



Surprising study finds development is meant to help people

Govt disagrees, says it is for country's image from helicopters and satellites

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STUDIOS CORRESPONDENT

A surprising new study published yesterday revealed that the purpose of development in any country is to improve the lives of its citizens.

The study was launched in the capital's state-of-the-art convention hall, itself a glowing example of development, which takes Tk 15 lakh to hire for an event.

"First of all, all you people are calling the findings of the study surprising, but that is slightly wrong," said Ash Chorjoh Olam, the study's lead author. "That we have to do the study itself is the surprising aspect; not necessarily the findings."

The study was conducted over the past 5 days, cost Tk 1 crore (the minimum amount for it to be considered a study), and included phone calls to economists and development experts of neighbouring countries that were also developing, or had developed.

"We started the study when we saw that all the bridges built in Chapasthan were empty following a record hike in price of fuel," she said. "All the fields in the countryside were also devoid of crops."

"Then we found that the Chapamara Petroleum Corporation [CPC] had made Tk 40,000 crore profit over the last five years by not reducing fuel prices in proportion to international price falls. Then, CPC raised fuel prices by 50 percent after making a loss of Tk 8,000 crore over the last five months."

"Studying deeper, because that is what we do, we found that some of those profits were used for development of infrastructure, but instead of absorbing losses due to increasing fuel prices in the international market, they passed the loss on to the consumers."

"That made us ask what is development

actually for. Experts from neighbouring countries told us that countries usually develop so that their people can have a better standard of living, which makes the population want to vote for the government doing the good work."

That is what the study team suspected before the study, she said, but they conducted it just to make sure after seeing the policies in Chapasthan.

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Meanwhile, in a separate press conference, Energetic Development Minister Misrule I'mit refuted the study's claim, saying that development is very important, and that benefit to people is a by-product of the all-important development.

"Have you seen the cloverleaf intersection? Or the network of flyovers in the capital?" he asked reporters.

When asked whether the CPC could have thought along longer-term lines when they were raking in the profits so that they could handle a crisis instead of plunging the country into an economic crisis, he grew angry.

"You guys don't know anything about the long game. When satellite images show the level of development and the numbers of

bridges, flyovers and the empty streets, actually developed countries will think that we are developed too. That will increase investment. But you guys wouldn't understand, that's why I am shouting up here and you are standing quietly down there."



This rickshaw-puller is happy, presumably because driving is not an option for many at the moment. And, we know, the fuel price hikes hamper this happy camper too, you're not the only one who is aware of things. We just needed a picture.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Digital marketing guru changes name to boost SEO

JEAN-PAUL SATIRE

In an unprecedented feat of putting one's money where one's mouth is, the digital marketing guru formerly known as Golam Mostafa has changed his name to Golam Rocky Road Mostafa.

In a long-winded status update on Facebook that tragically had no tl;dr, he has stated that this change has been made with Search Engine Optimization (SEO) in mind. He believes that his new name, which can be shortened to the cool acronym GRRM, will make him easier to find on the Internet.

"My previous name was given to me by my grandfather on his deathbed. While that name had a lot of sentimental value, my grandfather was no digital marketer, heck, I don't think he even found out that content is king before he died," he wrote.

He continued, "In my 29 years of life and 15 years of internet experience, I have noticed that there are too many Golam

Mostafas. Rocky Road itself is a very famous dessert. By themselves, these words have no dynamism. But by combining these two things and adopting it as my name, I have done what many an alchemist has wanted to do for centuries. I have rubbed two gold coins together to produce a third."

Golam Rocky Road Mostafa rambled on, "Are you Begum Sakhina, husband of a Golam Mostafa who left to get eggs one day, ended up starting a digital marketing agency, and never came back, and now you're searching for him on Google because you have lost all hope? Well, your husband may never return but your first search result will now lead to my Digital Marketing Agency!"

"How exciting is that? Maybe you're a teenager trying to impress your 'special friend' by making them their favourite dessert. You search for recipes of Rocky Road, there's a good chance one of the first seven results will be yours truly, Golam Rocky Road Mostafa, Digital Marketing

Guru. This is the power of SEO!"

This shocking revelation of a new name received thunderous response from Golam Rocky Road Mostafa's followers. While it was mostly applauded, a comment briefly appeared asking whether this change had anything to do with the fact that searching for "Golam Mostafa digital marketer" on Google leads to evidence of criminal activity from the past.

Thankfully, the comment was swiftly deleted. When someone else asked whether the acronym GRRM would get confusing for fans of author George RR Martin, writer of the best fantasy-fiction series ever, Golam Rocky Road Mostafa replied, "It's a feature, not a bug," followed by a wink emoji.



PHOTO: FREEPIK.COM

WHEN READERS WRITE
Bangladesh named world's healthiest country in 2050

MD MAZHARUL ISLAM

The year is 2050.

The United Nations just declared Bangladesh the world's healthiest country. The UN secretary general urged all to follow Bangladesh as a role model.

No one in the country was suffering from diabetes anymore and the life expectancy has become 120 years.

People have totally forgotten that weight gain is a thing? Everyone is slim and healthy. The government is converting hospitals to Cineplexes because no one is falling ill.

Doctors are changing their profession to influencer. Pharmaceuticals are on the edge of extinction. The air of the country is fresher than anywhere in the world. Citizens are living happily ever after.

Things were not always thus. In 2022 Bangladesh was one of the most polluted countries in the world and people were suffering from various kinds of diseases due to weight gain and air pollution. Citizens were wasting most of their time in traffic. The situation was deteriorating day by day. Living, let alone attaining a state of contentment, became nearly impossible.

So, the then government came forward with an excellent idea.

On August 6, 2022, it increased the price of its fuel by 50 percent overnight. As fuel prices went up, bus fares hiked out of the reach of ordinary people. They started walking to their destinations. Motorcyclists abandoned their bikes and adopted the eco-friendly bicycle.

Prices of all kinds of foods increased accordingly. So, the people were consuming less food. With reduced consumption and increased exercise, the people of our country became the healthiest in the world, and with everyone using bicycles the air of the country became the finest in the world.