Our one and only Zafrullah Bhai



Shaheen Anam is the executive director of

SHAHEEN ANAM

won't do justice to this great man. In a world fractured with strife, selfinterest and greed, he stood up tall in principle, determination and a sense of purpose. That purpose was for a Bangladesh free from exploitation, where everyone would enjoy their basic and fundamental rights. A true patriot, he not only played a key role in the birth of Bangladesh, but devoted his life to make the dream of our independence a reality.

single-minded that purpose, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury left a legacy that will be hard to match for generations to come. Affordable healthcare for all was his first objective. He believed that it is possible to provide every person with the healthcare they need. The Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) and the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospitals are a testimony to his conviction that heath service is a right no one should be deprived of. The doors of the hospital are open to one and all, with everyone enjoying the same quality of services.

centre in the GK Nagar Hospital again with that same belief. I once asked him why he set it up, and this is what he told me: one day, while taking dialysis at a private hospital, a lady told him she would not return for dialysis from tomorrow. Shocked, Zafrullah Bhai told her that she would surely die without dialysis, to which she replied, "I know, but I can no longer pay for it."

much that he decided to set up the to write which one is the most kidney dialysis centre. He raised outstanding. Is it the drug policy funds from private sources to set up the centre, making it the biggest in affordable medicine for everyone, one in the country providing free or the success of his family planning

Today, no matter what I write, it charging others between Tk 800 to a maximum Tk 2,500, while other private hospitals charge anything between Tk 4,000 and Tk 5,500. He believed passionately that health services, like education, should not

Zafrullah's contribution has not been confined to just health services. A crusader for an equal and just society, he stood beside every social movement as a strong voice against discrimination, abuse of power, environmental degradation, and

attention to improving the situation of women?

In spite of the progress women have made in Bangladesh, we are still struggling with gender-defined roles, norms and practices. Way back in the early 70s, GK in Savar started to train women as drivers, welders and farmers. He believed everyone irrespective of gender should learn skills that would make them selfreliant. His recruitment policy was fair, non-discriminatory with an element of affirmative action. Today, 40 percent of the staff at GK are women, many in top positions.

The health situation of women, especially from low-income groups, rural women and those living in remote areas, was a special concern for him. After retiring from GK, he devoted his time to addressing women's special medical needs through timely surgeries, obstetric care, etc. He remained forever

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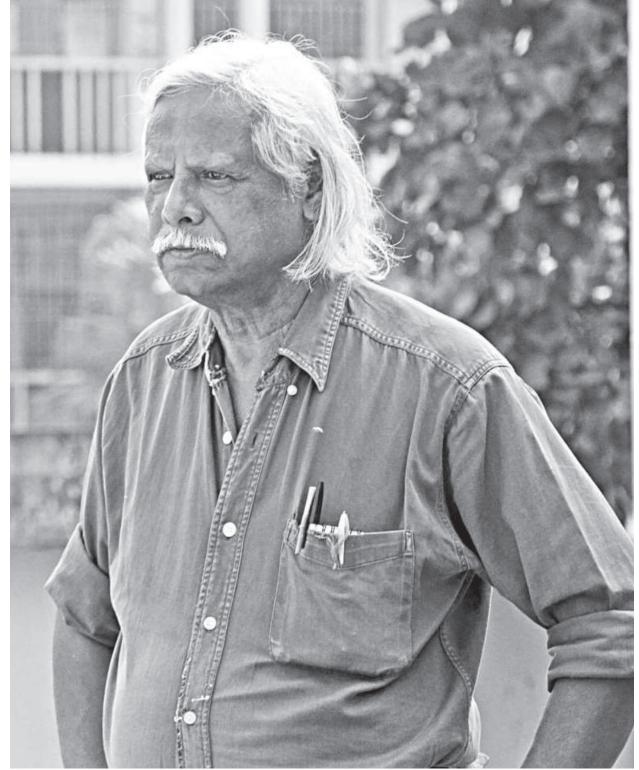
He set up the kidney dialysis discrimination against vulnerable people. He never minced his words and was sharply critical of policies and actions that went against the fundamental rights of citizens. Personal health challenges could not deter him from standing in human chains, protest rallies or dialogues to convey his message of justice and equality for all.

There are so many remarkable aspects to his contributions to This affected Zafrullah Bhai so society that it is hard for me that he formulated, which resulted service to 20 percent patients, strategies, or is it his special

pained at the high rate of maternal mortality in Bangladesh and believed that it was totally preventable.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury's demise is an end of an era, of hopes, dreams and idealism. A valiant freedom fighter, he continued till the end to materialise the dream and aspiration through which Bangladesh came into existence. I cannot end without mentioning Shireen Huq, a women's and human rights activist, his life partner who stood beside him all the way to fulfill his dream of a more humane, equal and just society.

Goodbye, dear Zafrullah Bhai. We will miss your presence, because you always stood up for what is right.



Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury

FILE PHOTO: STAR

Improving upazila governance is critical for Smart Bangladesh



NAWSHAD AHMED

The upazila system, established 40 years ago, was a major step for decentralisation in Bangladesh. Introduced through a new local government ordinance in 1982, it was intended to encourage local development by directly elected people's representatives at the sub-district

The constitution is the legal basis for establishing local government in the country. Article 59 (1) of the constitution specifically states, "Local government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies composed of persons elected in accordance with law." Article 59 (2) states, "Everybody such as is referred to in clause (1) shall, subject to this Constitution and any other law, perform within the appropriate administrative unit such functions as shall be prescribed by Act of Parliament, which may include functions relating to- (a) Administration and the work of public officers; (b) the maintenance of public order; & (c) the preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development." Article 60 stipulates that "for the purpose of giving full effect to the provision of article 59, Parliament shall, by law, confer powers on the local government bodies referred to in that article, including the power to impose taxes for local purposes, to prepare their budgets, and to maintain funds." After the 15th Amendment of the constitution in 2011, Article 11 states, "Effective participation by the people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels shall be ensured."

The upazila system was a significant reform of administration through abolition of former subdivisions and upgrading "thanas" to upazilas. This new local government entities were to deliver improved services and infrastructure to the rural population. But that expectation was not met. If we look at the functioning of upazila parishads, the governance aspect is perhaps what needs most attention to understand the reasons behind inadequate planning, implementation and monitoring of development initiatives.

The principal functions of all 495 upazila parishads are to undertake development activities at the local levels; formulate upazila development plans and programmes, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those; promote health, family planning and welfare, management of environment, implementation of government policies and programmes; supervision, control and coordination of the officers serving in the upazilas and their capacity-building; promotion of socio-cultural activities; and employment generation.

The upazila parishad consists of a chairman, two vice-chairpersons (one of them a woman), chairmen of all union parishads under that upazila, mayors of all municipalities (if any), and women members of reserved of a Smart Bangladesh.

seats. The chairman and vice-chairpersons are directly elected by union parishad members. One-third of the total women members from the reserved seats in union parishads under an upazila become upazila parishad members. The women members of the reserved seats of the union parishads elect them.

The governance mechanism is established through a number of processes which are primarily: 1) holding the upazila parishad and its 17 standing committee meetings on time, which should be recorded and actions effectively followed up; 2) annual budget preparation and approval; 3) five-year development plan and annual development programme formulation; 4) annual financial statement preparation; and 5) ADP report preparation. Besides, there are such functions as assessment and collection of tax, maintenance of asset register, project implementation of different government departments at the upazila level, preparing and publicising the Citizen Charter, etc.

The upazila as a body must hold one meeting each month to take important decisions. Each of the standing committees should hold regular meetings. The standing committees are supposed to be formed on different issues such as law and order, health and family planning, and many more. Any parishad can also form additional standing committees if needed. In the meetings, the upazila parishads should discuss economic and financial issues, development related issues, operational issues, coordination issues and other miscellaneous issues.

Another important governance element is formulation of annual budget which must follow the prescribed procedures. The accounts of the parishad must be maintained well so that they can operate at a high standard and prove that the upazila can live up to the expectation of a devolved authority. The parishad must develop five year and annual plans and implement projects of local importance.

Various studies have shown that upazila parishads are not so responsive to basic needs and expectations of people and thus the government should help improve the performance of these local bodies. The governance functions are supposed to be carried out with transparency, accountability, people's participation and equal opportunities for all.

It is necessary to evaluate the upazila governance functions in order to identify the underlying factors such as lack of incentives, interest, and power of upazila parishads that may hinder their work. The government should arrange capacity building, funding and technical support so that these functions can be strengthened. There are some capacity building initiatives and projects for upazila development but those need to be strengthened for greater efficacy

Sound governance is a challenging task. People now have high expectations. Therefore, they look to elected leaders to create and sustain development of the economy, infrastructure, environment, and public utility services. For transparent, efficient and democratic governance, the upazila parishads need to follow rules and regulations properly. Their plans should be drawn up in a participatory manner so that they reflect the people's aspirations. The upazilas have huge potentials that the government should utilise for the development



Tigerpass, Chattogram www.ccc.org.bd

শখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.31.23.270

e-Tender Notice-CCC/XEN-3/2022-23/02

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.

Sİ. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	ccc/cc/div- 03/w35/01	35 No. Baxirhat ward earthwork at South to mid Badarkhali drain, post office lane or backside drain of Sardar Bari, Amir Market side canal, Asadgonj Road canal, Khatungonj road both side canal, Chaktai Drumpotti Road drain, fire service office drain	81640 8	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30
2	ccc/cc/div- 03/w18/01	18 No. ward earthwork at Shah Amanat Bridge connecting road Fulkoli to Rajakhali drain, Birja canal, Krishi Khal & Neti canal.	81642 0	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30
3	ccc/cc/div- 03/w19/01	19 No. Bakalia Road Pora colony drain, Sardar Bari drain, Khan Monjil road drain, Badamtoli to fish market road drain, Khejurtali road drain, Ahmedur Rahman road drain, Masterpool lane drain, Char Chaktai School Road drain, Haji Mansur Ali Road drain, Gulam Kader Monsjid bylane, Soap factory adjoin drain, Monohor Ali Master Bari drain, flour factory drain, Hafezia Road drain, Abdul Karim Road drain, Arif Ali Member drain.	81642 3	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30
4	ccc/cc/div- 03/w17/01	Earthwork of Yunus Company, columnist Karim Sarwar house, Rahattarpul Bridge adjoin canal, Ujir Ali Shah canal, Syad Shah Road canal, alternative Chaktai canal, Yar Mohammad Road drain, Fringe of Chanda Pukur drain, drain of Kazi Bari, Nur Shoudagar Bari drain, Tofazzal Contractor House drain, Nazir Ahmed Tendol house drain, Sonar Baper house drain, Rasulbag drain, Rasulbag A,B,C block, Bara Miah Mosjid Road, Yunus Road Mohammad building drain, Abdul Latif bylane, DC Road drain, Shishu graveyard drain, Mousami R/A drain, Ahmedur Rahman Road adjoin drain, Balaka R/A west drain, Shantinagar Market drain, Afgan Mosjid bylane drain, Sadek Shah Majar Road adjoin drain, DC Road Chawbazar, Dhupni Pole to Khaza Hostel, KB Aman Ali Road, Chad Miah Munshi lane and bylane drain, Tajur Circle join, Farmer road canal at 17 No. ward.	81642 6	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30
5	ccc/cc/div- 03/w34/01	Earthwork & filling of 34 No. Patharghata ward colony drain, Naju Miah lane 1, 2, 3 No. lane and main road drain, Brickfield road adjoin Motinabad R/A drain, Ashraf Ali Road adjoin Musa colony drain, Kalabagicha drain and Iqbal Road Tilottoma lane drain.	81642 7	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30
6	ccc/cc/div- 03/w33/01	Earthwork and excavation of 33 No. Firingi Bazar ward adjoin Alkaran 1 No. bylane to 3 No. lane waste and soil excavation and removal, Sabitri School drain, JM Sen School drain, Bangshal Road drain, Yakub Nagar drain, Dr Mannan lane drain, Katowali circle to Bridgeghat both side drain, Firingi Bazar circle to Kabi Nazrul Islam Road, then Tuki Taki Circle drain, AB Das drain both side, RC Church road and Nasir Ullah Chowdhury house, both side drain, Noapara and Tekpara drain, Dobash lane both side drain, and Churiatoli lane both side drain.	81642 9	02/05/2023 11:30	02/05/2023 14:30

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP (http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd)

CCC/PRD-144/22-23 Size-10x4" col GD-681

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