

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Police take arrestees to a Dhaka court yesterday afternoon in a prison van. They were arrested in the capital over the last few days in connection with different cases. The arrests were apparently made as police fear violence will break out during the opposition rally in the capital today.

# In the fullness of melody. . .

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Hindustan."

For Indian music, indeed for music across the subcontinent, Manna Dey's death is officially a coming down of the curtain on what remains in the memory as a golden era in the creation of Bangla and Hindi melody.

Mohammad Rafi passed on a long time ago and, before him, Mukesh. Talat Mahmood departed in the late 1990s. There was Kishore Kumar before him. Shyamal Mitra, Shatinath, Hemanta and Manabendra too are reminders of the glory that was Bangla music, in the movies and outside them. Mahendra Kapoor, of the generation after the illustrious ones, is gone too. Suraiya does not live any more; and Shamshad Begum fell to mortality not long

And now that Manna Dey goes the way of all flesh, it is his mellifluous yet sad number we recall -- ei to shey din tumi amare bujhale. It is that depressing moment in time when the winds carry forth the strains of aami niralaye boshey bedhechhi amar shorono been. Gone is the moment when through the melody of anklets, through the sight of sheer feminine beauty in all its grace, you could sing with Manna Dey, inebriated like, hajar taka'r jharh baati ta raat ta ke je din korechhe.

All charges 'false'

witness in the case, said, "No allegations [of

war crimes] were brought against my father

until his participation in the national election in

against his father and newspaper reports on the

1971 atrocities also did not mention Nizami's

But a post editorial by Nizami in Jamaat-e-

Islami's mouthpiece Daily Sangram on

In that editorial Al-Badr chief Nizami said,

"I believe that the day is not very far when the

youths of Al-Badr alongside our armed forces will

annihilate the Hindu force and abolish

Ke Kothai" has reprinted the entire editorial.

A book titled "Ekattorer Ghatak O Dalalra

The book says Nizami praised the Pakistani

army on August 2, 1971 at a rally of Jamaat's

then student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha at

Nizami said, "If patriotic people came

forward since March 1 to counter miscreants

[freedom fighters], such a situation would not be

created. Allah bestowed responsibilities to

Muslims to save Pakistan. When the Muslims

failed, Allah saved the country through the

August 14, Nizami led a procession of

Chhatra Sangha at Dhaka University. Slogans like

"with our blood, Pakistan will survive, kill India's

The notorious Al-Badr was formed with

Chhatra Sangha members with an evil

design to eliminate the intellectuals of the emerg-

ing country. According to the prosecution docu-

ments, Nizami was the president of the Chhatra

agents" were chanted at that procession.

To mark Pakistan's independence day on

November 14, 1971 disputes his claim.

Muslim Institute in Chittagong.

He also claimed no case had been filed

Manna Dey's artistry was all-enveloping, comprehensive to the nth degree. Always in love with music, and religiously so, he saw his horizons begin to expand under the tutelage of his uncle Krishna Chandra Dey and then that unrivalled ruler of melody land, Sachin Dev Burman. Sachin Karta kept him waiting, in agony, even as he sought other artistes for his compositions. The wait helped, for when it ended Manna Dey branched out furiously, to become the singer and then the legend that he is today, even in death. Who will not be moved by such Hindi numbers as sur na saje kya gaaoon main / sur ke bina jeevan soona?

Like all great artistes, Manna Dey possessed versatility in plenty. His ae mere pyare watan ae mere bichhrhe chaman tujh pe dil qurban has for decades been a recalling of a lost country for those who have moved away from home. If that is the hallmark of Dey's patriotic music, there is the energetically romantic in ae meri Zohra jabeen tujhe maloom nehi / tu abhi tak hai haseen aur main jawan. Follow that up with the intensity of devotion to the deity as encapsulated in tu pyaar ka sagar hai / teri ik boond ke pyaase hum.

Manna Dey's diction was flawless; and it little mattered in which language he was singing

After the Liberation War a committee was

formed to prepare a list of Pakistani army's

collaborators including Razakar, Al-Badr and

Al-Shams, said Nazibar. "In my investigation, I

did not find my father's name on the list," he

formed to investigate the killings of intellec-

tuals and more than 42 cases were filed to that

He added a probe committee had been

(altogether, between 1942 and 2013, he sang as many as four thousand songs). His insistence on perfection characterised his performance. His pronunciation of Urdu and Hindi words and phrases was superb to a point where his listeners almost forgot that his native language was Bangla. Perhaps one of the more significant points about his singing abilities, something he shares with Rafi, is his mastery of the classical inflections of music. If Rafi could make a hall tremble to his madhuban mein Radhika naache re, Manna Dey could in equal measure shake up the corridors with jhanak jhanak tori baaje paayelia.

Manna Dey lived through some of the most dramatic of times, naturally. Born in the year when hundreds of colonised Indians were done to death at Jalianwala Bagh, he was witness to the many changing fortunes of a world he believed could be served by a constancy of ringing calls to

Recall Nazrul's shawono raate jodi shorone aashe morey. Manna Dey takes the song to Olympian heights, wrapping it a near cosmic form.

Not many have been able to equal the grandeur he brought into the song, into his other songs.

# Shibir man

An Islami Chhatra Shibir activist was injured in explosion while making bombs at a Quran learning centre in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong | camp Sadharon Shikkhak Forum were present in yesterday.

Police said Shibir activist Alamgir, 24, was injured as the bombs went off at Talimul Quran Academy in the upazila's Jamalpur around 4:30pm.

At least 15 to 20 bombs were blasted there, said Md Iftekhar Hasan, officer-in-charge (OC)

of Jorarganj Police Station. But Alamgir had managed to flee, the OC said, adding that they had arrested Alamgir's younger brother Muktar Hossain in this connection from their house adjacent to the academy.

The two brothers are actively involved in the politics of Shibir, the OC said, adding that they also had recovered bomb-making materials from the house.

There was a case filed with Jorarganj Police Station against them on the charge of blasting crude bombs during hartal, the OC added.

On October 7, at least seven people were injured when a powerful bomb went off at Jamiatul Ulum Al Islamia Madrasa in Lalkhan Bazar of the port city, which was established by Hefajat Nayeb-e-Ameer Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury.

Three of them succumbed to their injuries later.

Stay alert

# hurt in blast His brother held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

end. Another case was filed in 1997.

"My father was not implicated in any of those cases," said the defence witness.

"Even after their failure to bring allegations of killing the intellectuals against my father, he has been charged with the same at the instruction of someone," he alleged.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali raised objection saying the prosecution did not bring any charge at anyone's instruction and prayed to the tribunal to expunge the line.

The tribunal however kept the line in record with the prosecution's objection.

Nazibar said his father was not an unknown person in 1970 and 1971 and his statements had been regularly published in different newspapers. "His activities were described in the government's intelligence report," he added.

He claimed there was no such report that his father was the Al-Badr chief or had held meetings with the Pakistani army.

Nizami's son claimed his father had not gone to Pabna during the war and there was no intelligence report to disprove it.

Following his deposition he exhibited 26 documents as proof of his claims.

The tribunal adjourned the proceeding until October 27. Nazibar is set to continue with his deposition that day.

Nizami, who is facing 16 war crimes charges, was hauled before the tribunal.

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alert, as the BNP-Jamaat "may unleash violence" in the course of its rally today. At an informal meeting at the PM's parlia-

ment office, she directed them to counter attack in self defence if the BNP-Jamaat man attacked them, sources said. She also asked all the ward and thana unit AI

bodies in the capital to take to the streets to foil any possible attack by the opposition men, but warned against any sort of instigation.

"Their [BNP-Jamaat's] aim is to create chaos, not election or democracy. So you will have to remain alert," Hasina was quoted telling her party leaders.

AL lawmakers Aslamul Haque Aslam, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury and General Secretary Harunur Rashid, Swechchwa Sebak League President Mollah Mohammad Abu Kawser and General Secretary Pankaj Devnath and Chhatra League President HM Bodiuzzaman Shohag and General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam,

For full throttle

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stop in the middle of the ocean and touch the water. Located on Marine Drive in Himchori, Cox's Bazar, the FunFest also offers land sailing and dry para sailing which can sometimes be impossible to do due to strong breeze. FunFest assures safety measures and promises to make sure that each and every customer is both satisfied and safe.

This year, Ishnad and his team are expecting plenty of young people during the Puja and Eid holidays. "We don't have any special holiday deals as such," he says. "But we will be open to cater to our guests from 10 am to 6 pm, every day." "During the peak season, October -

December, we cater to at least 40-50 customers during weekends," adds Ishnad Chowdhury. "However, on weekdays, the number goes down to 15-20. At a time, we can accommodate around 50 customers."

When working on FunFest, the two cousins overcame many obstacles and hurdles, "We went to Cox's Bazaar to do some surveys and found out that there's a proper structure by the government that one must follow to launch this kind of business,"

explains Ishnad Chowdhury. "We asked around and found out about the Cox's Bazar beach committee. Their key tourism guide was Nurul Islam from Parjatan and we approached him directly. He was the one who helped us get promoted and spread the word among the committee. He is probably one of the most progressive and supportive people we met throughout this journey," he continues.

With Japanese produced boats and engines and equipment from Malaysia and India, Ishnad and Tadib launched the first ever beach activity programme in Bangladesh. "So far, we've been pleasantly surprised by the crowd and attention that we have received. Elderly people, younger people, everyone seems to be enjoying it and we've been loving every bit of this journey." says Tadib Muqtada. The two young hopefuls now have bigger and better plans for the country as they opened their newest branch in the city's Jamuna Future Park and hope to make sure that every part of our country has something exciting for the younger generation and tourists to get their thrills from.

# Jamaat has plan of its own

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universities for the assault today. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student body, would back the Shibir activists, sources claimed.

government demonstrations in their stronghold districts. Jamaat-e-Islami insiders told The Daily Star

that although Jamaat-Shibir men have made

all-out preparations for a showdown in the

capital today, they would follow BNP men's lead to avoid getting arrested. A top leader in the BNP-led 18-party alliance said Jamaat and Shibir had been instructed to bring in all its leaders and activists from Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Munshiganj,

Manikganj, Gazipur, Tongi, Keraniganj and

Dohar to the capital by yesterday to ensure a

large rally. A Shibir activist told The Daily Star, "To ensure a large rally, Jamaat and Shibir have cancelled leaves of almost all its grassroots leaders and activists. The party even directed its leaders, who spent Eid holidays outside Dhaka, to return to the capital within a day or two after Eid."

The Shibir activist, who talked to The Daily Star, had to return from his home in Khulna early to prepare for the rally.

Alongside Jamaat, Islamic parties including Islami Oikya Jote, Khelafat Majlish, Jamiyat-e

Ulamaye Islam had also been asked to show up at the rally in full strength, sources in the 18-party alliance said.

Law enforcers fear that crisis-riddled Jamaat, which has most of its top leaders in jail in Jamaat and Shibir also plan to stage anti-connection with crimes against humanity, will try to create anarchy in the capital and elsewhere to spread panic.

> The law enforcers would be taking extra precautionary measures centring the rally today, like deployment of Border Guard Bangladesh personnel, and beefing up reconnaissance and surveillance measures in the Jamaat, a key component in the opposition

> government demonstrations in its stronghold districts, including Dinajpur, Bogra, Satkhira and Rajshahi, party grassroots sources said. Talking to The Daily Star, a number of Jamaat

18-party alliance, would also stage anti-

leaders of district units said they had been asked by Jamaat central to stage a strong demonstration in their areas taking BNP and other Islamist parties with them.

"Since February 28, we have been waging demonstrations alone. But from tomorrow [today] you will see us staging stronger demonstrations to oust the government, Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman of Khulna city Jamaat said at an 18-party meeting in Khulna.

### Anwar to quit as JU VC

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He also announced December 6 for holding the JU Central Students Union (Jucsu) election and asked all faculty members to cooperate with

His Wednesday's meeting with the parliamentary committee also decided that Prof Anwar would not contest the VC panel election, and reinstate two hall provosts he had dismissed, and withdraw the writ petition filed on July 24 against the JU Teachers' Association.

Along with the VC, two teachers from his rival the meeting.

Chaired by lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, the meeting was also attended by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury.

At another press conference on the campus yesterday, the Sadharon Shikkhak Forum demanded immediate resignation of Prof Anwar. They claimed that the parliamentary standing committee had asked him to step down right away.

They said, "We have no confidence in the incumbent VC regarding the Jucsu, senate, syndicate, and dean elections, as he had changed his decision to resign on February 13 this year." Meanwhile, the JU Teachers' Association

yesterday began a week-long work abstention demanding the VC's resignation.

Prof Ajit Kumar, president of the teachers' association, said they would go for an all-out strike from November 2, if the VC did not resign by October 31. The decision was made at a general meeting of the teachers' association on Wednesday.

ProfAnwarjoinedJUasitsVCinMaylastyear.

The crisis at the university began on April 6 when JU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League General Secretary Rajib Ahmed Rasel assaulted a teacher. The agitating teachers demanded Prof Anwar's removal for not expelling Rajib.

They also accused him of bias in teachers' appointments, ruining the campus by taking up unnecessary projects, and misusing funds.

### KL extends deadline

advantage. Some of them had returned home after-

wards.

The remaining workers now have to take help from their present employers or visit Malaysian home ministry's one-stop service centre supervised by Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur to begin the legalisation process, the minister said.

Warning the Bangladeshis not to take any help from agents or middlemen, he said they would have to submit their registration or finger print (PATI) receipts, original passports and police reports to the one-stop service centre authorities.

Replying to the queries of the reporters, Khandker Mosharraf blamed the Malaysian employers for not recruiting Bangladeshis under a memorandum of understanding signed between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur lastyear.

"The Malaysian employers assured us of adding that the rest had failed to take the hiring minimum 10,000 Bangladeshis by this year, but they could not create enough jobs," he

said, adding that the process was taking time.

In reply to another query, the minister said there were around 400 Bangladeshis who had been languishing in the jails of Malaysia and Saudi Arabia for committing different crimes in the host countries.

The Bangladesh government was trying to bring them backthrough legal process, he added.

In spite of security hazards, some Bangladeshis are regularly migrating to Iraq and Libya. The minister said the government could not stop them from migrating to those countries thinking of losing the labour markets. More than 2.3 million Bangladeshis had

migrated to different countries for foreign jobs during the tenure of the incumbent government whereas the figure stood at 1.3 million during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat government, he said, drawing a comparison.

## More foreign pressure likely

made proposals aimed at finding a solution to the current political deadlock, it seems that the Nations in finding a solution to the crisis. proposals were completely opposite to each other and none was ready to make any con-Talking to The Daily Star, several diplomats

of influential countries said though they thought that a conducive atmosphere has been created in the last few days for holding a dialogue, it might be affected if the two camps remain firm in their position. "Both the parties must engage in a construc-

tive dialogue immediately to bridge the gap between their proposals, and to arrive at a politically acceptable way forward," said a European diplomat.

The international community will make every possible move to agree the parties to sit for a constructive dialogue. If the parties failed

to reach a consensus, the foreign diplomats would seek engagement of the United

"We are closely monitoring the fastchanging political situation here and regularly sending updates to the UN headquarters," said

an official at a UN office in Dhaka. The UN office in Dhaka will soon send a

concrete assessment of the situation to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for deciding its next course of action, he mentioned. Meanwhile, foreign ministry sources said

they were expecting several foreign delegations in Dhaka early next month. Some countries have already requested for appointments with the prime minister and other election stakeholders.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, British senior foreign and commonwealth office minister, will be visiting Bangladesh on November 3-4.

# Ball is now in your RPO rules

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Sangha.

left to be done. Now the ball is in your court. The onus is on you now," said the leader of the opposition in parliament.

Skoj organised the rally to press for, among other things, nationalisation of teachers' job.

Despite its ban on political gatherings in the capital, Dhaka Metropolitan Police gave permission to hold the rally on some conditions.

Referring to the proposal for a non-partisan electiontime government, the BNP chairperson said it is possible to execute the proposal since it is within the jurisdiction of the constitution.

"Get them [advisers] elected. What's the problem here? Being elected, they will constitute the government to hold polls within the next three months, and after that they will return to their business," she said.

On finding out advisers, Khaleda said, "Still there are educated, qualified and neutral people in Bangladesh. So a non-partisan government can be formed with them to hold a free and fair election."

She also warned the government that it would be responsible if any anarchic situation arises due to obstacles to the opposition's rally today.

If the provision of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) is scrapped, anyone can join a political ahead of the 10th parliamentary election due between October 27 and January 25, say experts. The existing provision, however, is

not applicable for independent candi-Talking to reporters, Fazle Rabbi

Miah, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry, yesterday said: "We have proposed scrapping the provision as it goes against the constitution." In July, the Election Commission

sent a set of proposals to the law ministry for amending the RPO. Law Minister Shafique Ahmed placed the bill in parliament on September 30. The bill was later sent to the parliaamong others, were present at the meeting. mentary body for scrutiny.