



Omar Sani and Moushumi



Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki



Bidya Sinha Mim and Soni Poddar



Bipasha Hayat and Tauquir Ahmed



Srijit Mukherji and Mithila



Mou and Zahid Hasan



Syed Asker and Tasnuva Tisha



Mir Sabbir and Farzana Chumki

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

# LOVE is in the air

SHAH ALAM SHAZU & SHARMIN JOYA

‘Love’ is an emotion, a life-altering experience. For stars in the showbiz industry, especially when they work together, it takes different forms, on and off-screen. Even though romance is never only limited to Valentine’s Day, it is nice to stop and appreciate small gestures by your loved ones.

Zahid Hasan and Mou, having built a beautiful home together with two kids, finally divulged the secret behind their happy marriage, “Love is the most powerful force in the world. However, more than that, you need trust and respect in a marriage. This is why we are compatible,” he smiles.

Tauquir Ahmed echoes similar sentiments. “Relationships also require sacrifices. You must always respect your partner,” he says.

Tauquir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat became friends while working together. Soon, their friendship blossomed into love. They have been happily married for many years, and have two children.

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki and Nusrat Imrose Tisha have set an example for couples in showbiz. They were recently blessed with a baby girl. “We are immensely passionate about our work,” says Tisha. “We lead our lives with complete cooperation from one another. Without love, life is incomplete.”

Dhallywood stars Moushumi and Omar

Sani fell in love at the height of their careers. More than two decades later, they are still going strong, and have two kids. “For me, family is above all else, but I also make no compromises when it comes to my work. You need the heart and desire to make your relationships work,” says Moushumi.

Mir Sabbir and Farzana Chumki got married on Valentine’s Day. “If human beings could treat each other with more love and kindness, the world would be a better place,” says Mir Sabbir. “Obviously, this day is special to us, and we take time off to appreciate each other.”

Tasnuva Tisha tied the knot to Syed Asker on February 2, this year. They are spending time together at Syed’s house in Nilphamari, for Valentine’s Day. “He has been surprising me with gifts the whole week, marking Rose Day, Teddy Day and Chocolate Day, says Tisha. “On Promise Day, he promised that he will not fight with me. We also plan to go on rickshaw rides at TSC.”

Newly married couple Bidya Sinha Mim and Soni Poddar are spending the day with their families. “Valentine’s Day to me is for my loved ones, I will spend my time with them,” says Mim.

Rafiath Rashid Mithila is busy shooting in Dhaka, while Srijit Mukherjee is in Mumbai. They do not have any special plans. “I miss him. I will spend the day with my daughter Ayra, and wear a saree. My parents will cook our favourite dishes, we will celebrate the day together,” says Mithila.

Regardless of their plans today, the aforementioned stars echoed one sentiment: there is nothing wrong with spoiling your partner a little more in celebration of love.

## Arafat and Raba release PREMKA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular musician and producer Arafat Mohsin and influencer-turned-singer Raba Khan released their special Valentine’s Day track “Premika” yesterday.

The song is the 5th track from their album “Muhurto”, which is available on all streaming platforms worldwide, alongside Jhakanaka Project’s YouTube channel.

“Premika”, presented by Lovegen Bangladesh, has been shot in Cox’s Bazar. Raba Khan wrote and tuned the song herself.



## Ranveer Singh’s ‘83’ to release on two OTT platforms

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ranveer Singh starrer and Kabir Khan directorial “83” is the second film to have release on two OTT platforms at a time. Netflix has the Hindi rights to the film, while the Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam versions will stream on Disney+ Hotstar. According to reports, the film will drop on both platforms by this month.

Although the film hit theatres last December, its box-office performance was hampered by the third wave of Covid-19.

Ranveer plays Kapil Dev in the film, which portrays India’s victory in the 1983 cricket World Cup at Lord’s.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

# COUNTRYWIDE

BRAHMAPUTRA CHAR

## Farmers buying diesel at higher prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers living in remote char areas of Brahmaputra river in Kurigram’s Chilmari upazila are buying diesel at Tk 83 instead of Tk 80 a litre. They are buying the fuel essential for running diesel-run shallow pump machines at higher prices as they have to walk around three to five kilometres on sandy char to fetch diesel from the mainland market.

So, they are buying it at higher prices from floating oil depots on the char. Not only the char farmers but also 500-600 boatmen are buying diesel at higher prices.

Around 1200-1500 barrels of diesel are being sold daily in the char areas of Chilmari, said local traders.

Hormuz Ali, a farmer of the remote Char Sholmari area, said he was buying diesel from oil vendors in Char at Tk 83 per litre. If he wants to buy diesel at the fair price

of Tk 80, he has to walk about five kilometres on sandy char to reach the mainland market.

Boro paddy season has started so the demand for diesel has also increased, he said.

Sekendar Mandal, another farmer from Shakha Hati area, a remote char on the Brahmaputra bed, it is the destiny of char people that they will buy goods at a high rate and sell their agri-products at a low rate.

They have been living in chars for ages accepting this harsh reality, he said adding, that “The government should take effective steps to provide fertilisers, seeds, pesticides and diesel to the char farmers at a fair price at their doorsteps.”

“Now I need 35-40 litres of diesel every day. I am buying diesel from local oil vendors at Tk 83 per litre”, he added.

Abu Sayeed, a boatman at Ashtami Char, said he needs

around 40-50 litres of diesel every day.

“I am buying diesel at higher prices from the local oil vendors on the char as I have no alternative,” he also said.

All the boatmen like Abu Sayeed are running their boats buying diesel at a higher price, he added.

“Sometimes I buy diesel from the mainland market at a fair price, but most of the times I have to buy diesel from local vendors at a higher price,” said Sudhir Chandra Das, a fisherman of Faluar Char.

However, Shahjahan Ali, a diesel vendor on the Brahmaputra bed, claimed that they were selling diesel at Tk 81 each litre but not at Tk 83.

“We have to sell diesel at a higher price due to the additional cost of transporting oil barrels to inaccessible chars from the mainland. The char farmers have no objection to it,” he said.



Farmers and boatmen crowd to buy diesel from local vendors at a higher rate in a remote char under Chilmari upazila of Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

## Schools may reopen

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be able to tackle the Omicron variant of coronavirus soon.

Hasina said her government is giving the utmost importance to technical and vocational education and setting up technical school in

every upazila across the country.

“Our students are very meritorious. If we can give them proper education, they’ll be able to grab the job opportunities to be created at home and abroad following the fourth industrial revolution [4IR],”

she said.

Hasina said students will need job-oriented education as only the traditional academic degrees are not enough in the era of the 4th IR.

She has always given importance to science and technology education since

assuming power in 1996, the PM said.

To ensure multidimensional education, she said her government is now establishing university in every district, and setting up different types of universities.

## I think I have worked

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“I think I’ve worked successfully. I’ve conducted all the elections (during my tenure),” he said.

Asked about the fairness of the elections during his tenure, the CEC said, “Not all the polls were fully fair. In some cases, there were

incidents of violence and ballot snatching.

“We had to stop some elections and held those again.”

Nurul Huda and other outgoing election commissioners paid a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid yesterday.

## Photo of a martyr

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took the picture very quickly.

I went to Amanul’s house in the evening and saw that the picture. A few copies of it were made and one was sent to The Azad because it was heard that the newspaper’s editor Abul Kalam Shamsuddin had resigned from the provincial council.

I had also heard that the true story of the 21st February incident would be published in The Azad. And so, arrangements were also made to print the picture in the paper.

However, around two o’clock in the morning, The Azad’s authorities, either Maulana Akram Khan or Sadrul Anam Khan (Khalil Mia), had

objected and the picture was ultimately was not published.

A copy of the picture was also sent to the students and was later published in a pamphlet brought out by them.

The pamphlets, however, were later seized by police.

Kazi Mohammad Idris was an employee of the

Information Department during the language movement in 1952.

Source: This is an abridged version of Kazi Mohammad Idris’s interview published in Bhasha Andolon Prasanga: Katipay Dalil (Ed. Badruddin Umar, Bangla Academy, 1995.)

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen

## More interest in imports than exploration

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Deltas tend to be gas-rich and there is no reason to believe that Bangladesh, being on the world’s largest delta, is an exception, he told the event organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

“Two-thirds of the country, namely the vast plains in the west and southern coastal areas, remain unexplored.”

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX) has the capacity to drill three or four exploration wells each year, he said. “But they drilled one well in the

last two years. Aggressive exploration is needed to face the current and future situations.

“Before 2012, we used to say we cannot explore gas offshore due to a dispute with Myanmar. But now the dispute is over and we still don’t do anything. Meanwhile, Myanmar explored many offshore gas sources after 2012.”

He added that the dependence on imported LNG will crush the country’s economy.

Buet Professor Dr M Tanim said there had been no notable gas exploration since 1999, the year the Bibiyana Gas field was

explored.

The BAPEX has not taken any big initiative by conducting seismic surveys in the new areas, he added.

CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem and Senior Research Associate Abdullah Fahad presented a keynote at the dialogue.

Imported LNG is 24 times costlier than locally produced gas. The financial burden for imported LNG was about Tk 6,500 crore in the last fiscal year, said Moazzem.

“The cost will be even higher this fiscal due to the rise in LNG prices.”

In the short term,

LNG imports may need to continue to meet the existing demand, particularly for sectors where no immediate alternative is available, he said.

In the medium to long term, Bangladesh needs to consider the alternatives to LNG import. The country also needs to emphasise gas supply from domestic gas reserves.

High import prices will have an adverse impact on the consumer’s purchasing power and LNG dependency is not environmentally sustainable, said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun.