

# A classroom in a backpack

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system through a sustainable business model.

Asked how and why he came up with Sputnique, Waliullah said when he went to Germany for his master's degree in energy and environmental management in 2013, he submitted a project titled "How to make multimedia classrooms with solar power in schools without power connection" in a global competition organised by Dell.

Bagging the third prize among 816 project applicants, he then began planning on how to use this project in Bangladesh.

Waliullah returned in 2014 equipped with his prize money and made multimedia classrooms in Chattogram's Swapnanagar School and Kishoreganj's Parashmoni Shikha Academy, where there is no power connection. A few days in, Light of Hope then handed over laptops, projectors and other E-learning material to the authorities of both schools.

The idea of how to place an entire multimedia classroom inside a backpack like Sputnique was executed in 2016 when Sisimpur, the Bangladeshi version of Sesame's Street, came to us with a project proposal, in which they wanted to reach school kids in remote areas with their awareness programme. But it was difficult to move through the narrow village roads with generators, projectors, laptops and sound boxes on

rickshaw-vans," said Waliullah.

That is when Light of Hope took up the challenge and began designing these backpacks with a cause. "Everything in the backpack is powered by flexible solar panel," he said.

"The implementation of the project would have been impossible without the help of my team members -- Maruf, Soheb, Momel, Tripti and Taizul Islam Anik," Waliullah added.

After Sputnique was ready, Sisimpur bought 10 backpacks. "After that, we never had to look back," Waliullah said. So far, Light of Hope was able to sell 30 backpacks, bringing a change to thousands of lives.

"When we were working on our own project, we turned to Light of Hope to give us a viable solution to our problem. We wanted to take Sisimpur's content to Narsingdi's Raipur upazila, in 112 schools for children aged between three and eight. That is when Light of Hope came up with Sputnique. From the services of the backpack, we took the power bank and the LED projector. The power bank provided us with back-up electricity for three hours, where as the projector's light was sufficient to carry out the projects successfully," said Gopal Kumar Dey, senior manager (programme, research and M&E), Sisimpur.

He further said that, with the help of Sputnique, their project helped benefit almost 40,000 people.

Sputnique's speciality lies in its ability to hold multimedia learning sessions with ease and at a lower cost. While it may be difficult and costly to carry projectors and other multimedia equipment to rural areas, Sputnique offers a viable alternative.

Waliullah said, "Trainers and teachers can conduct classes and sessions smoothly as Sputnique's power bank can provide back-up electricity for up to three to six hours."

Sputnique is already being used in projects in the slums of Rayerbazar by Save the Children and other projects run by various organisations. It has also travelled to the Rohingya Refugee Camps through Jaago Foundation, to support hundreds of children by providing a high-quality, engaging and educational environment, he said.

"We are trying to help traumatised Rohingya children recover by providing them with children's visual content. The screening of the contents, in a place like the camps where electricity is unavailable, would have been impossible for us without the services provided by Sputnique," said Mohammad Quamru Kibria Ayon, Manager of Jaago Foundation.

Including 500 Rohingya children, over 70,000 people, especially children, have found a path towards better education and quality training through the invention of one simple backpack.

## BNP gets rally

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With the party chief now behind bars in a corruption case, the BNP will place a seven-point demand and a 12-point vision at the rally, senior leaders said.

The demands include deployment of the army with magistracy power during the polls; no use of electronic voting machines; reforms of the Election Commission based on consensus among all political parties, and presence of local and international observers to ensure transparency in the elections.

In its 12-point vision, the party says that if voted to power, it will not pursue the politics of vengeance, and that it will establish democracy and good governance.

Besides, it will not allow any terrorist group to use the territory of Bangladesh to operate criminal activities targeting any other country.

About the condition of arranging own security, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "It's the responsibility of police to ensure security of the rally but they are coming up with such conditions."

"Police maintain two different policies -- one for the ruling party and one for us," he alleged.

On September 22, at a programme at Mahanagar Natyamancha Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and BDB President Badruddoza Chowdhury announced that they would work together to forge a "greater national unity".

Several top leaders of the BNP and its allies other than Jamaat also shared the stage along with representatives of some small parties and civil society members.

Against this backdrop, the BNP planned to hold a rally in the capital and some leaders of the unity process said they would set their next action, including formation of a liaison committee for the unity process, after the party's programme.

Keeping this in mind, the BNP has decided to hold today's rally under its own banner, and not under the 20-party alliance.

Meanwhile, leaders of Chattogram city BNP at a press conference yesterday said they would stage a rally at Laldighi Maidan on Thursday.

"We have already applied to the Chittagong Metropolitan Police for permission," said Shahadat Hossain, president of the unit.

He alleged false cases are being filed against BNP men. "Over 150 leaders and activists have been arrested and around 45 false cases filed against the party men in the city over the past ten days."

## New police unit

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Crime Investigation Bureau -- has already been approved by the home ministry.

The police boss further said they have also formed a coordination cell at the police headquarters to monitor the cyber crimes-related cases.

"The coordination cell will monitor activities of all police units and keep us updated and informed continuously about the ongoing situations so that no one is able to cause deterioration in law and order by spreading rumours," the IGP said.

"Recently, we have noticed a rumour spread in the garment sector that two to three workers were killed and two others were missing. Locals locked into a clash centring the rumour later," he added.

On September 23, garment workers of Knit and Knitex Private Ltd blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway for around five hours at Chhoydana Degerchala in Gazipur, demanding arrears. During the demonstration, a rumour spread that several garment workers died as the factory provided them with unsafe

drinking water.

Police finally drove the agitated workers away and brought the situation under control.

"We remain cautious so that no one can cause deterioration in law and order in the upcoming days by spreading rumours," said the police chief.

Asked whether they were thinking about any upcoming challenge, he said the cyber world has become a bigger challenge for the entire world. "We have the workforce and we are preparing them by providing special training from abroad so that we can deal with the cyber crimes," he added.

Earlier in the morning, Dhaka Metropolitan Police cricket team clinched the title of the IGP Cup for the fifth time defeating APBn in the tournament organised by Bangladesh Police Cricket Club. The APBn side scored 135 in 19.2 overs losing only four wickets.

Habibur Rahman, DIG at PHQ, also the president of Bangladesh Police Cricket Club, presided over the prize giving ceremony.

## 14-party blasts

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Rallies will be held in Rajshahi on October 9, Natore on 10 and Khulna on 13, he added.

Similar events will be organised across the country in the coming days, he said.

"We will hold a grand rally in Dhaka in October ensuring Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's consent and presence."

On September 22, Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, led by Dr Kamal Hossain, held a citizen's rally at Mohanagar Natya Mancha. The event was attended by several top BNP leaders, Juktotront Chief Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and several leaders of different political parties.

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event, stressed the need for forging greater national unity with the demand for a free, fair and inclusive election.

At yesterday's meeting of the AL-led alliance, party leaders slammed Dr Kamal and B Chowdhury for forging the greater national unity.

Conspiracy against Sheikh Hasina has started, Nasim said.

They also termed the unity a fresh conspiracy against the government ahead of the national election.

He called upon the alliance leaders and activists to be prepared to leave their houses if needed.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu said BNP was sinking as a party and had been trying to survive through forging an alliance.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said they have formed the unity to harm the country's independence.

Rashed Khan Menon, Anwar Hossain Manju, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Dilip Barua and Nozibul Bashar among other 14-party leaders spoke.

# Mother, her unborn child die

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the dead-- Shilpi Akter, 32, wife of Alamgir Hossain of Delpara area in Purba Fatullah--ransacked the hospital.

Police detained the hospital's four owners, a doctor and a nurse over the incident.

The detainees are owners Mojibur Rahman, Masum Ahmed, Ahmed Ali Khan and Qamrun Nahar, and medical officer Jamil Ahmed and nurse Surma Begum.

Quoting husband Alamgir, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Fatullah Police Station Didarul Alam said Shilpi Akter was around five months pregnant at the time of her death. She began feeling unwell on Thursday afternoon and was brought to the hospital where she was examined by Jessica Rizvi Tamanna.

She was then admitted to the hospital.

Alamgir claimed that on Friday morning, hospital authorities told Alamgir that his wife needed to have a

c-section and that he needed to bring the required blood by Saturday morning. However, the doctor's decided to go ahead with the operation without getting the blood or the family's consent.

Both mother and child died after the operation.

Shilpi's relatives then alleged wrong treatment by doctors. They then ransacked the hospital. On information, police went to the hospital and brought the situation under control.

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone, Jessica claimed that a normal delivery was her first course of action as the mother had two previous c-sections. However, as her condition deteriorated, she suggested that Shilpi be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

She then claimed that Alamgir refused to do so and said that he would arrange the four bags of blood needed so the operation could be performed at

New Popular Hospital.

Alamgir could only get one bag of blood and Shilpi eventually died due to blood loss, Jessica alleged.

Denying allegations that the operation was conducted without consent, Jessica said she had Alamgir's permission and he was the one who insisted that the surgery be conducted at New Popular Hospital.

However, Alamgir denied the accusations and said he took Shilpi to DMCH after he was told to do so following the operation but the on-duty nurse declared her dead.

He also said he was never told to bring four bags of blood or even when the operation would take place.

The doctors claimed that the patient's condition was critical and she died during operation, the SI said, quoting the detainees. Police are investigating the incident and legal action will be taken as needed, he added.

Review/Revision: Aminul Islam

# বিশ্ব নদী দিবস ২০১৮ বিশেষ ক্রেডপত্র [বাকি অংশ]

ভিত্তি/বিশ্বগোপ্যতা একেছে নেই। (৮) ৮৬ (৫): ৮৬ (৪) ধারার অধীন জরিপ ও মাপ প্রচলনের ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে, ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে যায়গায়ে প্রায়িনি বেস্টি প্রক্রিয়া করা আবশ্যিক।

বিশ্বগোপ্যতা নদী রক্ষণ করার প্রয়োজন নথি প্রক্রিয়া করা আবশ্যিক। একেবারে নদী রক্ষণ করার প্রয়োজন নথি প্রক্রিয়া করা আবশ্যিক।

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ন্যায় হিস্যা প্রান্তির লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিবেদী দেশ/দেশগুলির সংগে জর