

At least 5 killed as train falls off bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people, including three women, were killed and more than 100 injured as a passenger train derailed on a bridge in Moulvibazar late last night.

The death toll may rise, police said. One of the carriages of the Upaban Express, heading to the capital from Sylhet, fell into a canal while two others fell close to the canal's banks. Several other carriages were also derailed. The incident happened at Boromchal in Kulaura upazila.

Five bodies were recovered from the canal, said Nurun Nabi, an officer of Fenchuganj fire service who was on the spot.

The accident happened around 11:50pm last night.

The carriages that derailed were towards the tail of the train while the front part sped towards the next station, Akhaura.

"Right after the incident, we rushed to the spot to rescue people," Nurun Nabi told The Daily Star by phone.

At least 13 fire engines were sent for the rescue mission and five ambulances went to the spot to provide immediate medical care to the injured.

Local fire service and civil defence units along with locals were conducting the rescue operations.

The operation was called off around 2:25am as they had completed getting people out of the carriage sunk in the canal and the carriages scattered at the scene, said Nabi.

Kulaura Railway Police Station Officer-in-charge Abdul Malek said, "We are yet to get the full picture of the accident and the number of casualties. The number of the casualties could rise."

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FREEDOM FIGHTERS Govt circular on minimum age illegal

SC upholds HC verdict
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court full bench yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that declared illegal the government circulars and gazette notifications fixing the minimum age of freedom fighters at 12 and a half years in 1971.

A four-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed "no order" on a government petition seeking a stay on the HC judgment.

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Pakistan condemn SA to WC exit

AFP, London

Pakistan condemned South Africa to World Cup elimination and kept alive their own slender chances of advancing to the semifinals with a 49-run win at Lord's on Sunday.

Chasing 309 to remain in the hunt for a last four berth, South Africa's survival bid petered out on 259-9.

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CROSSING THE MEDITERRANEAN

Trip doomed from start

MASUK HRIDOY, B'baria

Traffickers crammed 75 people, including 64 Bangladeshis, in a 33-seater motorboat for the journey by sea from the coast of Libya to Europe.

The journey, which began on May 27, came to a sudden halt two days later when the boat ran out of fuel midway. Soon, the food also ran out.

Just when things could not get any worse, a hole was found in the vessel hull. As water began to seep in, the boat slowly began to go under water.

"We were in serious trouble then," Shahajul Khandker of Chhatura Sharif village under Dharkhar union of Akhura in Brahmanbaria told The Daily Star, while sharing horrifying stories of his entire journey to Libya.

Shahajul is one of 17 Bangladeshis, mostly from Madaripur and Brahmanbaria,

who returned home on Friday, helped by the Bangladesh government and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The migrants were rescued by an Egyptian ship on May 31, but not before they had lost all hope.

The migrants first spotted the big ship from their sinking boat in the morning of May 30.

Idris Jamadar, another refugee also from Chhatura Sharif village, recalled their rescue.

"We were excited when we saw the ship."

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Mustafizur Rahman, left, and Soumya Sarkar are yet to deliver their best at the World Cup, but will be counted on to step up today.

PHOTO: BCB

পদ্মা সেতুর মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট

ভিত্তিসহ পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট মজবুত থেকে আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

Tigers face spin-heavy Afghans

SAKEB SUBHAN from Southampton

Bangladesh and Afghanistan are the two teams among 10 in the World Cup that not many would have given much chance of going deep into the tournament when it began. For one side, that forecast has held true as Afghanistan are still winless after six matches. Bangladesh, on the other hand, with wins over West Indies and South Africa, are still in the semifinal race with five points from six matches.

They have the chance to go one step further today when they take on Afghanistan at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, but will need to

overcome a trial by spin in conditions that would have suited them against most teams other than their current opponents.

The match will be played on the same wicket on which Afghanistan gave the best team of the tournament, India, a run for their money on Saturday with their army of spinners. While Afghanistan will be playing their second match at the venue and have trained here for the last seven days, Bangladesh have come in from a steady diet of true pitches where fast bowlers had the advantage. Therefore, while Bangladesh are the superior team on paper and are ranked

two places higher, the situations surrounding the match has levelled the playing field to some extent.

On the positive side for Bangladesh, who have to win all of their last three matches to stay in contention for the semifinals, injured regulars Mohammad Saifuddin and Mosaddek Hossain are set to return to the side after missing their last match against Australia.

Pace-bowling all-rounder Saifuddin complained of back pain and had not bowled since the match against West Indies last Monday, but bowled during practice yesterday and

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GOVT OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES

Graft not declining despite salary rise

Finds TIB study on integrity in public ad

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

There is no visible decline in corruption by government officials and employees despite significant increases in their salaries and other benefits over the years, the Transparency International Bangladesh has found in a study.

The study cited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former finance minister AMA Muhith expressing frustrations about corrupt practices by government officials.

"We have raised salaries, allowances and other benefits to a great extent. Why

indulge in corruption then?" the study quoted the PM as telling government officials on January 17.

Earlier on March 29, 2018, Muhith said corruption by public servants did not decrease although their salaries had been increased.

For example, a section of government officials who were given cars still use vehicles from the transport pool, putting pressure on the pool cars, said the study report released yesterday.

Done between June 2018 and March

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BUSINESS Policies widening rich-poor gap: Rehman Sobhan

The government's policies account for widening inequality as they are sending public resources to a small number of people, said economist Rehman Sobhan. He cited subsidies, tax exemptions and frequent loan rescheduling of habitual defaulters as cases of government's bad policymaking or inaction.

STORY ON B1

SHAH AMANAT AIRPORT

Goods released on forged papers

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Cg

A clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent took delivery of nine consignments of various goods from Chattogram's Shah Amanat International Airport in December last year allegedly using forged documents.

The agent -- Water Ways Shipping Agencies Limited -- had the goods released against fake documents, including passport details, flight numbers and arrival dates, of nine Bangladeshi expatriates, customs officials said in an investigation report submitted to Customs Commissioner Mohammad Fakhru Alam on May 11.

Besides, although the customs register and the airport warehouse delivery register show that the goods have already been delivered, the server of the National Board of Revenue still shows them as unreleased, the report said.

The NBR server also shows that no taxes were paid for the release, the report said, adding that the C&F agent received the consignments with release letters signed by customs officials.

The goods include cosmetics items, clothes and dry foods.

According to the "Passenger (non-tourist) Baggage (Import) Rules-2016", a Bangladeshi expatriate can bring in maximum 65kgs of finished goods in cargo flights (not for commercial purposes). The passenger will have to take the delivery through an C&F agent and by paying tax against the goods.

The tax can be paid either through bank accounts or pay-orders. If an agent selects account payment in the online form at the customs server, money will be automatically deducted from its bank account. In case of payment by pay-order, the money has to be paid separately.

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Remembrance

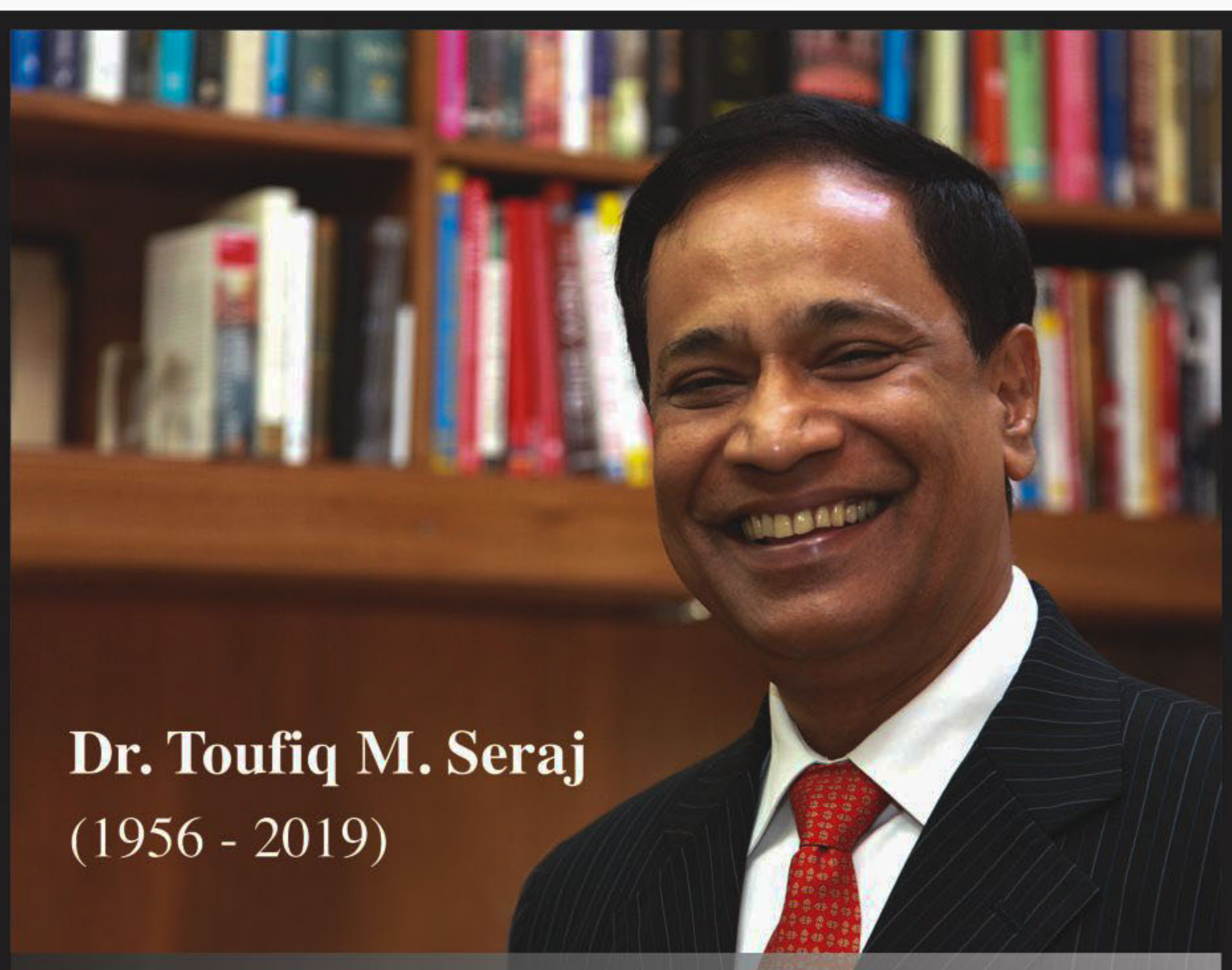


Anindya Majumder (Bappu)
24 June 1975 - 16 January 2007

On his 44th Birth Anniversary, we honour and cherish the memory of **Anindya Majumder (Bappu)**, a loving son, a doting brother, a devoted friend, and a dedicated professional.

He had been a founding director of Jamuna Bank Ltd. and a director at New Generation Construction Co. Ltd.

We miss him dearly everyday,
Family, Friends and Colleagues



Dr. Toufiq M. Seraj
(1956 - 2019)



We Mourn

It is with the saddest regret to announce that **Dr. Toufiq M. Seraj**, Managing Director of Sheltech (Pvt.) Ltd. & Associated Companies, Former President of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) passed away on 21 June 2019, Friday (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un).

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at **Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Mosque) Today (24 June 2019, Monday)** after Asr Prayers.

All his relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to be present in the Namaz-e-Janaza.



SHELTECH FAMILY