

A second lease of life for little Ahad

Orphaned at birth and adopted by rickshaw-van puller, boy overcomes heart ailment, Covid-19 with help from M'singh volunteers

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Ahad from Jamalpur lost his father before his birth and mother during delivery. When none was found to take care of the seven-year-old, another couple came forward to adopt him.

The boy found a new home of rickshaw-van puller Md Nazim Uddin and Ripa Akter who took him to their Charpara Kopikhet residence in Mymensingh city.

The couple amid their financial constraint started raising him and got him admitted to class two in a local government primary school. "We want him to be educated," said Nazim. At one stage, the couple discovered that he had a heart problem.

At that time, the couple had no children. Now, they have two -- Ahad and a five-year-old daughter.

In May last year, when shutdown caused by Covid-19 pandemic began to cripple the financial condition of the country's low- and low-middle class people, the couple fell in severe crisis.

At that time, a group of volunteers found them during their door-to-door distribution of food for the people in need. Then the activists came to know from the couple about Ahad's heart problem.

Two years ago, the couple had taken him to Mymensingh Medical College

Hospital and National Heart Foundation in Dhaka. But they could not afford the amount required for the treatment, said Nazim Uddin.

Since then Ahad had been left untreated, said the family.

The volunteers led by Ali Yusuf took the charge of Ahad's treatment and made a post on social media urging people to financially support Ahad in June.

People responded well and Tk 2,80,000 was collected within a week and Ahad's treatment started, said Ali, also a poet and printing businessman.

"We were ready for Ahad's treatment in June. As the boy tested coronavirus positive, the process delayed. We took him to Dhaka Shishu Hospital in October and did necessary tests," said Md Ashraf Uddin, another volunteer.

"He was admitted there under Dr Khalifa Mahmud Tarik in December and was operated on on January 4 this year," he said, adding that now he is doing well.

Now, Ahad has got a new hope to live. The satisfaction is beyond expression, said Nazmul Ahmed Didar, another activist. But the volunteers gave the total credit to those who gave the boy financial support.

Expressing gratitude to the volunteers and those who have come forward with helping hands, an emotion gripped Nazim said they will keep the service in their memories forever.



Dhaka South City Corporation conducted a cleaning operation at South Mugdapara's Shegunbagicha canal. Locals say the water body has been weighed down by indiscriminate trash-dumping for a long time. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Statesman of

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the exhibition and hoped it would encourage people to know more about Bangabandhu.

"We all know about the contributions of Bangabandhu in attaining the independence of Bangladesh but many of the new generation do not know about his contributions as a statesman," he added.

"When Bangabandhu was freed from prison in Pakistan and returned to the war-torn country, there was no administrative structure; roads, schools and colleges were all in disarray. He then took up the challenge of rebuilding Bangladesh and in a very short period of time took various steps to revive the country's economy," the mayor said.

Rajesh Kumar Raina, assistant high commissioner of India, Khulna, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

He said after independence of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu not only focused on the people of his country but also concentrated on building a bridge between the neighbouring countries. He also emphasised on the special bond between India and Bangladesh.

Among others, Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman and District Council Chairman Sheikh Harunur Rashid were present.

Justice for

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one of the investigation team members was present at the protest.

She said, "On January 11, 2020, Lakingme was taken to Cumilla by Atullah and later on she was converted and married to him at a registrar's office. If OC Pradeep Kumar Das [now accused of killing Maj Sinha] of Teknaf Police Station would have recorded the case of Lakingme's father Lala Aung Chakma, she could have been rescued."

According to her, although Lala managed to file a case with Cox's Bazar Women and Children Repression Tribunal on January 27 that year, the PBI negligently investigated the case. And after 11 months and six days, Lakingme's body was found in a Cox's Bazar hospital morgue.

Prof Titil also demanded that she was abducted, forcibly converted and married at 14 years of age, which means she was raped. The family must get justice and the accused must be held accountable for this.

"Besides, the law enforcers must investigate whether she killed herself or was murdered because we have found many examples that she was instigated to take her own life," Prof Titil added.

"Lakingme's family must be given protection since they are feeling insecure, and they must be given compensation. Also, a departmental inquiry into PBI's negligence must be carried out and

punishment must be ensured for those involved in certificate forgery, forced conversion and marriage of the minor," she added.

She also expressed concern over maintenance and guardianship of Lakingme's child.

Expressing solidarity with the protest, Prof Dr Robayet Ferdous of Dhaka University said there are "many Lakingmes" who had to endure such cruelty.

Lakingme became the victim of identity politics and all this was done in an attempt to destroy her Chakma identity, he added.

Rina Roy, director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said 1,627 girl children and women were raped in the past year. "But we have not seen any reflection of this in the judiciary."

"Marriage of a 14-year-old girl is not acceptable in any way and it amounts to rape and coercion. We are demanding justice for Lakingme," she added.

Sanjeeb Drong, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, presided over the protest.

No citizen of this beloved state deserves such cruel state like Lakingme, he said. "We want to see this state as more sensitive and more democratic; we demand a humane Bangladesh."

Advocate Rafiq Ahmed Siraji of ALRD; Maithen Promila, member of Adivasi Forum and Lakingme's lawyer Md Mohiuddin also joined the protest. Moderated by Shahnaz Sumi, deputy director of BNPS.



Ahad with his parents at Dhaka Shishu Hospital after his surgery.

5 underdogs

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health facilities for city dwellers, and expand and develop the education sector," he said.

"I am pledging to voters that I would not indulge in corruption, if elected mayor," Jannatul added.

Independent candidate Khokan Chowdhury, who is vying with "elephant" symbol, went to Patenga for campaigning.

He was seen pledging to voters that he would create a digital port city.

Talking to the newspaper, Khokan said, "I will serve the people and will make proper plans to address waterlogging. Overall, I will make a digital port city, if I am elected."

"I would not be a mayor, but rather a servant of city dwellers, if they elect me," he said.

Besides, Wahed Murad, who is competing with "chair" symbol, and Abul Manjur, vying with "mango" symbol, went to different areas yesterday.

The city has taken a festive mood centring CCC polls, due to the vibrant campaigns throughout the city.

Councillor candidates are also conducting their campaigns every day.

Apart from the mayoral post, candidates are vying for 41 general seats and 15 reserved seats for women under councillor posts.

A total of 14 executive magistrates have been deployed by Election Commission to maintain electoral code of conduct, said Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, returning officer of CCC polls, adding that the magistrates have already fined many people in different areas for violating the code of conduct.

IUBAT's 30th anniversary celebration begins

CITY DESK

The month-long celebration of the 30th founding anniversary of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) was inaugurated at 9:30am yesterday at its permanent campus in Uttara through flamboyant programmes, said a press release.

The celebration began with hoisting flags and placing floral wreaths at the grave of the university's founder.

Initiated in 1989 and established in 1991, IUBAT was founded by Prof M Alimullah Miyan, then professor and director of IBA, Dhaka University.

IUBAT Trustee Board Chairperson Zubier Alim and Vice Chancellor Abdur Rab conveyed greetings to all concerned on this occasion.

A discussion was held with the vice chancellor in the chair. IUBAT Pro-VC Prof Dr Hamida Akhtar Begum, Registrar Prof Md Lutfar Rahman and others spoke on the occasion, highlighting memories of Dr Miyan and IUBAT's contribution to higher education.

The celebration will continue till February 14.

Make movies

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Films depict art that transcends boundaries and tell stories which, often, people are afraid to tell or look at, he added.

Noting that the pandemic has inflicted untold sufferings for artists, he said the government has reopened theatres under conditions of health and social-distancing restrictions for the sake of the film industry.

Lauding that this year's festival is dedicated to the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said the festival is starting at a time when citizens are crossing over from "Mujib Year" to the Golden Jubilee of Independence.

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- ০১। আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে ঢাকা মহানগরীতে স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসরত হতে হবে;
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- ০৫। পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখে বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্টের আপিল বিভাগে আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তিসহ হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ১২ (বার) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- ০৬। সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে ভ্যাট/ট্যাক্স কর্তন করে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে এবং এ ক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে;
- ০৭। অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তা আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- ০৮। আইনজীবী নিয়োগের মেয়াদ ০৩ বছর হবে;
- ০৯। কোন আইনজীবী অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পূর্বে কর্তৃপক্ষ বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট আইনজীবী দ্বারা পরিচালিত মামলার সকল নথিপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট জমা প্রদানের শর্তে অব্যাহতির আবেদনটি বিবেচনা করা যেতে পারে। অপরদিকে কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান সাপেক্ষে প্যানেলভুক্ত কোন আইনজীবীকে অব্যাহতি প্রদান করা যেতে পারে;
- ১০। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে উপ-সচিব (আইন) ও সদস্য সচিব, বেসরকারি প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগ কমিটি, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং-৪৩২ (৫ম তলা), ভবন নং-০৪, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবর আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না;
- ১১। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদনপত্র অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। বেসরকারি প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগ/তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে; এবং
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(দিল আফরোজা বেগম)
উপসচিব

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