

OSCAR NOMINEES who made history this year

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The much-awaited nominations for Oscars 2022 were announced recently. Many celebrities, including Will Smith, Denzel Washington, and Ariana DeBose, among others, made history for their outstanding performances.

Renowned Hollywood actor Denzel Washington remains the Oscars' most-nominated Black

actor. He earned his tenth nomination for "The Tragedy of Macbeth", breaking his own record.

However, the "Training Day" the actor hasn't won any Academy Award in 20 years. Denzel Washington has only received two Oscars for his movies "Glory," at the 1990 awards, and the second for "Training Day," in 2002.

Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog" leads this year's Oscar board with 12 nominations.

The noted director scored a 'Best Director' nomination this year. Jane Campion is the first woman ever to be nominated twice in the category. Her first nomination was

for the 1993 film "The Piano." That same year, she won an Oscar for best screenplay for the same movie.

Will Smith received his third and fourth Oscar nominations for 'Best Actor' and shared the 'Best Picture' nomination with Tim White and Trevor White for the film "King Richard". The noted actor is on the race for an Oscar for the first time in 15 years.

Will Smith is the ninth

created history with their Oscar nominations. The duo are the sixth married couple to be nominated in acting categories in the same year at the Oscars.

Bardem got nominated for best actor for his role as Desi Arnaz in "Being the Ricardos," while Cruz bagged the Best Actress nomination for her role as Janis in "Parallel Mothers."

Filmmaker Kenneth Branagh

holds the record as the first person ever to be nominated for seven different individual Oscar categories in total throughout his career, after securing nominations for 'Best Picture' and 'Best Original Screenplay' for "Belfast."

The Academy Awards created history by recognising nine first-time nominees in acting categories this year. The nominees include DeBose (West Side Story), Kristen Stewart (Spencer), Kirsten Dunst (The Power of the Dog), Aunjanue Ellis (King Richard), Ciarán Hinds (Belfast), Troy Kotsur (CODA), Jesse Plemons (The Power of the Dog) and Kodi Smit-McPhee (The Power of the Dog).

The Oscars has been praised for creating a diverse set of nominees this year. The Academy Awards is slated to air on March 27 at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre. For the first time in three years, the Oscars will have a host in 2022.

person and second Black man (Washington was nominated in both categories for 'Fences') to be nominated for both acting in and producing the same film in the same year. Earlier on, he got a 'Best Actor' nomination for the Muhammad Ali biopic "Ali" in 2002 and for "The Pursuit of Happyness" in 2007.

Star couple Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem jointly

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Wedding in Mumbai, reception in Mauritius

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Bollywood stud Farhan Akhtar will tie the knot to his sweetheart, Shibani Dandekar, on February 21.

Even though they will file for court marriage in Mumbai, Indian media has reported that they will host a grand wedding reception in Mauritius, after they celebrate their honeymoon there.

"Shibani is a very good girl, I really like her," said eminent Indian lyricist and

Farhan's father, Javed Akhtar.

"The most important thing is, however, the fact that they love each other."

Mehazabien appears as judge in a singing reality show

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For the first time, Mehazabien Chowdhury has appeared as a guest judge for a singing reality show. The show, titled, "Square Surer Shera" will be aired today at Maasranga Television, at 7 pm.

The episode will be comprised of Valentine's Day songs

The show is usually judged by renowned musicians S I Tutul and Pinto Ghosh.

The contestant of the show are the employees of square group. The programme, hosted by Moushumi Mou, airs on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm.



COUNTRYWIDE

Muazzin's success in beekeeping

SHYKH SERAJ

In the last week of December, 2021, I heard an interesting story of a young man, who has built his dream around the bees. His name is Muazzin Hossain. It was a quite cold morning when I left for Manikganj's Singair upazila to see his activities. The nature was covered with thick fog and the villages just started to wake when I was close to Kanchan Nagar village. I noticed many bee boxes along vast mustard fields and Muazzin was already there. The young man, aged just over 30 years, greeted me with a big smile. The crazy youth did his BBA, and MBA from a private university. Usually, men and women of such age dream of government or corporate jobs. But Muazzin was different. "While studying MBA, I saw one of your videos on bee farming on YouTube which attract my interest. Then I started studying on bee farming," Muazzin said.

"My father was shocked when

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak. At Channel i, he is the founder director. He is also director and host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



I told him that I want to start farming bees at home," he added. One day Muazzin left his home and went to a famous beekeeper in Bagerhat and requested him to teach him about beekeeping. During his stay there he only had three times meal in exchange of his whole day labour. In the next three months, he learned everything about beekeeping, Muazzin said, adding that, "My beekeeper guru gave me four bee boxes as gift when I left his place, and now I have 64 bee boxes of my own."

For Muazzin, beekeeping is more than just a commercial aspect. He keeps on learning the miraculous life cycle of the bees. In the last six



Shykh Seraj talks to beekeeper Muazzin Hossain at Kanchan Nagar village in Manikganj's Singair upazila.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

and a half years, this young man has been able to go deeper into the extraordinary life of the bees. In other words, he is a keen observer of the bees' life cycle.

He was sharing his experience, bees mainly collect honey from fresh flowers. For half a kg of honey, 600 bees have to travel around 20 lakh (2 million) flowers and worker bee has to travel a distance of about 14.5 lakh kilometres. Muazzin is not only impressed with the orderly management and honey production, but also with the chain of command among the bees. Every bee box is a colony and each colony has a specific system of governance. There is also change in power when necessary. There is a natural process of protection and care of the most influential queen bee in every colony.

Finally, I saw a queen bee of one of the beehives roaming around hundreds of bees, mostly soldier bees. One don bee was relentlessly protecting the queen while the worker bees were continuously cleaning queen's path. The queen was looking for a place to lay eggs in the beehive and finally laid some eggs in several places. Interestingly when worker bees comprehend that the queen cannot produce quality eggs, they all kill the queen and bring a new queen to their hive.

As far as I know, there are about 25,000 beekeepers in Bangladesh and honey has turned

into an industry now. The country produces 10,000 tonnes of honey against the demand of 30,000 tonnes, which is usually produced from black cumin, coriander, litchi and mustard flowers. Honey is mostly collected from mustard flower, but in the southern part of the country, honey is collected from the Sundarbans.

In the last few years, many educated young entrepreneurs have started commercial beekeeping and honey production. "Although, the wholesale market fluctuates, the retail market is not bad at all," Muazzin said. A total of 64 boxes or colonies costs Muazzin around Tk 4 lakh (USD 4,654) throughout the year and he gets a profit of around Tk 4 lakh.

I have been reporting on various issues, including commercial expansion of bee farming, market opportunities and agricultural credits for beekeepers. As a result, bee farming has been included in the agricultural credit policy of the Bangladesh Bank. The demand and market for our local honey are increasing. Things are turning out to be positive. More positively, educated young entrepreneurs like Muazzin are coming to beekeeping that can bring new opportunities to this industry. I believe, beekeeping industry will go a long way with inquisitive minds, confidence and sincerity of farmers like Muazzin.

Long-term paracetamol

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paracetamol, saw a significant increase in their BP.

This rise was similar to that seen with NSAIDs, and might be expected to increase the risk of heart disease or stroke by around 20 percent, experts said.

However, short-term paracetamol usage for headaches does not possess the same risk factor.

"This is not about short-term use of paracetamol for headaches or fever, which is, of course, fine," said the lead investigator

of the study, Dr Iain MacIntyre, consultant in clinical pharmacology and nephrology at NHS Lothian.

Professor James Dear, personal chair of clinical pharmacology at the University of Edinburgh, said "This study clearly shows that paracetamol -- the world's most used drug -- increases blood pressure, one of the most important risk factors for heart attacks and strokes.

"Doctors and patients together should consider the risks versus the benefits of long-term paracetamol

prescription, especially in patients at risk of cardiovascular disease."

The researchers concluded that patients who have a long-term prescription for the painkiller, usually used for the treatment of chronic pain, should opt for the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time.

The study, however, has limitations as it was conducted only on 110 subjects. Larger studies are needed to further determine paracetamol's effects on patients with high blood pressure.

Positivity rate on decline

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health disaster in June and July last year.

Yesterday, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) and the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in separate reports said that the Omicron variant was the most prevalent variant from January 1 to February 9.

The IEDCR study report revealed some 80 percent of Covid-19 patients were infected with the Omicron variant of novel coronavirus.

The rest 20 percent were infected with the Delta variant, according

to a report published by the IEDCR on its website yesterday.

IEDCR conducted a genome sequence of 148 patients in collaboration with three other research organisations including the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh, the Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives and the Child Health Research Foundation.

Of all samples sequenced, 118 were Omicron variant and 30 Delta. Of the Omicron variant, 39 percent were BA.1 sub-variant and 41 percent were BA.2 sub-variant.

On December 9, the first

two cases of Omicron were reported in the country.

Meanwhile, the data analysis of the BSMMU showed that 82 percent of Covid-19 patients -- detected between January 19 and February 9 -- were infected with Omicron and 18 percent with Delta variant.

Prof Md Sharfuiddin Ahmed, the vice-chancellor of the BSMMU, also chief supervisor of the Genome Sequencing Research Project, disclosed the information yesterday in an event on the campus.

With the latest count, the total number of fatalities owing to novel coronavirus infection rose to 28,744.

Walking out of Assembly

FROM PAGE 12
him, 'look, I am not afraid of prison. And I'm also not afraid of death.'

At about three o'clock in the morning, there was a knock at the door. As soon as I opened the door, a number of policemen rushed into the room. Police

arrested me and Khairat Hossain and took us to the central jail. Arriving there, I offered Fazr prayer.

Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish walked out from the assembly session protesting against the police firing on February 21, 1952, and subsequently

resigned from the Muslim League Parliamentary party.

Source: Bhasha Andolon Prasanga: Katipay Dalil (Ed. Badruddin Umar, Bangla Academy, 1995.)

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen

Shut Savar

FROM PAGE 12

Hossain Chowdhury, a ruling AL MP and chief of the parliamentary standing committee, told The Daily Star.

"As they failed to stop the environmental pollution, we have now asked the monitoring and enforcement wing of the environment directorate to take necessary measures to shut down the tannery industry."

He added the directorate will act in line with the law.

Saber further said it was decided in the meeting that Shahab Uddin, minister of environment, forest, and climate change, will meet with the industries minister in this regard.

The meeting also decided that the estate, which has been running without environmental clearance for a decade, will have to apply for a fresh clearance, but will remain shut until then.

In 2003, the government took the initiative to build the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate on 200 acres in Hemayetpur after moving all tanneries from the capital's Hazaribagh in order to prevent pollution and protect the Buriganga.

According to statistics placed before the standing committee, the estate has the capacity to treat around 25,000 cubic metres of liquid waste every day, but the tanners generate around 40,000.

That means 15,000 cubic metres of untreated liquid waste are now dumped into the Dhaleshwari.

The estate also does not have the facility to treat solid waste, including heavy metals and chromium, which is also dumped into the Dhaleshwari, Saber Hossain said, adding that around 1.60 lakh cubic metres of solid waste have been dumped in the river over the past three years.