When they kicked down the door leading to the ATM's service room, they found that a repair man who had been called to fix the lock had been stuck inside for hours, having left his cell phone and the device needed to open the door on the outside.

"You can't just turn the knob and exit," police spokesman Lieutenant John Hooper told the Post.

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# Water receding, river devouring

STAR REPORT

Flood situation slightly improved yesterday, but strong current of the Padma river began to eat away many houses at Lohajong and Tongibari upazilas in Munshiganj.

At least 25 houses were washed away in the swirling current of the Padma in the upazilas and several hundred families have moved to safer places sensing danger, reports our local correspondent.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Water Development Board (WDB) has meanwhile said of the 90 stations, water level was reported falling at 46 and rising at 37. The water level of four stations was not reported and three recorded a steady condition.

Of the 37, water level at 13 stations in Jamalpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Tangail, Rajbari, Netrakona, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet were flowing over the danger level.

In Tongibari, 10 houses at Borail, Chousar, Bagbari, and Jusishar were washed away. The Padma has swelled and flooded adjacent villages in last five days.

People of Gaodia union in Lohajong were the worst sufferers as several parts of Ranadia, Haridia, Boro Mokam, Shamur Bari and Gaodia were eroded.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Monir Hossain said the local administration would take necessary steps.

In the meantime, movement of vehicles through the ferry service on Shimulia-Kathalbari route has been seriously hampered due to the intense current. Goods laden trucks were reported to have been waiting for five to six days to cross the river.

In Manikganj, the water level in the Padma and the Jamuna decreased by 1 centimetre, but all the internal rivers including Kaliganga, Dhaleshwari, Gazikhali and Ichhamoti were swelling.

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Gazipur  
mayor can  
now work  
SC passes 'no order'  
following govt appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan to continue discharging his duties.

The court passed "no order" on a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the High Court order that halted the suspension of Mannan.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the "no order" after hearing the government

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This is what remains of Borail Masjid in Tongibari of Munshiganj. The mosque started to cave in on Saturday due to high tide-induced erosion. It was on the verge of being fully devoured by the mighty Padma yesterday.

PHOTO:  
FARHANA MIRZA BARNA