

# DR. KARUNAMAYA GOSWAMI NO MORE

A lighthouse of music, research, literature and culture departs

ZAHANGIR ALOM

*Eminent Bangladeshi musicologist, litterateur, researcher, educationist, translator, editor and columnist Professor Karunamoy Goswami passed away on the night of June 30. He was 74. Dr. Goswami was suffering from high fever since Thursday. On Friday, he fell on the bathroom floor at his residence and his condition deteriorated. He was taken to United Hospital in Dhaka where doctors pronounced him dead, his nephew Sourav Bhattacharya told The Daily Star.*

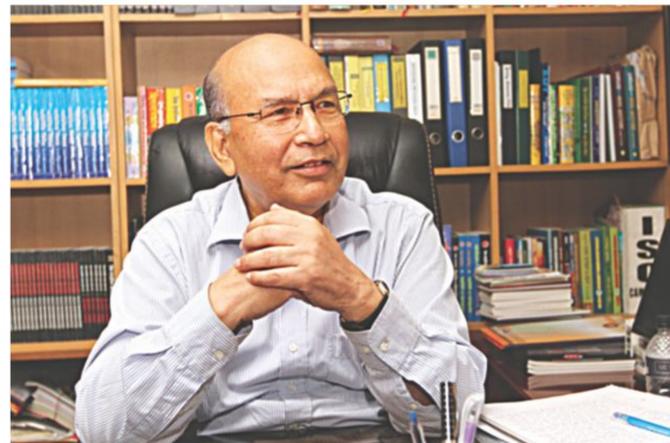


PHOTO: STAR

His last rites may be held on Tuesday after arrival of his son Sayantan Goswami and daughter Tithi Goswami who are living abroad, Sourav added.

Though Goswami is widely known as a Nazrul exponent, he has also published several widely acclaimed research-based works on Tagore and Bangla songs. Goswami completed his PhD on the topic "Bangla Kabyo-geetir Dharayee Kazi Nazrul Islam-er Sthan" from University of Dhaka in 1988. His notable works on Nazrul are "Aspects of Nazrul Songs", "Kazi Nazrul Islam: A Profile" and "Introducing Kazi Nazrul Islam". "Rabindranath-er Palestine Bhabna O Onnanyo" is one of his notable works on Tagore. His other works include "Rabindranath, Huntington o Bharat Bhag", "History of Bengali Songs", "Ranga-Byanga", "Bangla Ganer Swaralipi Itihas", "Bangla Ganer Vivartan" and "Bangla Ganer Katha".

Dr. Goswami received many awards including Nazrul Memorial Gold Medal and award (1987) by Nazrul Institute, Bangla Academy Literary Award (2008), Ekushey Padak (2012) and Tagore award (2013).

Eminent personalities spoke to The Daily Star about the contributions of Dr. Goswami. Excerpts:

**Mofidul Haque, writer and publisher**  
Karunamaya Goswami has diverse contributions towards music, literature, research and education. There are many

fine artistes of music, but he was a rare class of musicologist. He worked on various types of music ranging from folk, classical, Tagore and Nazrul songs, and more. He was a gifted *esraj* player. He predominantly upheld the opulent heritage of Bangla music through his practice, studies, analysis, research and judgement. "Sangeet Kosh" is his unique lexicon that was published by Bangla Academy in 1985. You can find almost everything of world music in it.

He was a great soul dedicated to the sublime profession of teaching. Wherever he taught, he left an impression among

his pupils. He was closely involved with noted cultural organisations like Chhayanaut, Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Sudhijan Pathagar (Narayanganj) and Nazrul Institute. He delivered many lectures on Nazrul, Tagore and Bangla Music both at home and abroad. He was working on "The Art of Nazrul Songs" that remains incomplete. "Stories of Africa" (1975), a translation by Goswami, is the first published work on African literature in our country. He wrote novels - "Lahorer Rahim Kher" and "Bharat Bhager Ashrukana" on the partition of the

Subcontinent.  
**Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam, chairman, Nazrul Institute Trustee Board**  
Born in Mymensingh, Dr. Karunamaya Goswami was a student of English Literature at the University of Dhaka. Initially, he would sing and started writing literature. Later, he extensively accomplished research-based and original works on Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet. Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami importantly contributed to Bangladeshi music and culture. The passing away of the duo is an immense loss for Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi culture. Professor Goswami has also an outstanding contribution towards education. After retiring from Government College as principal, he served as the principal of Cambrian College.

**Md Mahbub-ur Rahman, music and art connoisseur and deputy CEO, HSBC Bangladesh**

I am deeply shocked at the sudden demise of Dr. Karunamaya Goswami. A perennially enlightened person and a friend, he contributed immensely towards the arena of music, literature and culture. We met each other many times and received his assistance and mentorship on many regards. I worked closely with him when we at HSBC Bangladesh, organised an event "Shoto Borsher Bangla Gaan". The realm of music and research lost an iconic person.



## Bangladeshi artists exhibit on Copenhagen

A CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark organised a three-day painting exhibition of two Bangladeshi artists at the embassy, from June 28-30. About 50 paintings by Kazi Salauddin Ahmed and Zobaida Arzoo were on display at the exhibition.

At the inauguration of the exhibition, Bangladesh's ambassador to Denmark Mohammad Abdul Muhit shed light on the glorious history of Bangladesh's art scene, paying tributes to Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan and Safiuddin Ahmed. He said paintings is a powerful medium of Bangladeshi artists which has not received much international exposure, and the exhibition was organised with providing that exposure to Bangladeshi art and artists.

Qazi Salauddin exhibited his series "Sheer Chaos" while Arzoo displayed "The Sunderbans" at the exhibition, providing two contrasting aspects: the former is the complex picture of the densely-built houses, narrow roads and the people of Old Dhaka, while the latter represents the serenity and breathtaking natural beauty of Sunderbans. Both these treasures of Bangladesh, however, converge on the question of appreciation and preservation. Arzoo's paintings of Sunderbans add a new dimension to the cultural diplomacy at a time when climate change threats are greater than ever and Bangladesh one of the most vulnerable countries to its adverse effects.

A large fraction of Denmark's diplomatic corps, Danish Art Gallery representatives, Danish art enthusiasts and expatriate Bangladeshis greatly enjoyed the exhibition.

## NEWS bytes

### "Top Gun" sequel gets release date

Paramount Studios has given Tom Cruise's "Top Gun" sequel a July 12, 2019, release date — 33 years after the original.

Variety reported on May 24 that Joseph Kosinski — who directed Cruise in "Oblivion" — was the frontrunner to direct "Top Gun 2" for Paramount and Skydance Pictures.

Skydance CEO David Ellison and Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced the 1986 original, will produce with Cruise. This latest project will be set in a world of drone technology and fifth generation fighters along with exploring the end of the era of dog-fighting.

Cruise said recently the title would be "Top Gun: Maverick" although Paramount listed the title Friday only as "Top Gun". Maverick was Cruise's char-



acter's nickname in the film in which he played Naval aviator Lt. Pete Mitchell.

The original film, directed by the late Tony Scott and set at the Navy's Fighter Weapons School at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego, was a massive hit with more than \$350 million in worldwide grosses. Val Kilmer, Kelly McGillis, Tom Skeritt and Anthony Edwards also starred in the film.

Source: Variety

## TV WATCH



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Written and directed by Badrul Anam Saud, special Eid drama "Durer Manush" will air on Banglavisión today, on the seventh day of Eid at 8:50pm. It stars three seasoned actors - Tariq Anam Khan, Suborna Mustafa and Fazlur Rahman Babu. The story revolves around a girl, Orpa, who discovers her

true identity.  
Tariq Anam Khan said about the play, "On the whole, it is a good, gripping story. There is the element of psychological pressure which makes it different. Those who enjoy unique story-based drama-fictions will appreciate it, I hope."  
Suborna said, "Since actors like Tariq Anam and Fazlur Rahman Babu have

## Tariq-Suborna-Babu together in "Durer Manush"

acted, there is no doubt it will be good. Naziba Basher will be playing the character of Orpa. Naziba has a keen interest in acting. And it has reflected in her work. I hope the viewers will like it."  
Fazlur Rahman Babu mentioned how working under Saud's direction is a delight, "and of course, working with Suborna apa and Tariq bhai is always an experience to cherish," he added.

## Tele-film "Ondhokarer Sur" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Eid special tele-film "Ondhokarer Sur" will air today on ntv at 2:20pm. Written and directed by Akram Khan, it casts Nawsheen Nahreen, Arman Parvez Murad, Deepa Khandakar and Shahed Ali, among others.

The story revolves around a couple - Shoshi and Partho. Shoshi returns from abroad finishing her PhD studies, and the plan was to get married after that. But Partho, a sculptor, is an immaterialist person and averse to taking family responsibilities. In Canada, Shoshi fails to communicate with Partho, and even after she comes back, but there is no trace of him.



## Jacqueline Fernandez

### rehearsed 70 hours for "Oonchi Hai Building"

Jacqueline Fernandez, Varun Dhawan and Taapsee Pannu have been prepping hard for their upcoming comic film "Judwaa 2". A sequel to the 1992 blockbuster with Salman Khan in a double-role, the movie is directed by one of the best comedy directors of India, David Dhawan.

Recently, there were reports of "Judwaa 2" reshaping the two iconic songs from the original movie: "Tan Tana Tan" and "Oonchi Hai Building". The team and the cast have wrapped up the schedule of "Tan Tana Tan", post which Taapsee Pannu headed to Netherlands for a quick getaway.

Jacqueline, however, is shooting for "Oonchi Hai Building" and looks to leave no stone unturned in recreating the iconic 90s song on the big screen. She revealed to a leading daily, "When you work on the remake of such an iconic film, getting tired is not an option. I think the rehearsals helped us get in the groove. I am sure the hard work will pay off."

The strenuous schedule made Jacqueline rehearse for 70 hours at a stretch. "We are nervous, yet excited, as we want to do justice to the tracks. Varun is a far better dancer, but we get things right together," added Jacqueline.

Renowned choreographer Ganesh Acharya was roped in for the dance sequences, someone well-versed with the original songs, for he was a part of "Judwaa". Jacqueline further added as to how they are trying to maintain the same essence and groove of the original track, "He choreographed the songs back in the day and is calling the shots even today. We wanted to maintain the authenticity, yet add new steps to the tracks."

The movie is slated to release on September 29 this year.

Source: TOI



## Chance the Rapper donating his Grammy

Last weekend, Chance the Rapper gave a speech during the "Night of 100 Stars" gala at the DuSable Museum of African American History. Earlier this year, it was announced that Chance had been named to the museum's board of trustees. Accepting the Trail Blazer Award from the museum, Chance took a moment to announce that he was donating his 2016 Grammy Award for Best Rap Album to the museum, as the Chicago Sun-Times reports.

"I'm so excited to not just work hand in hand with the African American History Museum, but we want to build it up," he said. "We want to make it a staple of African American history. And that's why I'm proud to announce that I'll be donating my hip-hop album of the year award, the first one to a black independent artist, to the DuSable."

The US hip-hopper won the Best Rap Album award for "Coloring Book" last year, in the first year that streaming-only releases were eligible. He also took home the awards for Best New Artiste and Best Rap Performance.

Source: Pitchfork