

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury: Entrepreneur par excellence



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of
The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

He was a hard taskmaster with a kind streak that belied his tough exterior and showed his true traits of affection and care. He had no time for inefficiency, but all the time for a creative, hardworking colleague.

In a sense, he was a magician. Whatever he touched, he usually made it into a success. He was not afraid to venture into something he did not know much about. He was quick to learn, fast to get involved, bold to initiate, and competent enough to emerge as successful. He had set up more than 50 companies in this process.

He was excited about *The Daily Star* from the moment it was conceived – as much for his love of doing new things as for those who were involved, namely AS Mahmud, Latifur Rahman, Azimur Rahman. Every one of these people he knew and respected. From the very first meeting to the very last, before Covid struck, he attended every board meeting when he was in the country.

I never knew why, but he used to call me Mehruz (instead of Mahfuz) and would often repeat, “I am very proud of the work you are doing.” If the date of a board meeting clashed with any of his other engagements, he would always opt for the *Star* meeting because, as he would say, “I enjoy them as I am realising the importance of the role of a quality and professionally-run newspaper.” His commitment to *The Daily Star* was not limited to words. Early

on, when our initial budget went haywire and we ran out of cash, he offered generous advertisement support that saw us through those trying days.

Unaccustomed to the ways of the media, he used to be at times

undoubtedly marked the opening of the nearly 40 private TV channels that exist today. Ekushey TV had a seminal impact on the expansion of the electronic media scene that we are so used to now.

Rouf bhai also bought a Bangla newspaper, but discontinued it after trying to run it for a while.

For me, my relationship with Rouf bhai was something special. He was a younger colleague of my elder brother, Mahbub Anam, who had worked with him from 1967 onwards at Pakistan Nation Oil (PNO), which later became Jamuna Oil Company post-Liberation. From my Notre Dame College days, throughout

which he would insist was the moral obligation of every management to deliver to an investor.

Rouf bhai was one of the most creative entrepreneurs in the country, having founded many companies in very diverse fields. A cursory glance at his various companies – from Rangs Motor, Bank Asia, Reliance Insurance, Sea Resources, *The Daily Star*, to ETV (later divested) – shows his extraordinary acumen for entrepreneurship. He also ventured into sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals,

real estate, food processing, telecom, and electronics.

The way he built his companies and the efficiency with which he diversified his businesses spoke to his constant effort to explore new areas of investment. He had a superb sense of the market and about what new areas provided new opportunities for growth.

Rouf bhai's life's motto was to create employment. That was his way of showing love for his people and his country – and he loved them both

most dearly. He told me on several occasions that what pleased him most was to see young men and women working jobs. He said, “When you can give a job to a person, you not only change his or her life but the lives of the generations that follow. I get the greatest pleasure when I see the smile on the face of someone to whom I could provide a job.” And he was the cause of such smiles in thousands of cases.

May his soul rest in Eternal Peace.



Abdur Rouf Chowdhury (1937-2023).

He had no time for inefficiency, but all the time for a creative, hardworking colleague. In a sense, he was a magician. Whatever he touched, he usually made it into a success. He was not afraid to venture into something he did not know much about. He was quick to learn, fast to get involved, bold to initiate, and competent enough to emerge as successful.

uncomfortable with the position the paper took or what I stated in my own pieces. He would ask me the reasons behind my decisions. But he never questioned them, nor did he say anything to affect my thinking. On occasions, I could see that he was facing pressure from the powers that be, but never would he allow that to affect the way I was running the paper. I was extremely fortunate to have Rouf bhai as a director who always supported the cause of the free and independent press.

I suppose he enjoyed his association with *The Daily Star* well enough that he expanded his involvement in the media by being a founding director for Ekushey Television (ETV), Bangladesh's first private television channel that

my Dhaka University period, the Liberation War period, my early days as a journalist, until the launching of *The Daily Star*, I enjoyed his affection and loving attention. He was not fully approving of my joining leftist politics, but encouraged my activism. Thus, when the idea of this newspaper came up and I was willing to leave my UN job abroad to be its co-founder, he showed no hesitation in becoming a part of it, too.

My formal relationship with him was through the Mediaworld Limited board. He was extremely professional and even at times, I thought, too demanding. As the CEO, I constantly felt pressured to perform better, which later proved to be a blessing as it did help to improve my performance. He was very particular about dividends,

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 River part
- 6 Dark fur
- 11 Shark's home
- 12 Haughty
- 13 History
- 15 Day warmer
- 16 Young fellow
- 17 It's over your head
- 18 Earth's neighbor
- 20 Gags
- 23 Screen dot
- 27 Baseball's Rodriguez
- 28 Binary digit
- 29 Extend, as a subscription
- 31 Car type
- 32 Challenges
- 34 Sit-up targets
- 37 Fish eggs

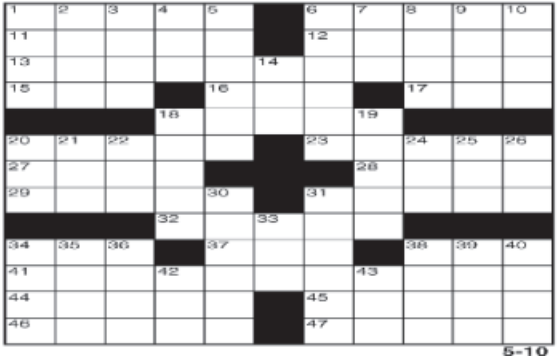
- 38 Methane, for one
- 41 Song on an album
- 44 Greatly impressed
- 45 Painter Matisse
- 46 Some jingle writers
- 47 Defeated, but barely

DOWN

- 1 Periods
- 2 Pale tan
- 3 Free of fat
- 4 Tic-toe link
- 5 Foot joints
- 6 Accelerated
- 7 Rainbow shape
- 8 Dersive calls
- 9 Wait to pounce
- 10 Water whirl

- 14 Sprinted
- 18 Puzzled
- 19 Tag numbers
- 20 Pickle buy
- 21 Bullfight cry
- 22 Writer Follett
- 24 Marked a ballot
- 25 Pitching stat
- 26 Chaney of films
- 30 Rabbits' home
- 31 Be quietly furious
- 33 Piston connector
- 34 Diva's piece
- 35 Flex
- 36 Racket
- 38 Street group
- 39 Lot unit
- 40 Lose traction
- 42 Have debts
- 43 Bright hue

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

Mohammadpur Kendriya College, Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Mail: mkc_1972@yahoo.com, Website: www.mkc.edu.bd

Memo No. mkc/cedp/OTM/G-12/2022-23

Date: 19.02.23

e-Tender Notice 02/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	792766	Establishment of Campus Networking in Mohammadpur Kendriya College, Dhaka	07-Mar-2023 13:00	07-Mar-2023 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to **[06-Mar-2023 16:00]**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Syed Jafar Ali
Principal

Mohammadpur Kendriya College
Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207
E-mail: mkc_1972@yahoo.com

GD-304

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Sadar, Mymensingh

www.lged.gov.bd



উন্নয়নের গণকাজ
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.6152.000.07.001.20.1580

Date: 16/02/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 08/2022-23 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work's details are given below.

Tender ID	Package No. & name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Last time for tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
791780	e-Tender/NBIDGPS/MYM/SAD/2022-2023/W1.06659 Construction of Additional Classroom of Chok Noju GPS under NBIDGPS-1 in Sadar Upazila, Mymensingh.	06 March-2023 17:00	07 March-2023 12:00	07 March-2023 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal, e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from E-mail: ue.mymensingh-s@lged.gov.bd or call to 01708-161443.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Abdullah-Al-Mamun

Upazila Engineer
LGED, Sadar, Mymensingh

E-mail: ue.mymensingh-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-308

Replacement on the same memorial and date

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, RHD

ROAD ZONE, RANGPUR

Phone : 02589962741

Email : acerangzn@gmail.com

Memo No.35.01.8549.013. 14.007.23- 726

Dated : 16-02-2023.

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP System Portal for procurement of following works. Interested person/ firms can see details by visiting the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>.

Sl.	Tender/Proposal ID, Reference No & Name of works	Tender/Proposal Document last selling / downloading Date and Time :	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission :	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	Tender ID No.791641 eGP-10/RHD/ACE/RZ/PMP-Roads /2022-2023. Construction of Hard Shoulder at 429 th (P), 432 th (P), 433 th (P), 439 th (P), 440 th (P), 441 th (P), 443 th (P) to 449 th (P) & 450 th (P) to 452 th (P) Km of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia-Notakhola-Kashinathpur- Bogura- Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) Road under Road Division, Thakurgaon during the year 2022-2023.	22-Mar-2023 16:00	23-Mar-2023 11:00	23-Mar-2023 12:00

N.B : This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline / hard copies will be accepted.

(Md. Suruz Mia)
ID No-007001
Additional Chief Engineer(CC),RHD
Road Zone, Rangpur

GD-306