



Abida Rahman Chowdhury is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star with interests in wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

It's impossible not to feel the heat these days. Even if you are riding this out in the comfort of privilege, you must surely know your country is in the throes of one of the worst heatwaves in decades. The nation has been sizzling as the mercury rises, breaking old records over the last few weeks. Even our memes – the internet's conduit for the latest cultural conversation – are hot on the heels of "THE BIG HEATWAVE OF 2023."

All conversations start with an acknowledgment of the overwhelming heat: "I wore my lightest outfit to survive this heat"; "I showered three times today, but then the water has run out in our building"; "We have one AC in our house, but I worry about using it because I cannot cope with the bills, and I have recently started sharing the electricity bill with my parents"; "I came to work because there is at least AC here... in my house, the walls are hot, the floor is hot, and water is in short supply; there really is no way out."

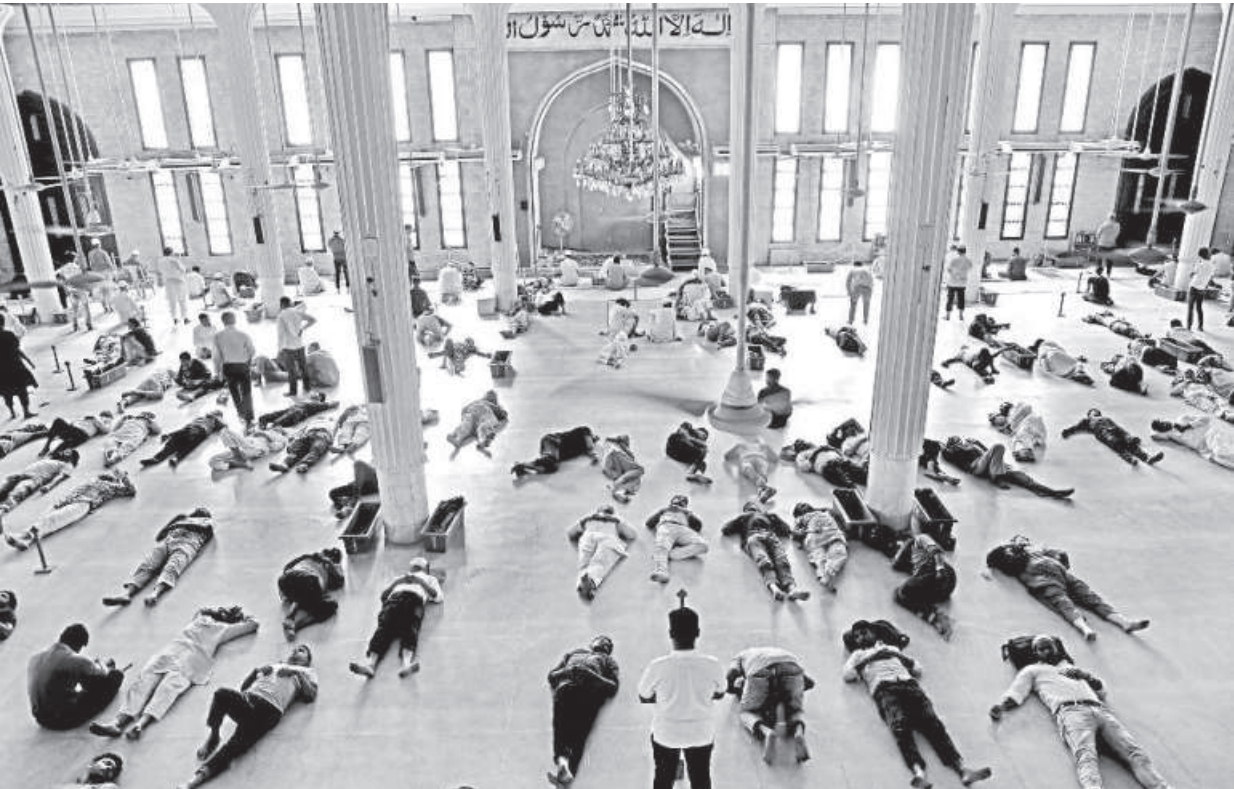
The pages of our newspapers and the hourly news on TVs and radios are all highlighting different angles of the heatwave. A photograph published in this daily captured rows of devotees lying around the floor of the national mosque, reluctant to leave the premises even after the afternoon prayers ended. Owing to the heatwave, the Bangladesh Railway authorities asked trains to lower their speed, nearly halving it from the usual. This is because the temperature of railway tracks is always higher than the general environment, and therefore is a possibility of accidents due to

melting or expansion of the tracks due to extreme temperature. Health experts have recommended that children and older people stay home, and have also requested people to stay safe from heat strokes. The jail authorities, too, have taken measures to ensure that inmates are protected from the heatwave.

But here is something else to consider: do we all feel this heatwave similarly? The answer is obviously no. It is no secret that if you are among the well-off in this not-so-well-off nation, you are better equipped to deal with this heatwave. There is a deep running inequality as to how the heat

Extreme weather events have become the norm owing to climate change. And yet again, it is putting the disparities between the rich and poor under a magnifying glass. The city's well-off (the numbered few) have been riding out the heatwave blissfully hunkered down in their cool homes, offices, cars and shopping malls.

affects people. If you have a car fitted with a powerful air conditioner, if you work in a swanky office with central cooling, then it is likely that you also live in an accommodation fitted with an AC – in essence protecting you from the wrath of this wretched heat.



FILE PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Who could blame these devotees for their reluctance to go outside and face the heat when they could rest on the floor of the national mosque, finding respite in conditioned air?

FILE PHOTO: PALASH K

Imagine having to take the bus, or having to ply a rickshaw, or operating a roadside stall in this ominous, oppressive heat that you know “really feels” like 50 degrees.

This year, Dhaka has experienced its hottest day in 58 years. Extreme weather events have become the norm owing to climate change. And yet again, it is putting the disparities between the rich and poor under a magnifying glass. The city's well-off (the numbered few) have been riding out the heatwave blissfully hunkered down in their cool homes, offices, cars and shopping malls.

If you are a slave to statistics, then let me apprise you on some harrowing data. Human-induced climate change is exacerbating the likelihood of extreme events, one of which is heatwave. Climate

change also means hotter and longer heatwaves. And who is most affected by these intensified heatwaves? Poorer nations – nations that have had very little contribution towards climate change in the first place. A report published in the journal *Science Advances* last year confirmed this matter: periods of extreme heat cost the global economy about \$16 trillion between 1992 and 2013. But while the richest countries lost about 1.5 percent of their annual per capita GDPs dealing with heatwaves, poorer countries lost about 6.7 percent of their annual per capita GDPs. Another report published early last year said the lower-income population around the world faced a 40 percent higher exposure to heatwaves than people with higher incomes. Do

you see the tragedy? The cost of extreme heat from climate change is disproportionately borne by those least culpable.

There is more. Dhaka and other major cities in Bangladesh are especially ill-equipped to deal with this rising temperature. Rapid and unplanned urbanisation, coupled with extreme population density and the loss of water bodies and open natural spaces, compounds the effects of the heat. Where will a tired rickshaw puller take respite when there is no shade from the old ficus tree anymore? It's not like the rich will allow them to walk into a shopping mall and let them breathe in the cool conditioned air, will they? A study published in the *PNAS* journal has found that Dhaka is among the worst-affected by urban

Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb
is distinguished professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University in the US, former faculty member of the IBA, Dhaka University, and former vice-chancellor of Brac University.

Sanjana Rahman
is lecturer at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and a doctoral candidate at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

SYED SAAD ANDALEEB *and* SANJANA RAHMAN

Many academic institutions play up their ethical identity by overtly promoting honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, confidentiality, objectivity, respectfulness, and obedience to the law. Unfortunately, these bastions of moral high ground seem to have been breached with serious moral decay across the board.

Administrators are accused of nepotism, financial improprieties, being in cahoots with wayward and politically connected (student) leaders, and a mix of other indiscretions and misdeeds that are growing steadily. Historically, such accusations have been a rarity and the consequences dire.

A wayward student body is also depicted today in the media, reflecting how far and deep the rot has spread in academia: from lack of preparedness for higher education, irregular class attendance, and disrespectful demeanour, to indiscriminate violence, substance abuse, mugging, gambling, sexual predation and more.

This writing is about teachers. A casual survey reveals the many areas in which breakdown in ethics is widespread in our educational institutions:

- * They are already smeared for unfairness, intemperate behaviour, plagiarism, cosy relationships with political muscle, and pecuniary interests that are incongruous with their academic character. Research and scholarship for many have simply gone with the wind!
- * Their involvement with students (and staff) in ways other than a mentor-mentee relationship includes inappropriate and informal communications.
- * Social intolerance and disrespect in academia is growing, especially concerning political or religious ideology.
- * Course curricula are barely revised

in years. What is an academic institution without a vibrant curriculum tailored to stakeholder needs?

* Teachers conducting research with students exploit the relationship without sharing the value of such research or the methods employed. Instead of preparing them to become potential researchers, teachers use them as data collectors to build their publication profiles. Thus, students fill out questionnaires at home, seriously muddling the study.

* Classrooms often become marketplaces where teachers peddle their own books, persuading students to purchase them.

* Inability to reach an instructor at their desk is a persistent problem, especially when students require extra care to overcome their

For teaching to be considered a noble profession, Bangladesh needs a strong and ethically driven education system today.

learning challenges. Teachers also miss classes without an acceptable excuse.

* Cases of sexual impropriety, domestic violence, assault episodes or embezzlement of funds are also not unheard of in academia.

* At seminars, conferences or academic events, teachers chat among themselves, use their phones or pay little attention to the deliberations. If they are not effective learners at these academic events, can they expect such behaviour from their students?

When academic institutions elsewhere are striving to bring out the best scientists, economists,

educationists, etc who devote their lives pursuing, disseminating and using knowledge, how do our academics measure up? As numerous transgressions of ethical norms in academia go unheeded, it is imperative to revisit the question of ethical conduct and appropriate guidelines for our educators.

Such a concern stems primarily from the realisation that it is the teachers who will be in primary contact with the next generation. If their values and behaviours are compromised, what does the future portend? With the education system in peril – and with that the society itself – where are the guidelines? How are they enforced?

For teaching to be considered a noble profession, Bangladesh needs a strong and ethically driven education system today. If we have to educate our educators on ethical practices, we must collectively start working now to produce/prepare the next generation who will not need a programme on *ethics for teachers*. Until then, to shape appropriate academic behaviour, we must figure out essential ethical guidelines and the ramifications for any transgression. We know quite a bit about the transgressions, but very little about how they are confronted and addressed. Without consequences, as BF Skinner – the proponent of operant conditioning theory – would say, repetition of unethical behaviour will only recur.

To be fair, the question of ethics goes far beyond the borders of educators and the education system. Not a day goes by without being accosted by some ethical confrontation with the gatekeepers and power brokers who scorn ethical norms – in healthcare, law and justice, bureaucracy, banking, business transactions, etc. The waltz of moral decay is already palpable; some sense that it is poised to worsen. When a nation's moral structure crumbles, society will also crumble with far-reaching consequences. Showcasing the economy with spectacular physical infrastructure development has its limits; combined with a steel frame of moral strength, the potential of advancement may be limitless.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla

Telephone No. 081-64725

E-mail: eeecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.2262

Date: 18-04-2023

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No.01 of Contract No. e-GP/69/CRD/2022-2023, Tender ID No. 810745 Invited by this Office will be as follows

TDS ITT Clause No. & Field Name	Old Value				New Value			
TDS ITT Clause 15.1 (a) (b) Experience Criteria	(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]. (b) The tenderer must have the experience of Bridge Retrofitting works of value not less than Tk. 250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty) lac successfully completed within the last Six (6) years in a single contract of similar nature & technology [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT].				(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]. (b) The tenderer must have the experience of Retrofitting works include strengthening of pile cap or pier or girder by means of concrete jacketing/ steel plate jacketing/ CFRP application and replacement of expansion joints or bearing pads using special equipment and materials works of value not less than Tk. 250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty) lac successfully completed within the last Six (6) years in a single contract of similar nature & technology [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT].			
TDS ITT Clause 17.1 Personnel Capacity	No.	Position	Total works experience (years)	In similar works experience (years)	No.	Position	Total works experience (years)	In similar works experience (years)
	1	Project Manager, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	10 (Ten) years	05 (Five) years	1	Project Manager, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) with certificate on bridge inspection and certificate of Retrofitting work as a Project Manager 01 (One) No.	10 (Ten) years	05 (Five) years
	2	Material Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	03 (Three) years	2	Material Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	03 (Three) years
	3	Site Engineer, (Diploma in Civil Engineer) 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	3	Site Engineer, B.Sc or Diploma in Civil Engineering having proven experience on bridge retrofitting as a site supervisor- 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
	4	Quantity Survey Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	4	Quantity Survey Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
	5	Lab Technician, 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	05 (Five) years	5	Lab Technician, 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	05 (Five) years
	6	Work Supervisor 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	6	Work Supervisor 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
TDS ITT Clause 18.1 Equipment Capacity	No.	Equipment type and characteristics	Minimum number required		No.	Equipment type and characteristics	Minimum number required	
	1	Dump Truck 15 Ton Capacity	04		1	Dump Truck 15 Ton Capacity	04	
	2	Excavator	02		2	Excavator	02	
	3	Soil Compactor	01		3	Soil Compactor	01	
	4	Concrete Mixer Machine (7/5) with hopper	04		4	Concrete Mixer Machine (7/5) with hopper	04	
	5	Concrete Vibrator with sufficient number of nozzle	04		5	Concrete Vibrator with sufficient number of nozzle	04	
	6	Water Pump	02		6	Water Pump	02	
	7	Concrete Poker Vibrator	04		7	Concrete Poker Vibrator	04	
	8	Generator (10 KVA)	02		8	Generator (10 KVA)	02	
	9	Pneumatic pressure Epoxy resin injection machine	01		9	Pneumatic pressure Epoxy resin injection machine	01	
	10	Microconcrete Pump Machine	02		10	Microconcrete Pump Machine	02	
					11	Anchor Drill Machine	02	
					12	Demolition Hammers	01	
					13	Concrete Cutting Saw Machine	01	
					14	Core Drilling Machine	01	
					15	Grout Pumps	01	
					16	Synchronous Bridge Lifting Equipment	01	

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the tender document. All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the tender document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sunil Chakma

ID No. 602147

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla

GD-716