



Nazrul Islam Babu with Sabina Yasmin.



Montazur Rahman Akbar, Nazrul Islam Babu, Andrew Kishore and Sheikh Sadi Khan.



With his wife, Shaheen Akhter.

NAZRUL ISLAM BABU'S Ekushey Padak win

Justice for legendary artiste, triumph for cultural activists

The brutality of the Liberation War, as attested by him, turned him into a poet.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"Shob Kota Janala Khule Dao Na" and "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Jonotar", these two timeless songs alone are enough to cement the late Nazrul Islam Babu in the annals of Bangladeshi history.

The eminent lyricist and Freedom Fighter, after 32 years of his passing, has finally been named in this year's Ekushey Padak list, for his significant contribution to our music.

For years, cultural activists have lobbied for a national honour for the lyricist. He has been represented in numerous articles, memorandums and speeches throughout the years. As all hope slowly started to dwindle, the recognition brought forth gratitude from the cultural arena in the country.

Nazrul Islam Babu was born in July 17, 1949 in

Jamalpur. His father, Bazul Kader, was a school-teacher and a music lover, by whom Babu was greatly inspired by.

In 1971, a 21-year-old Nazrul Islam Babu took up arms for the country. The brutality of the Liberation War, as attested by him, turned him into a poet.

He earned his BSc from Govt Ashok Mahmud College in 1973, and in the same year, he was enlisted as a lyricist at BTW, when he was arguably in his prime.

The eminent lyricist tied the knot with Shahin Akter on November 23, 1984. Together, they had two daughters - Nazia and Nafia. Even though Nazrul Islam Babu is no more, the family still hosts a small programme on his birthday, every year.

Some of his remarkable works include—"Amar Genthe Dao Na Maago", "Dui Bhuboner Bashinda", "Prithibite Prem Bole Kichhu Nei", Dakey Pakhi Kholo Aankhi", "Kal Shararaat Chhilo Shopner Raat", "Koto Je Beshechhi Tomake Bhalo", and "Amar Moner Akashe Aaj Jole Shukh Tara", among many others.

On September 14, 1990, the artiste left us for good. Nazrul Islam Babu was honoured with the National Film Award posthumously, as the best lyricist for the songs in the film "Padma Meghna Jamuna". The film, directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam, was released in 1991.



Nazrul Islam Babu

Zayed Khan to remain General Secretary of Film Artistes' Association?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The High Court yesterday stayed for a week the appellate board's decision that cancelled the candidacy of Zayed Khan and declared Nipun as the newly elected general secretary of the Film Artistes' Association. The court also mentioned that for now, there are no restrictions upon his activities as General Secretary.

Zayed expressed his gratitude to the High Court via a live video. "Justice has prevailed, and I am grateful to the law of Bangladesh for bringing me justice," he said.

The hearing was based on the fact that the appeal board for the elections had expired on January 29, 5 pm.

Zayed said when the board sought guidance from the Ministry of Social Welfare, they intentionally hid that they have no official right to take any decision regarding the elections anymore.



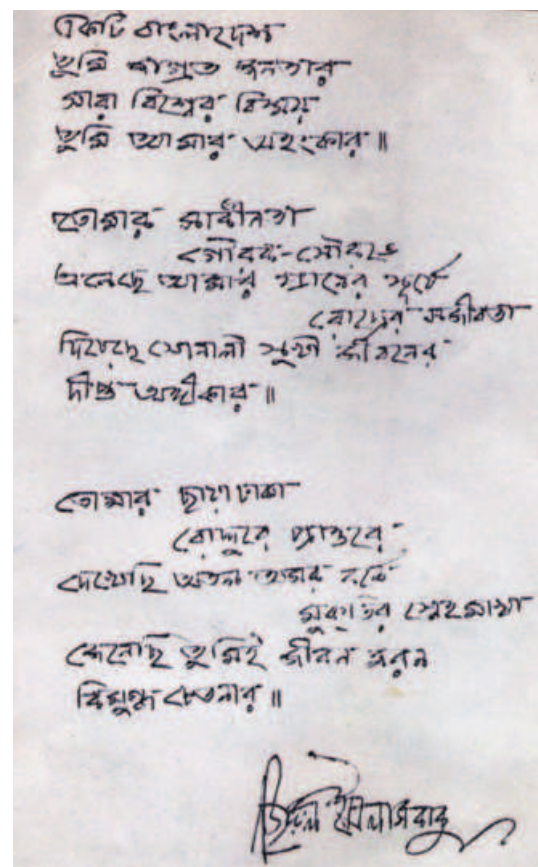
'Gehraiyaan' taught me not to judge people: Deepika Padukone

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Deepika Padukone's upcoming movie "Gehraiyaan" is one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

In a recent interview, "Padmaavat" actress shared that working in the movie taught her not to judge people.

"The one thing I have learnt from this film is not to judge [people] because there is always a reason why they do what they do. The minute you understand the emotion or the thought process behind the action, there is automatically empathy," she said.



"Ekti Bangladesh" in Nazrul Islam Babu's handwriting, taken from his diary.

COUNTRYWIDE

Of no use for 12yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moubibazar

A concrete bridge built over a decade ago without approach roads has been lying abandoned at Nowagaon village in Lakhai upazila of Habiganj.

The villagers have been suffering immensely transporting their produce as the bridge lies unused due to the absence of road link with it, said locals.

They have built a makeshift bamboo bridge in the place as an alternative but it does not allow them to transport heavy goods, they added.

Moreover, cracks have appeared in the concrete bridge due to lack of use and maintenance.

The people of the areas have been demanding that the bridge be made operational linking it with roads after repair.

It could be learned that former upazila Chairman Rafiq Ahmed and Bamoi union Chairman Mahfuzul Alam constructed the bridge with the allocation of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief under Lakhai Upazila Project implement Office.

The bridge was constructed in Nowagaon village area at the cost of Tk 30 lakh in 2009-2010, sources said.

However, connecting roads of the bridge were not constructed then. The existing narrow roads on both ends of the bridge were not elevated and they go under

People living in the nearby area have been demanding that the bridge be made operational linking it with roads after repair.

water during the rainy season making them unusable.

Krishna Lal Das, a retired teacher and a resident of the village, said more than 90 per cent of people in this haor area are involved in agriculture and they have to carry their agri-products to the nearby markets for selling them but the dilapidated condition of the road has been hampering

the smooth transport of the products.

The bridge has not been inaugurated yet although 12 years have passed, he said.

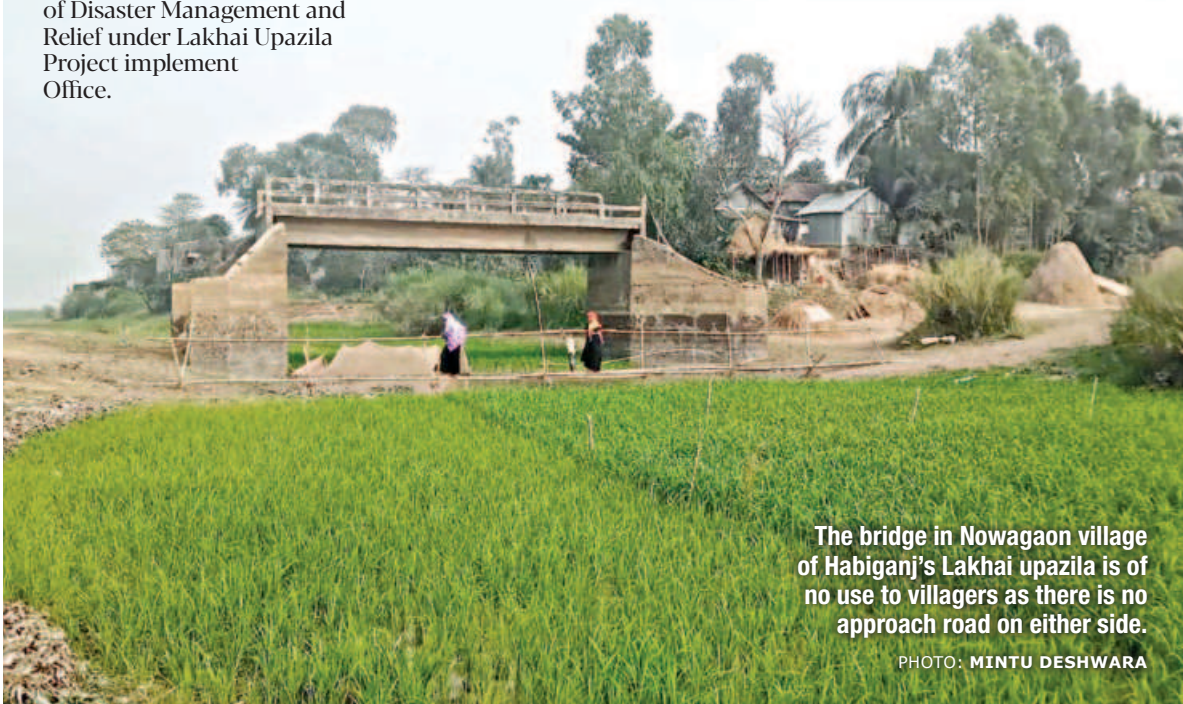
Cracks have appeared in many parts of the bridge. The government spent Tk 30 lakh but no one could use it even for a day, he added.

Newly-elected union parishad (UP) member Aranjit Das said the government made the bridge but the people have not been benefited from it.

"After taking the oath, I will see whether connecting road of the bridge can be made or not," said the UP member.

The bridge was constructed as per the demand of the local people and the connecting roads should be constructed very soon, he added.

Lakhai Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sharif Uddin said, "I will visit the bridge soon and take necessary steps after talking to the concerned department."



The bridge in Nowagaon village of Habiganj's Lakhai upazila is of no use to villagers as there is no approach road on either side.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Know your deshi 'superfoods'

FROM PAGE 12
recommended by practitioners of traditional medicine for constipation, indigestion, irritable bowel syndrome and bloating.

These seeds may reduce symptoms of asthma and help clear sinuses. Many recommend fennel tea for

bronchitis, congestion and cough too.

Fennel seeds have high concentration of vitamin A. In ancient India, it was consumed to improve eyesight.

The essential oil and fibre of the seeds may clean blood by flushing out toxins from the body.

When consumed, fennel has a cooling impact on the skin and gives it a healthy glow.

The seeds can provide relief in symptoms of menopause.

They supposedly have antibacterial properties and may reduce inflammation.

However, not much scientific experimentation has been conducted on the benefits of fennel seeds for human health. That's why the herb cannot replace medical treatment for any of the issues mentioned above. Too much of its consumption should also be avoided.

UN Working Group begins Geneva meet

FROM PAGE 12
Momen said many people listed by UN organisations as "missing" actually drowned in the Mediterranean.

'DISCLOSE VICTIMS' NAMES'
Yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir urged the foreign minister to disclose names of the victims of

enforced disappearances whom he claimed "drowned in the Mediterranean".

"His statement is not only ridiculous but also sad... People of the country know that they [victims] were picked up by members of law enforcement agencies," he said while replying to a query from reporters at a city hospital after visiting a local party

leader there.

Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of people who fell victim to enforced disappearances allegedly at the hands of government agencies, issued a strong protest against the ministers' remarks, saying these are nothing but lies.

In a statement signed by Afroza Islam, organiser of Mayer Daak, said there are

witnesses to the enforced disappearances involving the state agencies. Besides, evidence of state agencies' involvement in such cases has also been documented in the judicial investigation.

"Mayer Daak thinks such remarks by the ministers is an effort to give the international community a false idea," she said.

Violence mars 7th phase

FROM PAGE 1
The boy was stabbed to death moments later, he said.

Marfala village, where Tasibul lived, was wrapped in a pall of gloom yesterday evening. Tasibul's rickshaw puller father Jasim Uddin was wailing next to the body.

"Where is my son? What was his fault?" he kept asking.

Tasibul's mother Sakhina Begum fainted several times.

His uncle Mizanur Rahman, who contested the polls for a member post, said his nephew had nothing to do with politics. He had gone to the polling station to see how voting takes place.

They family demanded the killers handed death penalty.

In Bajalia union, Abdus Shukkur, 40, a supporter

of a chairman candidate, was shot during a clash in front of a polling centre around 11:00am, said Abdul Jalil, OC of Satkania Police Station.

Critically injured Shukkur was rushed to Keranihat Ma o Shishu Hospital where he died, said Rakib Uddin, resident medical officer of the hospital.

Shukkur had come from Chattogram city to support the AL candidate Tapas Dutta. Tapas blamed his rivals for the killing.

Meanwhile, polling was suspended in two centres in the upazila's Khagaria following a clash between supporters of two chairman candidates, said Jahangir Hossain, election officer in the district.

Supporters of AL candidate Akhter Hossain and independent candidate Jasim Uddin

clashed in wards 6 and 7 around 10:00am. A few shots were fired in the incidents.

On information, members from the police and BGB rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said OC Abdul Jalil.

Voting was also suspended at the Pilot Farm Government Primary School centre in Panchhari Sadar Union of Khagrachhari over stuffing of ballot boxes and snatching of ballot papers.

According to local sources, a clash broke out between supporters of two member candidates at the centre around noon.

Returning Officer Rikal Chakma later announced the postponement.

[Our correspondents in Chattogram and Khagrachhari contributed to this report]

Girl's family

FROM PAGE 12
family members, accusing them of assaulting his wife and stealing valuables.

On January 27 this year, a court sent Zafar and his accomplices to jail in the case filed by the girl's father.

After they were sent to jail, Zafar's family members and local men close to him started threatening the girl's family and asking them to withdraw the case.

"We don't feel safe at home since they got arrested," said the girl's father, who is a government officer.

He added that Zafar and his cohorts were involved in drug dealing and carried substantial clout in the area.

Asked about the allegation that police were reluctant to record the case, Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Charghat Police Station, said he could not remember the incident.