



## To instill a love for books Youth sets up library in his village

**MOSTAFA SHABUI, Gaibandha**  
From an early age, Mehedi Hasan has been a passionate reader. Growing up, the bibliophile felt a keen desire to instill his passion for books among others in his village.

It was with this desire that he set up Boi Ghor Pathagar, a public library in his village of Tengorzani under Gaibandha's sadar upazila. Mehedi, 22, a third-year honours student at Gaibandha Government College, spent Tk 1.5 lakh from his own savings and Tk 90,000 from his parents to set up this library in 2020, with just 177 books from his personal collection initially.

Over the last three years, the library's collection has grown to more than 1,400 books on diverse topics including Liberation War, history, entertainment, politics, economics, linguistics, as well as literary texts — including novels, essays, biographies, short stories, poetry, and so on. Daily copies of national and local newspapers are also available.

Now, around 15-20 students from the village come to Mehedi's library every afternoon to read books of their interest.

Mim Akter, a seventh grader and Fardeen Ahmed, a tenth

grader, are among those who regularly visit the library.

"Earlier, we needed to go to the district public library in Gaibandha town to get books that we needed, which was not convenient for most of us," said Mim.

"I love to read science fiction. There are many books from the genre here," she added.

"Previously, we did not have access to books apart from our textbooks, until this library



opened. Now I can find books on a variety of topics just a few minutes from my house," said Fardeen.

"When most of this generation is addicted to social media, some are still hooked to reading books silently at one corner of a library. Such a sight makes me feel that my efforts are paying off," said Mehedi.

Boi Ghor Pathagar registered with the Department of Public Libraries on September 10, 2022 and the District Social Services Office on June 19 last year.

Mehedi informed that he had started a social media campaign, which helped the library grow. "Strangers started sending me books, and I also got regular donations from several well-wishers," he said.

Mehedi has also set up three salon libraries, one book corner outside the town and a small library at Newton Preparatory School in Gaibandha town.

He won the second prize in print media/online category in the 2018 Meena Media Awards by Unicef for reporting on children's issues.

"Besides managing the libraries, Mehedi is also involved in every campaign we do against child marriage, drugs and other social issues. He is also connected to many voluntary organisations in the district," said Md Nasir Uddin Shah, upazila social service officer in Gaibandha Sadar.

"We initially discouraged him, but when we saw that he was very determined, we helped him as far as we could. Now, we are proud of our son for his philanthropic work," said Hannan Mia, Mehedi's father.

Going forward, Mehedi said he wants to set up libraries at every school in Gaibandha district.

"I want to pass on my love for books among the students of primary schools, who are still free from the clutches of social media," he added.

## Be ethical in business following 1971's spirit

**FBCCI president urges businessmen**

UNB, Dhaka

President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbul Alam yesterday urged the country's businessmen to do business ethically being motivated by the spirit of 1971.

After Bangladesh gained independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started working hard for the people's economic freedom — the biggest challenge of that time, he said.

He made the statement after placing a wreath on the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi Road-32 in the capital on the occasion of Independence Day.

The FBCCI President said the economic freedom of the people was the biggest hurdle after the nation gained independence, and the new generation should know the history of how Bangabandhu led the nation.

## Air tickets

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got those at normal or base price. Now, however, as there is a limited number of seats left on specific dates, prices shot up accordingly," Kamrul also said.

Demand is also high for air tickets to different popular holiday destinations abroad, especially Maldives, Singapore, Thailand, and India, said airlines sources.

A Biman official, wishing anonymity, said, "It's not true that we are increasing prices targeting Eid. It's a normal trend in aviation sector across the globe that prices of air tickets shoot up when demand is high."

The number of domestic air passengers increased by about 64.73 percent since 2019, said Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert.

According to Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (Toab), an estimated 15 lakh holidaymakers are likely to make trips to different domestic tourist destinations this Eid.

## Preserving a painful past

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especially youths, about the genocide committed by the Pakistan Army and their local collaborators in 1971," Prof Mamoon, also chairman of the trustee board that runs the institution, added.

The archive has records of over mass killings 18,481 spots, 888 killing grounds, 1,313 mass graves, and 1,174 torture cells in 42 districts, said Rokonzaman Bablu, deputy curator of the museum.

"Besides, 192 types of evidence, over 10,000 pictures, 10,300 books on the war, and 2,000 videos are kept here, while 65 memorial plaques on spots of killing and torture have already been set up in and around Khulna city. The museum has also published 148 booklets and 130 genocide torture indexes focused on the killing grounds," he also said.

A sales centre has been opened to sell books and souvenirs at the museum, Rokonzaman added.

Visiting the museum recently, this correspondent saw many items used by renowned personalities who were martyred in 1971 have been kept in its archive after being donated by their family members.

The items include Munir

Chowdhury's panjabi; Shahidullah Qaiser's ties and diaries; BBC correspondent Nizamuddin Ahmed's coat; Selina Parvin's pen and cloth; journalist Sirajuddin Hossain's panjabi, pajama and manuscript; Jaharara Imam's diary, photos, and her handwritten documents; Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta's book; Dr Alim Chowdhury's visiting card, pen, lamp, and diary; a letter from the then prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed to his wife written on the white part of an empty cigarette box; among others.

Anadi Sarkar, 78, of Chaksholmar village under Bathiaghata upazila, who fought in Sector-8 and led at least 60 freedom fighters from Khulna region as their local commander, visited the museum recently with his granddaughter Adrija Sarkar, a third grader.

"Although my granddaughter is familiar with the history of our independence, I was unable to show her visual evidence until we visited the museum. I also had a walk down memory lane to those whirlwind days of 1971 when I fought in the Liberation War," he said.

"While many pieces of evidence have been lost over the years, it is satisfying to see that some still exist and are being preserved here," he also said, adding that initiative should be taken to keep audio-video records of interviews of freedom fighters who are still alive, which will enrich the museum's archive.

In 2017, a "Research Centre on Genocide-Torture and Liberation War" was also set up under the museum's trust. At present, the centre offers two post-graduate certificate courses on Liberation War and Genocide, conducted every year.

Anti-liberation forces and Pakistani-minded people are still vigilant in the country, working on their agenda against the nation and its independence. The museum will remind people of the bloodbath this nation endured to earn its freedom and alert them against these evil forces, said Prof Mamoon.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and cultural affairs minister are playing key roles in running the institution," he added.

The museum is open to visitors daily from 10:00am to 6:00pm except on Mondays. On Friday, it is open from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. The entry fee is Tk 10 for students, Tk 20 for the public, and Tk 50 for foreign nationals.

## President for Dhaka-Thimphu

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President Shahabuddin expressed hope that the two governments would work together to fulfill the aspirations of the people, considering their common history, geographical proximity, prosperity, and development.

He recalled Bhutan's role in recognising Bangladesh as an independent state on December 6, 1971, and expressed gratitude, saying, "The people of Bangladesh are grateful to Bhutan."

The Bhutanese king appreciated the development in various sectors in Bangladesh and praised the quality of Bangladeshi products — including readymade garments, ceramics, and medicines.

He expressed interest

in increasing bilateral cooperation in various sectors — including education, culture, communication, and tourism — in the days to come.

After the meeting with the president, the Bhutanese king signed a visitor's book. The Bhutanese delegation later attended a reception ceremony followed by dinner.



A long tailback was seen on the capital's Mirpur Road yesterday afternoon, making commute to home before iftar hectic for passengers. The photo was taken near Science Lab intersection. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## A timeless tradition

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women of all ages and professions, with their products ranging in price from Tk 400 to Tk 20,000 and higher.

Apart from traditional Tangail Sarees, the weavers also produce various other

sarees — including handloom cotton, Jamdani, Silk, Baluchari silk, half silk, soft silk, Dotari silk, jute silk, Khaddar, Benarasi, Katan, Tasar, Anarkali, Dhansidi, Resham, Manpura, Suti Kuchi, etc.

The sarees produced across the district are mainly sold wholesale during weekly haat (market) days in Karatia and Bajitpur of Sadar upazila and Salla of Kalihati upazila.

Wholesalers from all over the country come to these markets to buy sarees directly from local weavers. Sarees worth several crores of taka are purchased in these markets ahead of Eid, according to market sources.

Raghunath Basak, president of Pathrail Saree Traders Association, said the wholesale of sarees produced here is usually completed within 15 days of Ramadan, while retail sales continue till Eid.

The price of sarees from other places, including those from India, is cheap, but the quality is inferior compared to the traditional sarees weaved in Tangail, he added.

"There are many things that need to be done for the industry, including publicity. India wrongly took the GI rights of our Tangail saree," Raghu noted.

Kaiserul Islam, deputy commissioner of Tangail, said, "The rectification application with the Indian court regarding the GI rights for Tangail sarees is under process through a lawyer. The foreign ministry has been entrusted with this end. The process will be completed by April 1."

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Memo No. 46.02.0600.000.07.068.17.2055 Dated: 25/03/2024

**e-Tender Notice-367-368/2023-2024**

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

e-Tender No.	Package No.	Name of work	Last receiving date & time	Procurement method
367/2023-24	CIB-Bar-W-10	Construction of 678.40m Bridge over Pandob River on Kalaskali UP office (Bazar) to Shatoraj Bazar via Vandanikathi Govt. Primary School, Garuria Bazar, Nilgoni Hat, Krishnaki High School and Goma Shibghata Road at Ch. 6200m under Bakerganj Upazila, District: Barishal. [Road ID 506073003, e-ID No. 956955]	29-04-2024 Time 12:00pm	OST/ETM
368/2023-24	CIB-Bar-W-83	Construction of 742.20m Bridge over Khayrabad River on Boalia Bazar to Khayrabad Road Near Khayrabad Bazar at Ch. 2480m under Bakerganj Upazila, District: Barishal. [Road ID 506073015, e-ID No. 956956]	29-04-2024 Time 12:00pm	OST/ETM

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. 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 15.00 on previous day of receiving Tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (+90207 to n/helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer  
LGED, Barishal

Pabna University of Science and Technology  
Planning and Development Office  
Rajapur, Pabna-6600

Memo No. PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/Smart Board/460/2151; Date: 18/03/2024

**e-Tender Notice (FY/2023-24)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following goods under "Pabna University of Science and Technology Revenue Budget", PUST, Pabna.

S.L. No.	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No. & Invitation Ref. No.	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
01.	960426	200537	Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/Smart Board/460/2151; Date: 18/03/2024	Supply, Installation and Testing of Smart Board for Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna.	19 Mar, 2024 12:00pm	16 Apr, 2024 12:00pm	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System 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. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Jagannath University  
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**Master of Pharmacy (Professional) Program**  
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Admission period: July 22, 2024 to July 28, 2024.  
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Completed application can be submitted to the office of Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences, Jagannath University. Or, the application fee (1000 taka and transfer charge 20 taka) can be sent to 01717554320 by bKash and then the full application set can be mailed to saydur\_pr@yahoo.com as the PDF file along with the bKash reference number.

N.B. The authority keeps the right to cancel the application/admission at any time due to submission of incorrect application or misleading information

**Contact (Application form and further information)**

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences  
6th Floor, New Academic Building (029587900 Office)  
Department of Pharmacy (02226638755, 01731742040 Office)  
Dr. Mohammad Saydur Rahman, Program Director (01717554320)

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