

Traditional wooden toys gaining popularity



SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

Abdur Rob is a popular name in Rajbari's Indranarayanpur village, especially among children who eagerly anticipate the arrival of his wooden toys.

At 42, Rob has carved a niche for himself as a craftsman, creating a vibrant array of toys. His home-based toy factory not only supports his family but also provides employment opportunities for four other villagers.

Rob's journey began 15 years ago in Bogura, where he learned the art of crafting toys. Since then, he has developed a repertoire of around 40 different types of wooden toys, including trucks, buses, rickshaws, and cars, all crafted alongside his wife.

After being painted, the toys are dried in the sun in the factory's yard.

Rob said he earns Tk 30,000-35,000 monthly after deducting all expenses.

"I make 5,000-7,000 pieces of wooden toys monthly, depending on the demand. Each toy is sold at Tk 100-300," he added.

Kamal Sheikh, 35, a worker in the factory and a resident of the Kamaldia area, said, "I have been working here for

two years, earning Tk 15,000-17,000 per month."

Another worker, Sima Akter, 22, mentioned that she works in Rob's factory after finishing her household tasks, earning Tk 350 daily for painting the toys.

"There is a good demand for these wooden toys across various districts, including Magura, Kushtia, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, and Barishal," said Rob.

Atiar Sheikh, 43, a resident of Atroshi village in Sadarpur upazila in Faridpur, said Rob's wooden toys are in high demand due to their durability and lower cost compared to plastic toys.

Ronjith Sarkar, 42, a resident of Mahespur area in Magura, said he has been buying wooden toys from Rob for two years, appreciating their superior quality.

"Our toys are environmentally friendly and affordable for everyone, and they remain in demand in the market despite the presence of plastic toys. If the government provides us with loans on easy terms, we could expand the factory and create more employment opportunities," Rob added.

Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utshob held in Sunamganj

STAR REPORT

The two-day Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utshob-2025 recently celebrated the timeless melodies of Baul Samrat Shah Abdul Karim, including Bondhe Maya Lagaise, Gari Chole Na, and Bosonto Batase Soi Go, said a press release.

Held at Ujandhal field in Derai, Sunamganj, the festival was organised by Shah Abdul Karim Parishad with bKash's support for the third consecutive year.

Presided over by Shah Nur Jalal, son of Baul Samrat, the event was inaugurated on Friday by Dr Mohammad Ileas Mia, Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj, and Maj Gen (retd) Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, Chief External & Corporate Affairs Officer of bKash.

Folk musicians and devotees from across the country performed to honour Karim's legacy, attracting a diverse audience, including locals, fans, and visitors from abroad. The venue buzzed with stalls selling traditional snacks, toys, and household goods.

bKash expressed pride in supporting the festival, while Shah Nur Jalal thanked the organisers and community. The festival has been held on the banks of the Kalni River since 2006.



The two-day Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utshob-2025 recently celebrated the timeless melodies of Baul Samrat Shah Abdul Karim at the Ujandhal field in Derai, Sunamganj. The festival was organised by Shah Abdul Karim Parishad with support from bKash.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Basement space

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"I took leave from my employers and came here to see Aynagar, but I found nothing," she said.

As in previous days, scrap collectors were seen salvaging materials from the debris. This correspondent visited the site around 3:00pm and observed no police presence.

Kamal Hossain, a middle-aged man, was using a hacksaw to cut rods from chunks of concrete. He and three others from Mohammadpur have been collecting saleable items from the rubble daily since the demolition began on February 5.

"We are collecting rods from the debris as no one stops us," Kamal said, adding that they gather nearly 15kg of rods each day on average.

Several others, mostly low-income individuals, were seen breaking parts of the pillars with hammers to extract bricks and rods, which they sell to recyclers.

The protest and

subsequent demolition of the Dhamondi-32 building began following an announcement that Sheikh Hasina would deliver a speech online on February 5.

Protesters had created a Facebook event titled "Bulldozer March," calling for people to assemble at Dhamondi-32 at 7:30pm that day.

Large crowds gathered, and by 9:30pm, the building was set ablaze. Shortly before midnight, a crane and an excavator arrived at the scene.

Over the next few hours, parts of the building were razed to the ground. By 11:00am the following day, the heavy equipment had left the site.

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 10
Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha
AZAN 5:25 12:45 4:30 5:57 7:15
JAMAT 6:00 1:15 4:45 6:01 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government mulls reducing

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lessons in the curriculum, most students are only exposed to theoretical knowledge due to the lack of laboratories, trainers, and practical facilities.

"Currently, students are taught theoretical lessons, followed by viva exams, and then awarded certificates without any practical knowledge. This system will

be completely reformed," he added.

Prof Aminul emphasised the need to ensure proper education, laboratory facilities, and qualified trainers. "Students will be trained to secure good jobs even while they are still studying," he said.

The event was also attended by Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, adviser

on primary and mass education; Prof Saidur Rahman, a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC); and Kabirul Islam, secretary of the Technical and Madrasah Education Division. Siddique Zobair, secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, presided over the programme.

on crimes against humanity at Dhaka's Chankhanapur, on one-day remand.

Mentioning that the ICT's prosecution and investigation agency are working round the clock, Tamim said, "We are hopeful that within this month the investigators will be able to submit several probe reports to the chief prosecutor's office."

The tribunal also placed Sujon Hossain, a police constable arrested in a case filed over committing

crimes against humanity at Dhaka's Chankhanapur, on one-day remand.

Moreover, it sent Muzibor Rahman, former officer-in-charge of Uttara East Police Station, to jail after he was produced before it shown arrested in a case on charge of mass killing in Uttara area during July-August mass uprising.

Muzibor was arrested from Dhaka University campus earlier in the day.

ICT issues arrest warrants

FROM PAGE 5

Of them, 35 accused are currently in jail.

The prosecution also expressed hope that the investigation agency of ICT will complete ongoing investigations several cases related to crimes against humanity committed during the July-August uprising by the end of February.

ICT's prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim shared the information

with reporters after court proceedings.

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Looted relief blankets

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Babu, however, denied the allegations, saying, "I did not go there, but I have heard about an incident involving the blankets."

Chandan Kor, assistant commissioner (land) and executive magistrate in Sadar upazila, said, "Based on a tip-off, we conducted a raid on February 8 at a house near the former lawmaker's residence, suspecting the presence of government relief items."

While the allegations were verified, the items were not found there. Later that night, we recovered 25 government relief blankets and discarded

sports equipment -- 6 cricket pads and 2 helmets -- from the Bakulbari canal."

"The owner of the house where the items were stored claimed that Helen had forced him to keep the items. Legal proceedings are underway, and a regular case is being filed against Helen on charges of misappropriating government relief materials," he added.

Efforts to reach former lawmaker Kazi Kaniz Sultan Helen for a comment were unsuccessful as she has been in hiding since the fall of the AI government.

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Earlier, a review committee examined the applications of the retired officials who had claimed deprivation and recommended their promotion.

However, female workers are not favourably placed for market expansion due to their low skill set and lack of access to multidimensional skills training programmes.

Jasiya Khatoon, director of the Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants Development Foundation, said the absence of new and

Female worker

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general of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies.

As a result, their interest in recruiting female workers from Bangladesh has waned. This has impacted Bangladesh significantly, as there are few alternative overseas job markets for female workers, drivers, or even construction workers," she said.

Jasiya also said female workers are often deprived of fair wages abroad, which could discourage potential migrants.

"Many women still want to go abroad for jobs, but they don't know the proper channels," she said, urging the government to address this gap.

Be cautious

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successfully ousted the fascist Hasina through an uprising, urging everyone to be cautious of "Hasina's trap."

"We must continue our efforts to protect the independence, sovereignty, and stability of the country and to establish democracy against the fascists in a united manner," he said.

When asked about "Operation Devil Hunt," Fakhrul expressed his gratitude.

"Seems like they (the government) have finally awakened, and for that, I express my thanks," said the BNP leader.

Badiul Alam's anniversary of death today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Badiul Alam, a freedom fighter, lawyer, politician, and social activist, said a press release.

On the occasion, Advocate Badiul Alam Memorial Foundation will organise a doa mahfil in Chandanai.

Born in 1926 in Fatchnagar village, Chandanai, Chattogram, Badiul Alam completed his undergraduate degree from Calcutta University in 1946 and later earned an LLB from Dhaka University.

During the Liberation War, he served as the Awami League's regional president in Chattogram. Later, he took on the role of president of the Socialist Party's Chittagong South Division.

In 1972, he was elected vice president of the Lawyers' Association and later became its president in 1981. Throughout his life, he was actively involved in various organisations, including the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, National Cancer Prevention Society, Muslim Education Society, Chittagong Society, and Patiya College Organising Society.

Alauddin Bhuiyan
passes away

STAR REPORT

Alauddin Bhuiyan, former bill collector at the accounts section of The Daily Star, passed away on February 8. He was 70.

He left behind his wife, a son, and two daughters to mourn his death.

Alauddin worked for the newspaper from 1999 to 2016. His family requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Reform

FROM PAGE 3
were also highlighted as ways to balance rural healthcare demand and service delivery.

Tackling Middlemen and Ensuring Transparency

To eliminate the influence of middlemen in hospitals, the commission recommended full automation of services. It also urged displaying daily patient numbers on digital dashboards for transparency in both government and private hospitals.

Besides, the commission encouraged pharmaceutical companies to contribute to government hospitals by providing free medicines as part of their CSR initiatives.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Madaripur
Website: eed.madaripur.gov.bd

Date: 09/02/2025

Re-Tender Notice No: 09/2024-25 Open Tendering Method

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of Work	Document Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)
01	1073323	WD-26	Construction of 6-Storyed Administrative Building With 6-Storyed Foundation including Sanitary and Water Supply Works Along with Electrification and Other Works (Pile Foundation) at Madaripur Polytechnic Institute.	24-Feb-2025 16:00	25-Feb-2025 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the tender. 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Helpdesk; (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Date: 09/02/2025

Email: ee_mad@eedmoe.gov.bd

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