

# Internship Report

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## MDMP Internship Report as A Multimedia Producer in *The Daily Star*



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## **SUMMARY OF THE FACTS: "The Daily Star"**

*The Daily Star* is one of the leading national daily newspapers of Bangladesh, and also the widely circulated English daily. Starting its journey in 1991, the newspaper has come a long way to promote journalism without fear and favour. Recently *The Daily Star* celebrated its 25 years anniversary, which is also a milestone for the newspaper. It runs with the slogan “Your Right to Know” and always prioritizes the right of common people. *The Daily Star* promises to speak for the people without fear and favour, and has established itself as a spokesman of the subdued voice. Also it is the first English daily to have a four-page business supplement everyday and one-page for Arts & Entertainment. The newspaper boasts a brilliant editorial team, and many of the finest journalists of the country. Apart from its regular pages, the newspaper has several weekly supplements. *The Daily Star* will continue to stick to its commitments to the people of the country.

## **OBJECTIVE**

*The Daily Star* carries on with the long-term responsibility is to strengthen public opinion on how the democratic system should work and how to sustain and nurture democratic norms effectively. It was a privilege for *The Daily Star* to be part of a changing scene after the fall of military autocrat in early 1990s. With that privilege came an enormous responsibility of upholding the duties of a free press. The newspaper is proud to pursue that policy without relenting for the past 23 years.

## **VALUES**

The uniqueness of *The Daily Star* lies in its non-partisan position, in the freedom it enjoys from any influence of political parties or vested groups. Its strength is in taking position of neutrality in conflicts between good and evil, justice and injustice, right and wrong, regardless of positions held by any group or alliance.

The paper believes to report events objectively, as it is, and without any fear and favour. It is committed to serve the people. That’s why people — whether in power or in opposition — respect The Daily Star.

*The Daily Star* advocates rule of law, human rights, gender issues, national interests, press freedom, transparency and accountability of people in the administration and in the world of trade and industry on which the newspaper has never compromised whatever the costs. No political powers can take it for granted and no-one is given cause to doubt its fairness.

## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENT**

Being well aware of its social responsibilities and duties, the newspaper works to ensure human rights to all, remove gender discrimination, advocate rule of law, press freedom, transparency and accountability in the administration and in the world of trade and industry and above all to

uphold national interests. While working for these ends, *The Daily Star* always maintains utmost sincerity and accountability to serve the nation the way it is bound by its norms and values.

Besides running news reports on these issues, *The Daily Star* carries special reports, human-interest stories, features, articles and essays written by its staffs and other professionals and talents from across the country and abroad.

During different national crises, the newspaper played an important role to solve those to stop people's sufferings. As it remain alert of its social duties, *The Daily Star* frequently organises roundtables, seminars and discussions on the issues. It also works closely with the civil society for this end.

To promote young talents, *The Daily Star* organises debates and different competitions at school and college-levels and awards those who show excellence in different fields.

## **ORGANOGRAM**

The Editor who is also the Publisher of the newspaper leads the news, reporting and editorial units. He is assisted by an associate editor and assistant editors.

An editorial board comprising the associate editor and assistant editors are responsible for writing editorials under the supervision of the Editor.

The associate editor is responsible for assisting the Editor in leading the all the units and works as acting editor in absence of the Editor. The assistant editors are responsible for writing editorials in line with the instruction of the Editor.

They also write and collect post-editorials from other writers and looks after the editorial and post-editorial pages. It is also their responsibility to look after the features and articles and make-up the pages.

The management of the newspaper is headed by the Managing Editor. He is responsible for supervising the whole management including the accounts, production, store and establishment units.

Meantime, the Establishment is responsible for all establishment affairs including human resources development and administrative works. An Establishment Manager is the head of the department and works under the supervision of the managing editor.

The Finance Manager heads the finance and accounts sections. The Circulation Manager is responsible for all circulation of the newspaper across the country and for taking necessary steps to increase circulation. Advertisement Manager heads the advertisement section and is responsible for managing advertisements.

The chief reporter is responsible for supervising the whole reporting team, the key unit of the newspaper. He assigns reporters for covering events and writing special reports and receives reports from the correspondents working across the country. After getting the reports, he forwards those to the news editors.

There are two chief reporters in *The Daily Star*, one responsible for current affairs and another for specials affairs.

Chief News Editor heads the news section that comprise of news editors and sub-editors. Besides two news editors and a joint news editor, there are several sub-editors. The News Editors are responsible for page make-up. They also write headlines of the reports.

The sub-editors edit the reports and submit to the news editors. The news editors later send the reports for revision to Revision Editor.

There is also a City Editor in *The Daily Star* who coordinates all the events that take place in the city. He also supervises reporters who cover special events and coordinates the staff who work with bringing out special pages on different occasions.

Meantime, there are rewrite men and translators in the newspaper to develop copies.

## **DECISION MAKING PRACTICES**

The newspaper is run according to a policy composed in line with its objective and values. The policymakers take the decisions. Besides the editorial board, the managing editor, news editors and chief reporters also play important role in decision-making.

Crucial decisions also come from the weekly meeting of reporters and sub-editors.

## **CAPACITIES OF STAFF MEMBERS**

There are several sections in the newspaper — News, Reporting, Sports, Business, Editorial, Metropolitan, National Page, Star Weekend Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Lifestyle, Culture, Online, Establishment, Circulation, Advertisement, Computer Operator and Reading Section.

Total of 280 staff are now working in these sections. Of them, 40 are female staff. Of the 16 sections, Magazine, Law and Our Rights, Life Style, Culture, and Computer Section are headed by women staffs. Besides, a number of women are working in different policy making positions of these sections.

## **ROOM FOR VARIATION**

To cater to the widest spectrum of the reading public, regular 20-page issue contains 2-page Sports round-up, 4-page Business news, 3-page City news, one-page Arts & Entertainment, Country and International news, plus many more varied, informative and interesting pages on weekly basis including 2-page Star Literature, Law etc.

In addition *The Daily Star* has a weekly Special Magazine on Friday (The Star), a 4-colour tabloid-size publication for the young on Thursday (Shout) and Lifestyle on Tuesday.

To be more of the readers, the daily carries a Holiday page, City-in-Frame and introduced a few months ago Star Insight and Star Campus.

Presently its internet edition is the most widely browsed web page by the Bangladeshi nationals living abroad and it is frequently quoted in national and international journals, seminars, research papers as the most trusted and authentic source of news. For *The Daily Star* and those who work here it is a rare privilege to be cherished by all.

## **MY WORK & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

I am working as a Multimedia Producer in *Star Live*, which is the official YouTube video channel of *The Daily Star*. *Star Live* is a dedicated section for Online Video production. As per my responsibility, I have produced quality video contents and video stories for the said department. My supervisor is Mr. Sharier Khan one of the Deputy Editors of *The Daily Star*, who is the key person of the online video section.

My responsibility here can be divided into six parts— helping my colleagues with new story ideas, researching on a given story, scripting based on research, shooting, editing and lastly writing accompany report for the video content. I also play a crucial role in our weekly brainstorming meeting.

Every day I follow the daily newspaper to get news ideas. Besides, my colleague also helps me with story ideas. During our weekly meeting I put forward my ideas before the team. We spent at least an hour, arguing and discussing about different angles of the idea, ethical issues (if there is any), research, shooting plan and etc. At last, based on the merit of the idea my supervisor decides what to do and what not.

A video production requires in-depth pre-production design. During the pre-production phase I choose my story topic and start researching. My supervisor plays an important role and provides some facts and ideas. After the discourse ends, I begin to work on the story visually. A concrete research has always been a primary tool to write a successful script. Shooting plan for the story is a part of pre-production phase.

During my research work I also contact with the potential sources. Here, source actually depends on the story format (news or feature). So, we can define source as the primary-information-provider. Interestingly, common people can be our potential source in a feature story focusing on daily life of city dwellers. Besides, researcher working on urban life is also a potential source of information.

At shooting, I try to delve deep into the script idea to make my research visually appealing. It is not an easy task to do, since we usually work on documentary format. So I need to stay alert to check whether the light position, camera movement and characters answer in front of the camera are sinking with my story idea or not.

After finishing successful production shooting I need to segregate ok footages and also have to make a log sheet for the editing. Usually I have to guide our video editor during this post-production phase to edit my story according to my script. Sometimes I did the rough-cut for the video editor also. If any graphics or motion graphics needed in my story I need to consult with our graphics designer and also have to do in this phase.

To do a successful production everything about the story I have to nurture until the story upload to the *Star Live (The Daily Star YouTube channel)*. To publish my story into the *The Daily Star* web portal I also have to write a summary of the story.

I covered negligence of the government regarding the maintenance of the largest archaeological sites in South Asia, Bhitargarh, along with the mindless constructions of various

Corporate organizations within the site elicited a High Court rule, instructing the government to take steps to protect the national treasure.

During my intern period I have contributed significantly in our newspaper. I have travelled to remote districts to investigate on human rights and environmental change issues. Recently I came from Shundarban by covering Rash Mela, Punno Snan (ablution), super-moon, biodiversity and the forest conservation condition of the world largest mangrove forest.

During my intern period I did three complete stories and also did cinematography and video editing in another five productions. My two projects are running which are now in post-production phase. One of the ongoing project is feature on a true history based first Bangladeshi 3D game 'War 71' and another is feature on the culture of world largest mangrove forest Shundarban dwellers.

I don't want to describe my finished projects one by one because the completed stories are available in the web and I am giving below the name and the web link of the stories.



**My completed stories are:**

**The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/the-symbol-love-and-mansion-ruins-barisal-1303006>

**Autumn white fields of Dhaka**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/autumn-white-fields-dhaka-1294483>

**Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/oxford-mission-century-old-church-barisal-1289956>

**Meet the fourth generation of poet Rabindranath Tagore**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o68pCnRBruo>

**Habib talks about creativity, music, his likes and dislikes**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/music/habib-talks-about-creativity-music-his-likes-and-dislikes-1284520>

**Sundarban-10, most luxurious launch of Bangladesh**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/sundarban-10-most-luxurious-launch-bangladesh-1282702>

**[WATCH NOW] N'ganj anti-militant operation roundup**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/narayanganj-raid/watch-now-narayanganj-anti-militant-operation-roundup-1276396>

**Demand for plants high at Brikkho Mela**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/demand-plants-high-brikkho-mela-1271728>

**Rickshaw painting in Digital age**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/rickshaw-painting-digital-age-1267468>

**Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years**

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/tea-garden-workers-living-slaves-175-years-1262731>

**Savar not yet ready for Tanners**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZSdCNBBimg>

**Here are some projects where I did Cinematography:**

**Dhakaites react to victory of Donald Trump**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgaj-2P6YpA>

**Tips Guru: Amitabh Reza on film direction**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLJnz22cJ9Y>

**Aynabaji: Chat with Amitabh Reza & Gang**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGD4jxaPEQg>

**The grand old Srinagar Bazar**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVU3yUvnJ8s>

**Discover Bangladesh: Chill out at Arial Beel**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1AoJhRJUKk>

**Here are some projects where I did Video Editing:**

**Turag At Death Bed**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQQsVDMrRhY>

**Barisal: Durga Sagar and Lakutia Zaminder Bari**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS7uaGyQssQ>

**Bangladesh's Most Luxurious Launch**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsi9KEf0CdM>

**Bashundhara fire under control in 6 hours**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zMndWFfA3I>

### **SPACE AND TIME CONSTRAINT:**

The newspaper is a daily in nature; I have to work amidst time constraint to finish my works by the deadline. Sometimes I have to cover more than one event a day and have to hurry in submitting my stories keeping in mind the deadline. Usually my office time is so flexible; if I have no outdoor shooting my office time is 12 PM to 6 PM. But, when I have shooting or appointment there is no time boundary and I have to work whole day.

### **WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

*The Daily Star* offers a very healthy working environment to its staff as it thinks a good working environment is the prerequisite of better output. My supervisor and my colleagues are very helpful and comparative. My office desk and work station is in the news room at the sixth floor of *The Daily Star* Building. In the news room the environment is always quite and everyone are always busy with their won work. So, the overall working condition of *The Daily Star* is fabulous and too much working friendly.

### **SELF-EVALUATION:**

Choosing *The Daily Star* as the host organization for my internship was indeed a very wise decision. The way they welcomed me and guided me throughout my internship period is really appreciable. The power of “We” was one of the most important lessons that I have learned from that organization. The supervisor wanted me to have in dept knowledge of the newspaper production system. I also gained knowledge about print media through working there in collaboration with my colleagues.

Now I know each and every step of newspaper production and their workflow. This gained knowledge will help me better perform in any kind of situation, especially in this field. Now I can consider myself as a complete producer. It tremendously helped me developing my aesthetic sense regarding storytelling and creative output. I believe that all these knowledge I have managed to gather from *The Daily Star* is sufficient enough for me to start a career in journalism.

### **OUTCOMES:**

As an intern, I thought I would make professional skills, knowledge about the field, professional links, and mentality to work for others and some kind of reputation of being a good person to work with. And after this long internship, I can say, I have achieved almost everything I wanted to and everything gone perfectly fine with me. I have learned production maintaining, team work, brain storming, idea generation process, creative input, leadership capabilities, responsibilities and lots of professional behavior. After working with so many projects its develop my capacity and skills. I feel this will help me a lot with my goal to be a content developer and campaign tool designer. This experience made me more professionally skilled, wise about the field with professional links.

## **REFLECTION AS AN IMPLEMENTER:**

Working as a Multimedia Producer for *The Daily Star* helped me develop and learn lots of things. This is a creative job. It helps to acquire knowledge, identification of problems in productions and increases the concept of standard productions. It improves my practical experience in multimedia production. I can go to local area people in order to my work. As a Producer, I have to work in many areas where I did not go before. By doing this job I can explore lots of new area, culture, and people. Previously I described my responsibility as a producer. The good thing is that these all aspects of the knowledge I obtained during my whole masters. This knowledge has helped me a lot with the projects that I have done for *The Daily Star*. I already studied the structure of research, writing and the aspect of development. The knowledge that I obtained of my education has really helped me in this area.

The only area where I didn't have any knowledge before this intern period was the organisational practice and the professional behavior. That is why the first few weeks I have to face some difficulties. Mainly because most of the time I was not aware of what was happening around me. But, after some constrictive meeting and by the help of my supervisor and teammates I do overcome the situation.

## **REFLECTION ON DEVELOPED AREAS AND SKILLS:**

The working areas I develop and improved during my internship are the following:

### **Story Planning:**

Working in this area has helped me to understand the process of story planning and story selection with the priority basis, becoming aware how to plan and organize a story for a production. I mostly obtained knowledge on what is needed to plan a successful production.

### **Researching, Writing & Analysing:**

Working in *The Daily Star* has helped me to develop and improve my research, observing capacity, analyzing facts and writing skills. During my internship, I had to conduct researches on lots of different plots and stories. This enhanced my analysing capacity and helped me to develop my critical thinking process. As for my story I have to write an English report for the web portal of *The Daily Star*, which developed my writing skills.

### **Public relations:**

This intern creates the scope for me to do public relation. I improved in this area by communicating lots of people for the reason of my story. I also have achieved this by publishing my stories into *The Daily Star* web, YouTube and communicating through the social media tools.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The past months of my internship have been very instructive for me. *The Daily Star* has offered me opportunities to learn and develop myself in many areas. I gained a lot of experience, especially in the story telling. A lot of the tasks and activities that I have worked on during my internship are familiar with what I learned from my masters. I worked in many areas where I did different work. This gave me the chance to find out which areas I want work in after my education. The area that I found most interesting is story telling through the lens. By developing a story, I had to do lots of research where I had to find the best way of understanding the present socio economic condition.

Before my internship started my ideas did not match the experiences have gained during my internship. There is a big difference in the university projects and the tasks and activities during the actual work. In university we learn how to describe the work in projects, where in work one can learn how to implement them in reality. This internship was definitely an introduction to the actual work field for me. I have learned to work in a team environment by the professional behaviour and apply my knowledge into practice.

I enjoyed whole the time of my internship at The Daily Star. I learned a lot about the areas of PR, storytelling, communication and production designing. I also became stronger in my English oral and written communication. I have achieved this because it is an english newspaper and by writing my stories for The Daily Star web. I also traveled many areas of Bangladesh for done my story which helps me to understand the overall country condition and also I enjoyed those tours.

Finally I can say I enjoyed my intern period in *The Daily Star*. I learned lots of factor and gain many professional knowledge during this period. I think it will help in my future career.

## APPENDIX:

### Project: Autumn white fields of Dhaka

Script:

#### কাশফুলের গল্প

সবে তো এই বর্ষা গেল  
শরৎ এলো মাত্র,  
এরই মন্ধে শুভ্র কাশে  
ভরল তোমার গাত্র ।

আবহমান বাংলার ঋতু বিচিত্রে কাশফুল এভাবেই শরতের আগমনি বার্তা নিয়ে হাজির হয় । ঋতুর পরিবর্তনে বাংলার রূপের যে পরিবর্তন তা আজকের শহুরে বাঙালীরা প্রায় ভুলতে বসেছে । ইট পাথর আর অট্টালিকার ভিড়ে শরৎকে খুঁজতে তাই আমরা এসেছি কাশবনে । স্থানটি উত্তরা ১৫ নম্বর সেক্টর এবং দিয়াবাড়ির আশ পাশের কাশবন । এখানকার বিস্তৃত কাশবন আপনার নগর জীবনের সকল ক্লান্তি ভুলিয়ে শুভ্রতার ছোঁয়ায় আপনাকে নিয়ে যাবে এক অন্য জগতে । কালো পীচের উপর অসংখ্য সাদা কাশফুলের রোমে ঢাকা রাস্তাগুলোকে দেখে মনে হবে, কেউ যেন শুভ্র গালিচা বিছিয়ে রেখেছে স্বপ্নের পথে ।

শরতের প্রধান আকর্ষণ কাশফুল । সাধারণত কাশফুল দেখা যায় নদীর তীরবর্তী পলিমাটির এলাকাজুড়ে । জলাভূমি এলাকা কিংবা পতিত জমিতেও হয়ে থাকে দিগন্ত বিস্তৃত কাশবন । কাশফুলের অপরূপ সৌন্দর্যে পুলকিত হয়না এমন মানুষ খুঁজে পাওয়া কঠিন । শ্বেত শুভ্র কাশফুলের নরম পালকে চড়ে শরতের মেঘে হারিয়ে যেতে কার না মন চায়? সাদা কাশফুলের উপর পড়ন্ত বিকেলের সোনালী আলোর ছটা, এ যেন এক স্নিগ্ধ স্বর্গীয় অনুভূতি । কাশফুলের আদি নিবাস হিমালয়ের পাদদেশে অবস্থিত দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার পলি অঞ্চলগুলোতে । কাশফুল মূলত ঘাসজাতীয় উদ্ভিদ । এর পাতা গাঢ় সবুজ রঙের ও সরু হলেও বেশ রুক্ষ ও খসখসে । পাতাগুলো লম্বায় প্রায় ১ মিটার এবং চওড়ায় প্রায় ৬-১৫ মিলিমিটার পর্যন্ত হয় । কাশফুলের সাদা মঞ্জরিটি ১৫-৩০ সেন্টিমিটার পর্যন্ত লম্বা হয় । বীজে সূক্ষ্ম সাদা রোম থাকে । এই রোমের কারণেই বীজগুলো উড়ে বেড়ায় এবং কাশফুলের বংশ বিস্তার ঘটে ।

উত্তরা, গাজীপুর কিংবা টঙ্গিগামী কোন বাসে চড়ে উত্তরা হাউস বিল্ডিং-এ এসে, মোড় থেকে বাম দিকে রিকশা নিয়ে সহজেই চলে আসা যায় এখানে । মিরপুর বাসীরাও বেড়িবাঁধ দিয়ে খুব সহজেই চলে আসতে পারেন দিয়াবাড়ি । লেক, লেকের উপর ব্রিজ, চারপাশে ধূধূ কাশবন, লেকে নৌকাভ্রমণ, ঘোড়ার পিঠে বসে দুলাকি চালে কাশবন দর্শন আর চটপটি-ফুচকায় একটি বিকেল বেশ কাটিয়ে দেয়া যায় এখানে ।

এছাড়াও আফতাবনগর, ৩০০ফিট রাস্তা, আশুলিয়া, ঢাকা উদ্যান, ধলেশ্বরীর তীর, ওয়াশপুর, কেরানীগঞ্জ সহ ঢাকা শহর ও আশপাশের আরো বেশকিছু জায়গায় কাশবনের দেখা মিলবে পুরো শরৎ জুড়েই ।

Published Story:

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/autumn-white-fields-dhaka-1294483>

## Autumn white fields of Dhaka

Khalid Hussain Ayon

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What is it that makes the month of October so different from the rest of the year? The sky wears a deep blue colour with specks of white clouds. And as you roam the country in this season—you will surely notice white seas of Kans Grass (Kashful) covering newly formed lands, shoal and the river banks.

In the concrete jungle of Dhaka, finding fields of Kashful would not have been possible had there not been large-scale filling of low lying lands in the outskirts of the city.



You can spot massive Kashful fields in the Uttara third phase, Bashundhara, Aftabnagar and many other places.

Watch the video below to catch a glimpse of the delightful white Kashful field swaying in the autumn breeze.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dofnf0OsAmU>

## Project: The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal

Script:

### দুর্গা সাগর ও লাকুটিয়া জমিদার বাড়ি

কিংবদন্তি আছে, প্রজাদের খাবার পানির কষ্ট দেখে প্রজাবৎসল রানী দুর্গাবতী বিচলিত হয়ে রাজার কাছে একটি দীঘী খননের আর্জি জানান। বাংলার বারো ভূইয়ার একজন চন্দ্রদ্বীপ রাজ্যের পঞ্চদশ রাজা, রাজা শিব নারায়ন রায় স্ত্রী দুর্গাবতীর প্রতি ভালোবাসার গভীরতা প্রমানের জন্য ঘোষণা দেন, রানী দুর্গাবতী একবারে যতোদূর হেঁটে যেতে পারবেন ততোখানি জায়গা নিয়ে খনন করা হবে একটি দীঘি। সে রাতে রানী প্রায় ৬১ কানি জমি হেঁটেছিলেন। আর তাই ১৭৮০ খ্রিস্টাব্দে জনশ্রুতি অনুযায়ী, রাজা শিব নারায়ন রায় খনন করলেন বাংলাদেশের দক্ষিণাঞ্চলের সর্ববৃহৎ এই দীঘিটি। রানী দুর্গাবতীর নামেই এর নাম করন করা হয় দুর্গাসাগর। মূলত দীঘিটির বিশালতা বোঝাতেই যোগ করা হয়েছিল সাগর শব্দটি। সরকারী হিসাব অনুযায়ী দীঘিটি ৪৫ একর ৪২ শতাংশ জমিতে অবস্থিত। এর ২৭ একর ৩৮ শতাংশ জলাশয় এবং ১৮ একর ৪শতাংশ পাড়। পাড়টি উত্তর- দক্ষিণে লম্বা ১৪৯০ফুট এবং পূর্ব পশ্চিমে ১৩৬০ ফুট প্রশস্ত।

দুর্গাসাগরের মূল ঘাটটি সিমেন্টে বাধানো বেশ প্রশস্ত ও পরিচ্ছন্ন। বিশাল এই দীঘির টলটলে জলের মাঝে মাথা উঁচু করে আছে সুন্দর একটি দ্বীপ যা অতিথি পাখিদের কলকাকলিতে মুখরিত থাকে শীতকালে। পাখিদের অভয়ারণ্য এই এলাকা। দীঘির পারে সরু রাস্তা, মাঝে মাঝে বসার বেঞ্চ, ঘন সবুজ বিভিন্ন ধরনের গাছপালা আর দীঘির স্বচ্ছ জলে আকাশ-মেঘের প্রতিবিম্ব মিলে পুরো এলাকাটি যেন এক অনাবিল প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্যের আধার।

বরিশাল জেলা শহর থেকে মাত্র ১২ কিঃমিঃ দূরে মধাব পাশা ইউনিয়নে এই দুর্গাসাগর দীঘির অবস্থান। সদর থেকে ১০০ টকায় অটোরিক্সা ভাড়া করে খুব সহজেই ঘুরে আসা যায় প্রায় আড়াইশো বছরে পুরনো এই দীঘিটি।

দুর্গাসাগর থেকে স্বরূপকাঠি-বরিশাল রোড দিয়ে বাবুর বাজার-ছয় মাইল সড়ক হয়ে আমরা এসেছি ৪০০ বছরের পুরনো লাকুটিয়া জমিদার বাড়িতে। ইট-পাথর আর সুড়কি গাঁথা এক সময়ের এই জমিদার বাড়িটি এখন পরিত্যক্ত। যতদূর জানা যায়, আদিপুরুষ রূপচন্দ্র রায়ের হাত ধরেই প্রতিষ্ঠা পায় এই জমিদার বংশ। পরবর্তীতে, ১৭০০ সালের দিকে রূপচন্দ্রের পৌত্র রাজচন্দ্র রায়ের জমিদারি গড়ে ওঠে এখানে। এরপর থেকেই বাড়িটির সাথে ইতিহাস হয়ে আছেন তিনি।

লাকুটিয়া জমিদার বাড়ির বেশিরভাগ স্থাপনাই আটচালা দেউল রীতিতে তৈরি। বাড়িটি দোতলা, সামনে-পিছে একই ডিজাইনে তৈরি ভবনটির উভয় তলাতেই সারি ধরে অনেকগুলো দরজা-জানালা দেখা যায়। তবে নিচ তলায় মাঝ বরাবর এপার-ওপার যাতায়াতের একটি পথ রয়েছে।

লাকুটিয়া জমিদার বাড়ির সবচেয়ে সুন্দর ও আকর্ষণীয় স্থাপনা হল শিখররীতির কিছু মন্দির ও সমাধিসৌধ। এর ভেতর অনেকগুলো মন্দির এখনো প্রায় অক্ষত অবস্থায়ই দাঁড়িয়ে আছে।

জমিদার বাড়ির মূল প্রবেশপথের বাঁ পাশে রয়েছে শান বাঁধানো ঘাটওলা সুন্দর একটি পুকুর। জমিদার বাড়িটি এখন বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের তত্ত্বাবধানে রয়েছে। তবে অযত্ন আর অবহেলায় এটি প্রায় বিলুপ্তির পথে। এর বেশিরভাগ দেয়ালগুলোই ভেঙ্গে পড়েছে এবং জানালা দরজাগুলোর অস্তিত্ব আর খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না।

বরিশাল শহর হতে ১০০ টকায় অটোরিক্সা ভাড়া করেও খুব সহজেই চলে আসা যায় ইতিহাসের সাক্ষী হয়ে দাঁড়িয়ে থাকা এই লাকুটিয়া জমিদার বাড়ি থেকে।



Published Story:

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/the-symbol-love-and-mansion-ruins-barisal-1303006>

## The symbol of love and a mansion in ruins in Barisal

Khalid Hussain Ayon

404 Shares    

Located only 12 kilometres off the Barisal city, Durga Sagar is the largest pond in the southwestern region of the country.

In 1780, Raja Shib Narayan Rai dug a 46-acre massive pond as a symbol of love for his wife Rani Durgaboti. Legend has it that back then people were facing acute drinking water crisis in the area.



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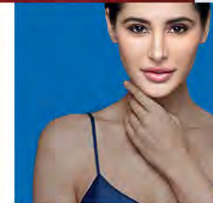
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Rani Durgaboti asked the king to find a solution and this pond was built in response.

The ancient pond is now surrounded by lush green trees while there is an artificial island in the middle. The pond attracts many migratory birds during the winter.

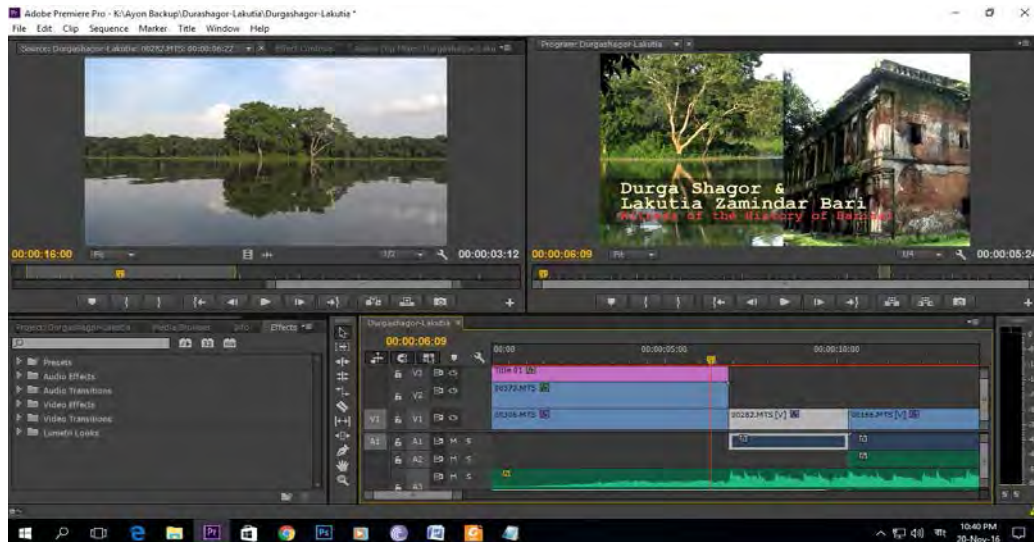
About 5km away from Durga Sagar is another heritage site that should not be missed: The Lakutia Zamindar Bari.

Located at the village Lakutia, this magnificent relic of a Zamindar house was built by Rupchondro Ray in the early British regime. The building was modified and expanded by his grandson Rajchondro Ray.



YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS7uaGyQssQ>

Screen shot of the editing period:



## Project: Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal

Script:

### অক্সফোর্ড মিশন চার্চ

কীর্তনখোলা নদীতীরে সুপ্রাচীন বন্দরকে ঘিরে বাংলাদেশের দক্ষিণাঞ্চলের বিভাগীয় শহর বারিশাল। এ শহরেই রয়েছে এশিয়া মহাদেশের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম এবং বাংলাদেশের শৈল্পিক গির্জাগুলোর মধ্যে অন্যতম স্থাপত্য নিদর্শন অক্সফোর্ড মিশন চার্চ। বগুড়া রোডে অবস্থিত এই শতবর্ষী স্থাপনাটির নাম এপিফানি গির্জা হলেও স্থানীয় ভাবে এটি অক্সফোর্ড মিশন নামেই পরিচিত।

গ্রিক স্থাপত্যশৈলীতে নির্মিত লাল ইটের এই গির্জাটি সিস্টার এডিথের নকশায় মূল আকৃতি দেন ফাদার স্ট্রং। ১৯০৩ থেকে ১৯০৭ এই চার বছর সময় কালে নির্মিত হয় গির্জা ভবনটি। বাইরে থেকে দেখতে চার-পাঁচ তলা ভবনের মতো মনে হলেও ভেতরটা কেবলই একতলা সুবিশাল প্রার্থনা কক্ষ। গির্জার মূল ফটক দক্ষিণমুখী। মূল ভবনের তিন দিক ঘিরে অনেকগুলো দরজা। গির্জার ভেতরে আছে আকর্ষণীয় একটি ঘণ্টা যা এশিয়ার মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বড়। গির্জাটিতে রয়েছে অসংখ্য করিডোর ও ৪০টি পিলার, যা এর কাঠামোকে করেছে সুদৃঢ়।

ভেতরের মেঝেতে রয়েছে পাথরের তৈরি চৌবাচ্চা ও ব্যাপ্টিজম বাথ বেসিন। এছাড়াও যিশুখ্রিস্টের ছবি আর ধর্মীয় বইগুলো দিয়ে সাজানো রয়েছে প্রার্থনা কক্ষটি। ভবনের ওপরে পূর্ব দিকে রয়েছে কালো গম্বুজ ও বছরকম জ্যামিতিক বিন্যাস। মূল বেদির ওপর চোখে পড়ে বিশাল আকৃতির একটি ত্রুশ যা আনা হয় প্যালেস্টাইনের বেথেলেহেম থেকে।

৩৫ একর গির্জা এলাকায় রয়েছে ১৩ টি পুকুর, অক্সফোর্ড মিশন প্রাইমারি স্কুল, অক্সফোর্ড মিশন হাই স্কুল, হাসপাতাল, লাইব্রেরি, ছাত্রছাত্রী হোস্টেল, খেলার মাঠ, ফাদার্স হাউস, মাদার্স হাউস সহ একটি মনোমুগ্ধকর ফুলের বাগান।

সারি সারি পাম্প ট্রি আর শান্ত-স্নিগ্ধ মনোরম পরিবেশে ঘেরা দৃশ্যের ভেতর দূর থেকে প্রাচীন স্থাপনাটিকে দেখে মনে হয় যেন কোন রেলগাড়ির ইঞ্জিন বিশ্বাসের সুতা ধরে স্বর্গে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে এর যাত্রীদের।

শতবর্ষী এই গির্জাটি নিঃসন্দেহে মুগ্ধ করবে যে কোন বয়সী দর্শনার্থীদের। সকাল ১০ টা থেকে বিকেল ৪টা পর্যন্ত অনুমতি সাপেক্ষে ঘুরে দেখা যায় চমৎকার স্থাপত্যশৈলীতে নির্মিত গির্জাটি।

Published Story:

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/oxford-mission-century-old-church-barisal-1289956>



# Oxford Mission, a century old church in Barisal

Khalid Hussain Ayon

615 Shares   

While roaming the streets of Barisal city, a majestic red brick colonial structure drew my attention. From far it looks like a huge locomotive designed with beautiful archways and a dome on the top. If you have already seen it, you know what I am talking about.

It is the Oxford Mission Epiphany Church, a century old church situated beside Bogra Road in Barisal.



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In the early twentieth century, the ancient river port city attracted many Christian missionaries. Those who came from Europe to visit the city built the church and school here. An England-based missionary, the Oxford mission started its journey in this region at the end of the 19th century.

The church was built in 1903 from a sketch by Sister Edith. Father Strong later completed the project around 1907.

The building has been designed following Greek architecture. Although it looks like a four or five-storied building from the outside it is in reality a single floor with a large Prayer Hall. There are many doors on the three sides of the main structure.

There are forty archways and many corridors to strengthen the main structure of the church. The large cross on the main altar was brought from Bethlehem. The interior has been designed with wood carvings and the floor including the baptism bath basin decorated with marble tiles.



The church also runs a number of philanthropic activities in Barisal- primary and secondary schools, girls' schools, hospitals, libraries, students' hostel and so on.

The Epiphany Oxford Mission Church stands witness to hundred years' of communal harmony in Bangladesh.



YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mazRMI3rOf8>

# Project: Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years

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## Tea garden workers: Living like slaves for 175 years

Khalid Hussain Ayon

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Imagine that you and your ancestors have been living in an area for 175 years; but you don't have any right to own a land. Imagine that after living in an area for so many years, you cannot even sell a tree that you planted without the permission of the 'authority'.

Imagine, your children can not go to proper schools. Your pay is so poor that it can hardly feed your family. But you cannot say much because as a worker, you work under an exclusive labour law that is not applicable for any other profession.

This is the story of almost any tea garden worker in the country.

"We have no land right on this land. If I plant a tree, I can't cut it without the signature of manager," said tea garden worker Rajkumari Bin, at the Shamsher Nagar tea estate in Srimangal.

She and the other tea workers are all decedents of minority communities from South India, Bihar, Orissa and even Uttar Pradesh.

Their ancestors were brought here nearly 175 years ago by the then British Raj who treated them like slaves. The British rulers have left long ago and Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. But till today, they are still not treated like citizens of the country.



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Garden workers are treated under a discriminatory labour law that the British Raj had introduced across the sub-continent.

"The maternity leave for a tea garden worker is four months. But other workers get six months maternity leave," says Sitaram Bin, a member of tea garden workers' union and Shamsher Nagar UP member, "this is clear case of discrimination in the labour law in the same country."

The workers are very poorly paid. They get much lower wages than the Indian tea workers. Their wage rate is daily 85 taka now which is not sufficient to maintain their livelihood—especially when the areas around a tea estate do not offer other job opportunities.

"We are 10 members living together in our family, how can we survive with this meagre 85 taka?" asks worker Rajkumari Bin.

A worker is allotted a single room by the estate. A single room is crowded with people of different ages of the family.

Cattle or domesticated animals and human beings are often seen living together under one roof. This is also the common scenario of living condition among the tea garden workers.

The education and health condition of the tea garden workers are in a poor state as well. There is no primary school even in the government owned National Tea Company's gardens.

The working condition of garden workers is dismal. Besides, they are socially excluded, overwhelmingly illiterate, deprived and disconnected.

The condition of the workers stands as a stark contrast to that of the country's tea estates—which are among the most beautiful places to visit because of the lush green landscape, the silence and the hilly terrain.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSG2ThNOS\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSG2ThNOS_U)



## Project: Rickshaw painting in Digital age

Published Story:

Link: <http://www.thedailystar.net/video-stories/rickshaw-painting-digital-age-1267468>

# Rickshaw painting in Digital age

Khalid Hossain Ayon

186 Shares    

With the advent of the digital printing press, Rickshaw painting a previously well known art form is on the verge of extinction. Many painters had to switch their profession to survive the "digital revolution".



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A few of them continue to endure the struggle and have managed to keep the art form alive. Rickshaw painters Rafiqul Islam and Sayed Ahmed are among one of the artisans.

They have participated in different international exhibitions and have received national and international recognition. But they say, the demand along with prices are in steep decline.

"My work was exhibited and sold in many countries like, Germany, England, Italy, Japan, Russia and Canada among others. But in my own country the demand continues to fall every day," said Rafiqul Islam.

Strangely, the unique art form now survives with the help and financial support of foreign art enthusiasts.

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