



Rafa from AvoidRafa, performing his signature tracks.



Shironamhin are at the peak of their popularity, celebrating their silver jubilee this year.



Tridib from Mechanix during his powerful performance.

Another day, another memorable concert

JCI Bangladesh Rock Fest, powered by Daraz, celebrated the best in Bangladeshi band music with performances by Miles, Warfaze, Artcell, Shironamhin, AvoidRafa, Mechanix, Dreek and Teerondaz. Thousands of people flocked in ICCB to see their favourite stars on Friday, and left with cherished musical memories, of which we present to you some snapshots.



PHOTOS: TASIN ZULKERNAIN

(L) Kazi Faisal Ahmed from Artcell (M) Evergreen Miles serenading the audience. (R) Warfaze performed in two high-profile concert in two consecutive nights.

Angelina Jolie to direct Salma Hayek in 'Without Blood'



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Angelina Jolie and Salma Hayek have shared the screen in the film "Eternals". Now Jolie is going to direct her upcoming film "Without Blood", featuring Salma Hayek and Demian Bichir. The film is based on Alessandro Baricco's bestselling international novel of the same name.

The plot of the project is set in the countryside of Italy. The shooting of the film is undergoing in Puglia and Basilicata regions of southern Italy.

Apart from the direction, Jolie, also wrote the script and produced the project.

Frank Grillo to star in 'Mr-9', the 'Masud Rana' movie

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"Captain America" actor Frank Grillo will start the production for Asif Akbar's spy action thriller "Mr-9". The shooting for the film will start immediately in US and Bangladesh.

The film is based on the first novel "Masud Rana: Dhongsho Pahar" and the plots have been kept under the wraps for now. There are huge speculations that Frank Grillo will play the role the nemesis of the top secret agent Masud Rana in the film.

MR -9's screenplay is developed by Abdul Aziz, Chairperson of Jaaz Multimedia, along with director Asif Akbar, and contemporary thriller writer Nazim Ud Daula. "Masud Rana" was conceptualised and written by Qazi Anwar Husain.



COUNTRYWIDE

Short term govt project A boon for stone crushers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A total of 1681 male and female workers from impoverished families of Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila are happy getting an opportunity to work under the government 40-day job creation project. Prior to joining the project, they were involved in risky stone crushing jobs.

The workers said that previously they had to toil hard and got a wage of Tk 350-400 per day. However, they are now earning Tk 400 a day working under the government's job scheme.

Working under the government project is a lot more comfortable, they said adding that under the project, they are repairing dirt roads in the village. While doing stone crushing works, they often suffered from respiratory infections including silicosis.

Khodeja Bewa, 55, a labourer from Ufarmara village, said that

they were now happy working in the project. She also added that they often suffered lung problems including silicosis while working in stone crushing.

Workers said if they get alternative employment opportunities all the year round, they would not get involved in stone crushing,

If they got alternative employment opportunities like job creation project all year round, they would not get themselves involved in stone crushing, she also said.

Sharifa Khatun, 48, of Baniapara village, said they will have to return to stone crushing once the government job scheme is over.

"We don't want to return to stone crushing work," she added.

Rafiqul Islam, the owner of a stone-crushing machine at Burimari land port, said they have been in a labour crisis since the govt's job creation project started.

Many stone crushing machines have been shut down due to labour crisis, he said adding that more than 1500 machines are in operation in Burimari Land Port area.

Patgram Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Uttam Kumar Nandi said the workers are renovating village roads, educational institutions, Eidgah and mosque-temple grounds. The workers are very happy with the project. Workers get their wages through mobile.

He added that it would be nice if they could get alternative jobs all year round. The adoption and implementation of such projects depend on government high-ups.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers previously engaged in hazardous stone crushing job now working under a 40-day government project, which has come as a relief for them. The photo was taken from Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila recently.

FDI hits

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countries must get significant help from the international community.

"The need for investment in productive capacity, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in climate change mitigation and adaptation is enormous. Current investment trends in these areas are not unanimously positive," Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD secretary-general, said in a statement.

"It is important that we act now. Even though countries face very alarming immediate problems stemming from the cost-of-living crisis, it is important we are able to invest in the long term."

The FDI inflows to India were \$44 billion last year, down from \$60 billion the previous year, the report said.

James Webb

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May, the space agency said.

Nasa said that the telescope had been built to withstand such impacts, even if the piece of rock was larger than expected.

During the building process, researchers used a mix of simulations and actual impacts on pieces of mirror to see how the telescope would be able to withstand impacts with particles flying at very fast speeds across space, it said.

"We always knew that Webb would have to weather the space environment and occasional strikes by micrometeoroids within our solar system," said Paul Geithner, Webb deputy project manager (technical) at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

It'll discourage

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with the tax determined by the location and size of the properties. In the current fiscal 2021-22, the opportunity remains with conditions.

Defend basic tenets

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stating that the 27-year-old organisation had published misleading information about various extrajudicial killings, alleged disappearances and murders.

This severely tarnished Bangladesh's global image, the government said.

"Whether heading to the polls to vote, exposing corruption, documenting human rights abuses or peacefully rallying around

a common cause, people and non-governmental organisations everywhere bring to life and defend the basic tenets of democracy every day," the US embassy said.

The critical role of citizens and a pluralistic civil society is the impetus behind the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Adopted by consensus of the General Assembly in 1998, the declaration states that "everyone has

the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels".

"No democracy is perfect, and no democracy is ever final. Every gain made, every barrier broken, is the result of determined, unceasing work," the media note said quoting US President Joe Biden.

Kamal's right-hand man

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old, Kamal said: "I believe in the autonomy of the central bank. It is not right of me to impose my beliefs on him. I just hope he works with the independence and freedom that is afforded to the Bangladesh Bank as per the laws of the land and does what is best for the people of Bangladesh."

Experts welcomed Talukder's appointment. "It is an appropriate choice," said Ahsan H Mansur, chairman of Brac Bank.

Talukder, who holds an MSc degree in Development Management from the University of Birmingham and an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration of the University of Dhaka, is experienced in financial management and already sits on the board of the BB.

"He knows the issues facing the central bank," said Mansur, who was previously a division chief at the International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington DC.

The challenges include bringing good governance in both the banking and the non-bank financial institutions sectors.

"The NBFI sector is virtually bankrupt."

But for Talukdar, the most immediate challenge

is in bringing some semblance of steadiness to the unstable foreign exchange market.

On June 2, the BB on paper has allowed the taka to float and is letting the market determine the exchange rate vis-à-vis the US dollar. But in reality, the BB is still intervening and selling dollars.

"As a result, there is no market clearing and the interbank transactions are very thin. Banks are unable to find enough dollars to settle the letters of credit. A lot of import bills remain unsettled and it is creating a bad impression of Bangladesh in the international financial community."

Mansur, also an executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, hopes the incoming BB governor would act more decisively on this.

"If I can stabilise the exchange rate, it will stem the foreign exchange loss."

He also hopes Talukdar, who joined the civil service in 1988, would do away with the interest rate cap.

"The money market is going through a trudge because the monetary policy is simply non-operative. And that is due to the interest rate being fixed. There is no monetary

transmission that is possible in the current circumstances."

The government would be borrowing Tk 1.06 trillion from the money market and already the treasury bond rate for the 10-year bond is 8 percent-plus, he said.

"With this additional borrowing in the tight money market, this will reach 9 percent or more. How will that be compatible with private sector lending? So he has to address the incompatibility of the interest rate structure with the market situation."

With the monetary policy being inoperative, Talukder is unlikely to have much success in tackling the runaway inflation, which hit an 18-month high in April.

Wahiduddin

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at Tk 3 lakh despite skyrocketing prices of daily necessities.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday unveiled the Tk 678,064-crore national budget for the financial year 2022-2023 with a special focus on economic recovery from uncertainties caused by Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.