



This large pond at Faridpur Upazila Health Complex compound carries the fading memory of legendary composer Gauri Prasanna Mazumder. Inset, the 50-bed hospital was built on the ancestral property of the famous lyricist in Pabna's Faridpur upazila.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

A LEGACY FADING AWAY

No sign of famed lyricist Gauri Prasanna Mazumder's ancestral home in Pabna; locals, relatives want his memory preserved

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Faridpur, Pabna

"Coffee houser shei addata aaj aar nei", "Maago, bhabna keno, amra tomar shantipriyo shanto chhele" and many other songs by lyricist Gauri Prasanna Mazumder ring through the hearts of Bangalees across the world.

But his legacy in Pabna's Faridpur upazila is fading, with his ancestral home demolished decades ago. Yesterday was his 94th birth anniversary.

Born on December 5, 1924, at the Mazumder estate (then landlord) of Gopalnagar village, the famed lyricist migrated to India in 1965.

In 1974-75, the Bangladesh government acquired 33 acres of land at the village, including the residence of Gauri Prasanna Mazumder, to set up the Faridpur Upazila Health Complex. Now, it is a 50-bed health complex and residential establishments.

All structures of the Mazumder estate from the early 19th century have been demolished, said Ratan Kumar Roy, Faridpur upazila health and family planning officer.

"There was a beautiful three storied building with 19th century heritage where Gauri Prasanna Mazumder was born and grew up. But now there is nothing of the historic house. There is a pond and three palm trees inside the hospital compound carrying the fading memory of Mazumder and nothing else," said Bablu Lahiri, an elderly resident of Gopalnagar.

Mazumder visited his ancestral home in 1972 after the Liberation War, when the land became an abandoned vested property, said Bablu, also a relative of Mazumder, pointing at a piece of land inside the compound.

His some other noted songs include *Akash keno daake, Aj ei dintake moner khatay, Amar swapno tumi, Asha chilo*



Gauri Prasanna Mazumder

bhalobasha chilo, Eito hethay kunjio chhayay, Ek polokey ektu dekha, Ki ashay bandhi khelaghor, Aj dujonar duti poth, Ei balukabelay, Ei raat tomar amar, Ei poth jodi na shesh hoy, and O nodi re.

"As a member of the Mazumder family,

I feel proud of my uncle Gauri Prasanna Mazumder. But it is also unfortunate that we didn't keep his memory at his ancestral home alive," said Chandan Mazumder.

He urged the government to do something, like building a memorial or a library in his honour, for the future generations to remember him by.

"The youth in Faridpur know that Gauri Prasanna Mazumder is originally from here, but no one can identify his ancestral home," said Abu Sayed Moula, a businessman in the village.

They have seen some parts of the dilapidated building in the early 80s, but there is no sign of it now to remember the legendary composer, he added.

Mazumder died on February, 12, 1986, in Kolkata.

"The government must take steps to educate the youth on his early life and works at his ancestral home," said Abdul Matin Khan, a leading cultural organiser in the district.

'Punish killers of schoolboy Ani'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Teachers and students of Dublia High School yesterday demanded punishment of the killers of Abir Mahamud Ani, an eighth grader of the institution.

The protesters also urged the authorities concerned to take stern action against the drug peddlers and addicts so that no one has to embrace such a death like Ani.

Earlier, a human chain was formed alongside Abdul Hamid Road in the town in the morning where Ani's family members as well as residents of Dublia village took part.

Police recovered the body of Ani, 14, son of Rabiul Pramanik of Dublia village, from a field in front of Dublia police camp on November 30, four days after he went missing on November 26.

Meanwhile, police on Saturday detained one of Ani's classmates Joydul Abedin Joy for his alleged involvement in the murder after victim's father filed a case with Ataikula Police Station, Officer in Charge (OC) of the police station Md Moniruzzaman said.

Later, Joy gave his confessional statement before the court of Pabna judicial magistrate on Sunday and the court recorded his statement under Section 164.

According to Joy's confession, he and Ani went to consume Dandi, a kind of drug prepared with adhesives, at a nearby field on the night of November 26.

While sharing the drugs, Ani made some unpleasant remarks about Joy's girlfriend which angered Joy and triggered an altercation between the two.

At one stage, Joy stabbed Ani indiscriminately with a sharp weapon leaving him dead on the spot.

Later, Joy called his another friend Sagar over phone and they together buried Ani's body there the same night, the OC said, quoting the statement.

Teacher beaten for protesting stalking

Injured Sayed lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A schoolteacher was beaten mercilessly for protesting stalking of girl students in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila on Tuesday.

Injured Abu Sayed, a teacher of Darul Islah High School in the area, was admitted to the upazila health complex.

The stalking victims filed a written complaint to Upazila Nirbahi Officer Razibul Alam in this regard yesterday.

Md Tutul Mia, son of Belal Hossain of Ramtanu village, used to pass abusive comments at the female students, said the victims.

Recently, the stalking victims informed teacher Sayed who later talked to Tutul and requested him not to do so. But the stalker did not pay any heed to the warning.

On Monday, Tutul again waylaid some female students of the school and hurled abusive words at them. The students again informed it to teacher Sayed.

The teacher found the stalker in Bottoli area when he was returning home from school on Tuesday afternoon and requested him not to stalk the school going girls. After an hour, Tutul and his hired goons went to the house of Sayed and beat him up mercilessly and fled the scene.

The teacher was then rushed to Panchbibi Upazila Health Complex.

UNO Razibul Alam said action will be taken against the stalker.

New house for poor

Four families out of 63 get new shelters under Ashrayan-2 Project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Four homeless families in Harinakundo upazila have got new houses, built under a government initiative meant for the poor.

Harinakundo upazila administration handed over the houses built under the Ashrayan-2 Project, run by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), were handed over to the four beneficiaries out of 63 in the first week of November.

Construction of the rest 59 houses is already going on and those will be handed over to the beneficiaries soon after completion.

The beneficiaries are Ayesha Begum, wife of Fazlur Rahman, Rajab Ali, son of Khorshed Mondol, Anjer Ali, son of late Bisharat Ali, and his son Karimul Islam.

During a visit to the project site at Mandertala village in the upazila this correspondent saw each house comprises of a room, a veranda and a sanitary latrine.

The walls of the tin-shed houses are brick-made, though they were supposed to be built with corrugated iron sheets.

Sixty-five-year-old Anjer Ali of Mandartala village said he used to live in a dilapidated house on his three decimals of

land with his family consisting of six members.

Anjer said they cannot describe how happy they are now because earlier whenever it rained they became wet and could not sleep.

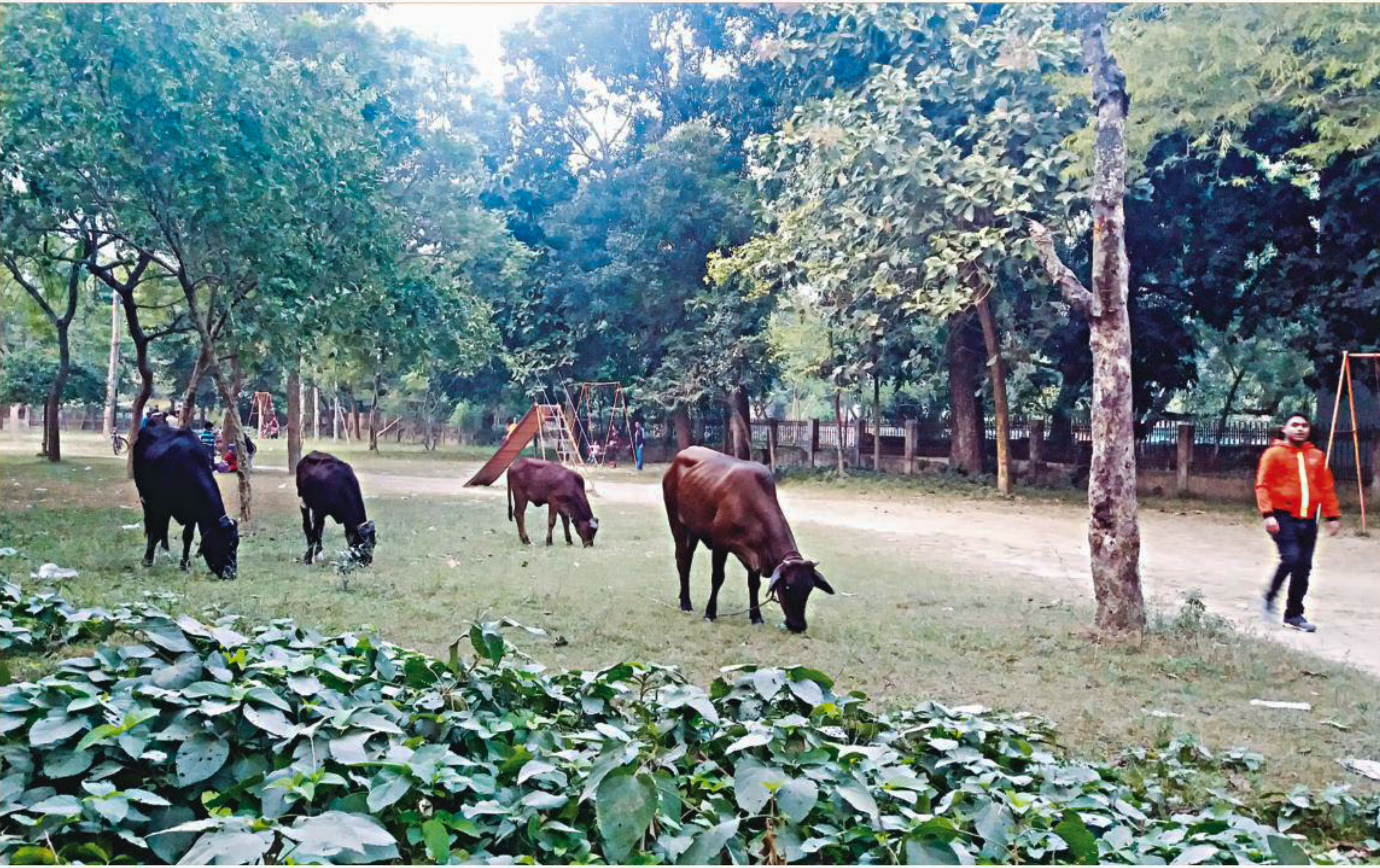
Another beneficiary Ayesha Begum said earlier she had a shabby makeshift house on four decimals of land but she has a new house now.

Failing to control her emotion Ayesha burst into tears and said she has no words that can describe her happiness.

Harinakundo Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Saiful Islam said 63 people, who have their own land but do not have the ability to erect a house there, were enlisted as the beneficiaries under Ashrayan-02 Project.

Under the project titled 'Jar Jami Achhe Ghar Nei Tar Nij Jamite Ghar Nirman', Tk one lakh was allocated for constructing each tin-shed house with a sanitary latrine and a veranda, the UNO said, adding that, according to the estimate walls were supposed to be made with corrugated iron sheet, but he built those with bricks.

The construction of the four houses were started on October 15 and completed in the first week of November, the UNO added.



The only children's park in Chapainawabganj town serves as a grazing field nowadays, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned for years.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

Children's park or grazing field!

Collectorate Shishu Park in C'nawabganj sees no renovation for over a decade

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Collectorate Shishu Park, the only children's park in Chapainawabganj town, has not seen any renovation for nearly one and a half decades and remained virtually unusable.

Moreover, the park, meant for children's recreation, now serves as a grazing field for cattle, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

Though the children living in the town do not have any alternative for their healthy development, surprisingly the park has remained in an awful condition

for years.

As the park hardly saw any repair work for long, it no longer attracts the children.

During a recent visit to the park, this correspondent saw some boys playing cricket while locals were grazing their domestic goats and cattle inside the park premises.

"As there is no scope to use the recreational items like swings and slides, we play cricket here," ninth-grader Merajul Hasan said.

The district administration built the park on 1.68 acres of land in front of the deputy commissioner's office in the mid '80s to provide recreation facilities for the children, locals said.

During that time it offered various recreational equipments like swings and ladders and children could pass their time amid great fun, locals said, adding that the park is now in an awful condition as it hardly saw any renovation in the last one and a half decades.

"My son used to go to the park earlier, but due to its dilapidated condition he avoids it now," Selim Reza of Shantibag area said, adding that due to the negligence of the authorities concerned, swings and ladders of the park have completely damaged.

"We enjoyed our childhood with huge amusement facilities as then there were many playgrounds for children. But now there is little empty spaces in the town for the children to play," another Shahidul Huda of Poladanga area said.

Chapainawabganj Civil Surgeon Dr Saiful Ferdous Md Khairul Ataturk said recreation and playing time is much needed for healthy mental and physical growth of a child.

Chapainawabganj Deputy Commissioner AZM Nurul Haque said he will take necessary initiatives to renovate the park soon.



Rumia Khatun stands in front of her new house erected under the government's Ashrayan-2 Project at Mandertal village in Jhenidah's Harinakundo upazila.

PHOTO: STAR