



(L) Will Smith accepts Best Actor award at the ceremony. (M) The cast and crew of CODA after winning Best Picture, Photo: Reuters. (R) Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for 'The Eyes of Tammy', Photo: AP.

## 94TH ACADEMY AWARDS

# A showcase of masterpieces, memories, and mishaps

**This year's Academy Awards, hosted by Amy Schumer, Wanda Sykes, and Regina Hall, was a ceremony like no other. With the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, the organisers ensured that the guests were fully vaccinated and had two negative PCR tests in order to attend the much-awaited show.**

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Beyoncé kicked off the ceremony from a tennis court in Compton, in honour of tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams, whose childhood is the main theme of "King Richard". Billie Eilish performed a powerful rendition of "No Time to Die", the theme song from the latest James Bond film. The track also earned Eilish and Finneas the Oscar for Best Original Song. This marks the third consecutive Academy Award for music in the long-running espionage franchise.

Sian Heder's "CODA" made history by being the first film from a major streaming



**The slap that overshadowed the awards: Will Smith slapped host and comedian Chris Rock for a joke directed towards his wife, Jada.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED



**Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi accepts Oscar for Best International Feature Film for 'Drive My Car'**

PHOTO: REUTERS

service to win an Oscar for Best Picture. The film has been critically acclaimed for fully capturing the heart and soul in its empathetic portrayal of the deaf community. Besides the Best Picture win, "CODA" got recognised for Best Adapted Screenplay and a Best Supporting Actor honour for Troy Kotsur. Kotsur also made history as the first deaf actor to receive an Academy Award.

Jessica Chastain won the Oscar for Best Actress for her transformation into a controversial televangelist in "The Eyes of Tammy Faye". Will Smith received the Oscar for Best Actor for his role as Richard Williams, the ambitious father and coach

of tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams, in the film "King Richard".

Jane Campion's win made her the third female winner of the Best Director award. Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "Drive My Car" became the second Japanese film in history to win an Oscar for International Feature Film.

Eight out of the 23 major awards, including Original Score, Production Design and Film Editing were not presented live during the telecast to make room for more comedy and musical numbers.

Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi blockbuster "Dune" swept six Oscars for cinematography, production design, editing, original score, sound, and visual effects.

The Academy showed solidarity for the people of Ukraine with Reba McEntire's brilliant performance of her nominated song "Somehow You Do". Legends Francis Ford Coppola, Robert De Niro, and Al Pacino reunited on stage in honour of the 50th anniversary of "The Godfather".

Chris Rock was on stage to announce the best documentary feature when he joked about Jada Pinkett Smith appearing in a sequel to "G.I. Jane" because of her hairdo, which was the result of alopecia. In a bizarre and embarrassing fiasco, Will Smith slapped Rock on the face for the joke. Sadly, Smith's big win will be eclipsed by this one moment of weakness.

## A R Rahman to perform today at Sher-e-Bangla Stadium

BSS

Renowned folk artist Momtaz Begum and legendary band Miles will perform, alongside international musical sensation A R at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium today, in honour of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The event, titled the A R Rahman concert, is being organized by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). BCB was scheduled to host the concert in March 2020, but the plan had to be shelved due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## KGF: Chapter 2 trailer promises more fireworks

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As KGF: Chapter 2 looks to have its much anticipated release on April 14, the trailer dropped recently to increase audience expectations. The three minute long trailer starred Yash, Srinidhi Shetty, Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon and Prakash Raj.

The first film, with the amalgamation of a great storyline, bombastic action sequences and immersive soundtrack broke Indian box office records. With the addition of mainstream Bollywood star, the sequel looks to surpass previous records.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Unstoppable doctor

Vows to carry on treating patients despite challenges

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Things were going alright for Jabbar Howladar but fate followed with less rewarding things as his both hands and legs had to be amputated due to gangrene infection.

Jabbar, 59, a resident of Korara village under Azimgarh union of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur, had to go undergo surgery 21 times for gangrene.

But an ever resilient Jabbar didn't lose hopes and continues to serve the villagers.

Jabbar is locally known as a village doctor and he also runs a pharmacy in Shimulbazar area of the same upazila, one kilometre away from his house. Every day he goes to the pharmacy by a rickshaw with the help of his wife.

Locals come to Jabbar to get free treatment of minor health problems like fever, cold, headaches and stomach ache. Jabbar does not take any fees from his patients. Besides, the patients can buy medicines from his shop at a cheaper rate.

Jabbar's wife Helena Begum, 52, helps him running his medical practice. She also nurses him, feeds

him and helps him move.

The couple has three daughters and a son. Two elder daughters have been married off. His son Sohel Rana, 15, is a ninth grader at a local school and the youngest daughter Subarna Aktar, 6, is a first grader.

Jabbar completed his SSC in science group from Pulta High School in 1984. He accidentally cut a small part of finger while making a bird cage for his younger brother in 1986.

Later, the finger got infected. After that he met a doctor at Mitford Hospital (now Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital) in Dhaka. The doctor gave him some medicines. But the medicines did not work. Consequently, doctors amputated three fingers of his right leg in 1987 after a year of his marriage.

However, the infection could not be contained. Since 1986, infections have spread to different toes of one foot after another and the toes have been surgically removed.

The gangrene infection could not be reversed even after surgeries. Jabbar said, "My treatment cost near about Tk 13 lakhs. On the other hand, I have been disabled

forever. But I did not want any help from anyone. I always try to stand my own feet even though I have no feet."

"To be self-employed, I started learning how to sell drugs sitting at Al-Amin Pharmacy, owned by one Rokon Akand in Pulta bazar. I garnered the idea about the names of drugs, purchase and sale of medicines till 2009. In 2002, I passed LMAF (Local Medical Assistant and Family) from the Local Health and People's Development Society in Jatrabari area of Dhaka. When Rokon Akand left his drug business, I started my own business in 2009," he said.

"I started my medicine business with Tk 50,000. Now, I have medicines worth Tk one lakh fifty thousand in my shop. I married off two of my daughters and built a one-storied house from this business. Every day I attend 50-60 patients," he added.

Helena Begum said, "I married Jabbar when he was a fit man. It is an irony of fate that his both legs and hands had to be amputated for gangrene. We have passed very hard time after his surgery. We have had to sell our four bighas of land. But now we are happy."



Jabbar Howladar at his pharmacy in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila. Despite losing his hands, legs and land property, the village doctor has turned around pinning on hopes.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

## Media

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day festival leave each year, 15 day recreation leave every three years, and six-month maternity leave instead of the existing eight weeks.

If any individual or organisation violates the provisions, she/he/it will be fined Tk 50,000-Tk 5 lakh.

Under the proposed law, the government will be able to cancel the licence or registration of a media outlet. Media outlet owners will also face punishment for flouting the law.

Once the new law is passed and signed by the president, jobs of media employees will no longer be regulated by the labour law.

Currently, journalists and employees of media outlets are called "workers" under the labour law.

According to the proposed law, the government can constitute wage boards for media professionals. The wage board will fix their salaries and allowances in line with the salary scale of government employees.

All the detainees were released later, the OC added.

In Narayanganj, at least 10 LDA activists were

## Slap that overshadowed

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Momentous achievements in their own right, these women had their spotlight hijacked, I would argue, by a slap that not only resonated across the world, but also hindered the credibility of this year's Oscars.

The air in Dolby Theatre was stifled when Will Smith, otherwise known as a gentle and tolerant man, slapped comedian Chris Rock on stage. The comedian had compared Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who suffers from alopecia, to G.I. Jane, a character who also happens to be bald.

In a true moment of

irony, he claimed to be a "vessel of love" when he won the award for Best Actor during the programme – after an apology of sorts.

Not all, however, was lost, as many still recognised what the women had accomplished in that fateful night. Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, wished Jane Campion, saying:

"Thank you for once again putting New Zealand on the world stage, displaying just how beautiful our country is with her talent, her skills and her storytelling. It's a phenomenal outcome

and I know we're all very proud of her."

Jane Campion was already a trailblazer, as she was the first female director in the Academy Awards, nominated twice in the category. She was previously nominated in 1994 for The Piano.

The bottom line is, perhaps, that Will Smith and Chris Rock can resolve their problems after the events, at any manner of their mutual consent.

The stars who broke new ground in cinema this year, however, will never have their moment at the 94th Academy Awards back.

## Pickets, police clash

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were preparing to bring out processions. Among them were six LDA activists, who were detained from in front of Khulna Diabetic Hospital, said Khulna Sadar Police Station OC Hasan Al Mamun.

All the detainees were released later, the OC added.

In Narayanganj, at least 10 LDA activists were

injured as police used batons on them in the city's Chashara Gol Chottor area around 6:30am, said Nikhil Das, convener of LDA in the district.

Shahzaman, OC of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said they dispersed the LDA activists after they blasted crude bombs.

In Chattogram, police barred LDA activists

from holding a rally in New Market area in the morning.

Anny Sen, president of Chattogram district Bangladesh Chhatra Union, said police used batons on demonstrators.

CPB General Secretary Ruhi Hosain Prince told The Daily Star in the evening that police released all detainees at different times throughout the day.

## Now in custody of Libyan authorities

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various Libyan authorities to get updates on Zahidur and Saiful. Around 6:30pm on Monday [Bangladeshi time], we got information from the Libyan authorities that the two were taken into safe custody.

"We haven't met them yet. But the positive thing is that they are safe since they are in the custody of the authorities. This is the first time any government agency has confirmed this. As soon as I learnt about it, I communicated it to the foreign minister in Dhaka. We are trying to have the two Bangladeshi

driver Mohammad Khaled, who was also missing, has been released, sources said, but officials from the embassy haven't been able to contact him.

On March 3, Zahid flew to London on a family visa by a Turkish Airlines flight. From there, he travelled to Ireland, Scotland, and then to Libya on March 21, said his family.

He, along with Saiful and Khaled, visited several places in Tripoli and took pictures. All three were picked up from the city on March 23.

Hailing from Narsingdi, Saiful's father Darul Islam, a businessman, has been living in Libya for 34 years. Talking to this correspondent last night, he said they came to know yesterday that his son and the journalist had been in the custody of the Libyan home ministry.

It has also been communicated to them by the embassy, he said.

"Please pray for my son. Pray that he returns to us soon," Saiful's mother Sajeda Khanam said over the phone.

Zahidur's wife Taslima Rahman also demanded

that her husband be returned as early as possible.

[Shariful Hasan is a journalist writing for The Daily Star]

## Ex-president

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According to the case statement, Mosharraf took a Toyota Land Cruiser worth about Tk 95.58 lakh as gift and 5,000 Canadian dollars as bribe from Niko in 2005. Kashem helped Mosharraf to cause loss to the government exchequer, it said.