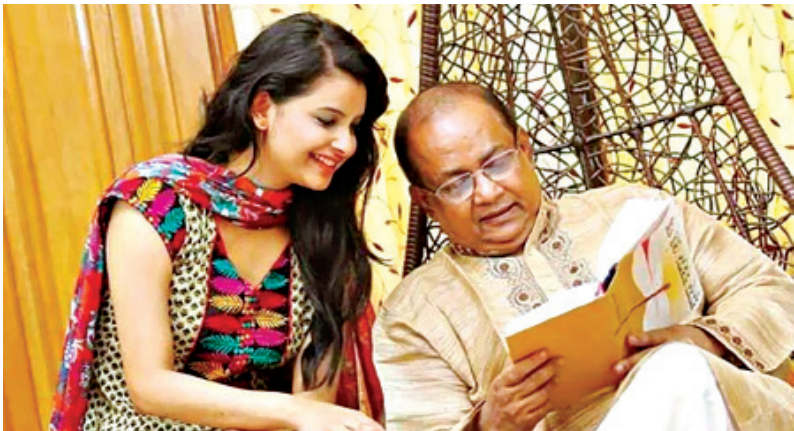




Sabnam Faria and her father Dr Mir Abdullah



Dighi and her father Subrata



Mim with her father Birendranath Saha

An ode to the selfless pillars of life

Stars reminisce on Father's Day

To a daughter, a father is her first love, superhero, at times a teacher, and even a best friend. Celebrating Father's Day, popular actresses shared their stories of their father's endless support for them.

SHARMIN JOYA & SHAH ALAM SHAZU

He is my support system: Bidya Sinha Mim
My father never underestimated my work. He supported me completely when I shared with him that I wanted to build a career in the showbiz industry. *Baba* always encouraged me and my sister to participate in cultural programmes during our school life. I cannot thank him enough for being the best father a daughter could ever have. During my shoots, my mother would accompany me, and *Baba* would take care of all the household work at home. He would also prepare food for us, so that we would not have to eat unhealthy food outside.

I have never felt that he left me: Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed
Since my childhood, I was a backbencher and always more into creative work such as crafting and painting, whereas my brothers were always toppers in their class. However, my father never pressurised me to be like my brothers. While he was not initially on board when I showed an interest in studying at Charukala, he never stopped me from joining either. He also stood up for me, when other relatives judged me for my choice of education and my career path. My father taught me how to survive with honesty. I am



Nawshaba with her father Lt. Col (retd) Quazi Salimuddin Md Shahriar

living with all the lessons he taught me in life. I have never felt that he left me.

Baba was a magician to me: Sabnam Faria
My father always told me that I should first complete my education, and then focus on making a career. However, I started working in the media, when I was an undergraduate student. I was working on photoshoots, TVCs and tele-fictions. When he watched

my second tele-fiction, "Dui Ongsher Shesh Ekta", directed by Taneem Rahman Angshu, he told my mother that I should continue acting, otherwise I would be wasting my talent. He loved reading books, and using his knowledge, he always helped me to choose my character roles as well. When I signed on for "Debi", he inspired me to take on that character and made me realise that supporting roles can be just as important.

Unfortunately, he passed away six months before the film was released. I miss him every day. He always tried to shelter me, and his absence made me realise that life is so hard. He was like a magician to me.

My father is my friend, my mother and also my support system: Prarthana Fardin Dighi

I began working at an early age, and without my father's support and encouragement, it would not have been possible. I lost my mother at an early age, since then he never let me feel her absence. *Baba* always told me that good work keeps a person alive for years, and I try my best to follow his philosophy in my own life. I am a lucky daughter to have a father who is also my friend.

'Dui agontuk bonam korobi ful' at Shilpakala

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Acclaimed actor Ashish Khondker, who is also an outstanding stage director, will have his play showcased at the Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka over two days.

Under the direction of Ashish Khondker, four shows of the play "Dui agontuk bonam korobi ful" is being organised. On Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19, the production of the play will be staged at Studio Theatre Hall.

On both days, the first show will take place at 7 PM, with the second show taking place at 8 PM.



Rohit Shetty confirms Ajay Devgn starrer 'Singham 3'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty has confirmed that he is set to direct the third instalment of the Singham franchise, titled "Singham 3", which will be starring Ajay Devgn. Shooting will start in April of next year.

The "Golmaal" director teased the fans that "Singham 3" will be massive. Rohit is planning to start working on "Singham 3" after releasing his latest film "Cirkus", which stars Ranveer Singh, sometime later this year.

While Ajay Devgn appeared in Rohit Shetty's "Simba" and "Sooryavanshi", fans were waiting in anticipation to see their favourite cop back on their screens.

"Singham Returns", the second movie, was released in 2014. The movie starred Kareena Kapoor and Anupam Kher in pivotal roles.



COUNTRYWIDE

Weaving baskets to stay afloat

Weavers spending busy hours as mango season gears up

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Rural basket makers in Chapainawabganj are spending busy hours as the baskets are now in high demand for packaging mangoes of the district, one of the largest producers of quality mangoes in the country.

The mango-based trade has changed the rural economy of the district, said the business people.

Although bamboo-made baskets are eco-friendly, some mango traders use plastic crates, they said. Nazrul Islam, 65, of Ghorapakhia village in Sadar upazila, has been involved with the craft since he was 15.

He also said that the business was not good enough in last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic. The sale declined drastically during the pandemic time.

Imran Ali, 52, of the same village said that he was spending busy days making the baskets locally known as jhuri or tukri.

He added that he is able to make two or three big sized baskets and sell them at Tk 300 each. He will remain fully engaged in the craft for over three months and will earn Tk 45,000 during this period.

However, many people have left the work since plastic crates have replaced traditional baskets, he said.

The basket makers said that they have been involved with the profession for many generations and there are 150 families engaged in making the baskets. They expressed hope that they will turnaround this season.

Anarul Islam of neighbouring Bohrom village said that he makes small sized baskets and sell those at

Tk 80 each. He earns over Tk 10,000 a month.

Shafiqul Islam, a wholesaler from Ghorapakhia village, said that he buys the baskets from the local makers and supplies to different areas in the North in mango season.

He said that he will earn over Tk 2 lakh selling baskets this season.

Robiul Islam, a member of Ranihati Union Parishad, said that Ghorapakhia village is now known as a village of basket makers.

Munjer Alam, secretary of Chapainawabganj Agri Association, said it has created job opportunities for many people.

Muhammad Nazrul Islam, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension, said this year 3 lakh 25 thousand tonnes of mangoes will be produced this season. Last year, over 2.60 lakh tonnes of mangoes were produced.



Weavers of bamboo-made baskets are spending busy time as the craft is in high demand for packaging mangoes in Chapainawabganj, a district known for highest amount of the fruit production. The photo was taken from Ghorapakhia village in Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

Positivity rate

FROM PAGE 12

waves of Covid-19. The last one was during January-March this year as the Omicron variant spread across the country.

Experts said the fourth wave of Covid-19 has started in the country.

Under the circumstances, health officials have urged people to take Covid-19 vaccines and wear masks.

Most powerful pulsar

FROM PAGE 12

telescope surveys as recently as 1998. It wasn't until 2018 that the pulsar's bursts showed up in the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) Sky Survey (VLASS), and it's shown up every time astronomers have looked since.

There's two reasons for the recent emergence of the pulsar, according to research presented Wednesday at the 240th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Pasadena, California. The first is the pulsar's age.

"Based on its characteristics, this is a

Declare flood-hit areas

FROM PAGE 2

concluding the Teesta water-sharing agreement, but it has not been done yet.

"When they [India] suddenly open the gates of Farakka barrage, it is not possible to tackle the rush of water. Sylhet, Sunamganj and the other regions are now facing this problem. This is proof

of the knee-jerk foreign policy of this government and its negligence towards people."

The dams, bridges and roads – constructed in different haor and other regions in an unplanned way to prevent floods – were damaged due to corruption.

"The floodwater is destroying crops, houses, cattle and other valuables

of people. We demand that these areas are declared as disaster zones immediately and relief is provided to the people of these areas without any delay."

The country can witness floods as an adverse impact of climate change. But it is the responsibility of the government to prevent that flood and mitigate the damages, Fakhrul added.

No quick relief

FROM PAGE 2

a whisker. The second highest record stands at 973.8 mm recorded on June 5, 1956. However, the highest rainfall recorded for the month of June stands at an unbelievable 1563.3 mm recorded on June 16, 1995.

On Wednesday, Cherrapunji recorded 811.6 mm of rainfall.

In Assam, some 3,000 villages are flooded, and 43,000 hectares of cropland are underwater. Several embankments, culverts and roads have been damaged.

A boat carrying flood-

affected people sunk in Assam's Hojai district, leaving three children missing while 21 others have been rescued, officials said yesterday.

In neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh, water from river Subansiri has submerged a dam that was under construction for a hydroelectric power project, news agency PTI reported.

The Assam government has also arranged special flights between Guwahati and Silchar for people stranded due to the floods and landslides.

EC to sit

FROM PAGE 12

Socialist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bangladesh NAP), Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Sangiskritik Muktijote.

Meanwhile, a senior BNP leader yesterday said they would not join the discussion on EVM.

The incumbent EC is doing nothing but carrying out the "instructions" of government, he said.

Contacted, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said they were yet to get the letter from EC.

"We will take a decision only after receiving the letter."

Mother dies saving twins

FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, two siblings – Mohammad Liton, 23, and Mohammad Emon, 14 – were killed in another landslide in the city's Bijoynagar area, said Farooq Hossain Sikder, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defense in Chattogram.

Nur Jahan Begum, mother of the Liton and Emon, said, "Why would we live here at risk if we had enough money?"

Of the siblings, Liton was a readymade garment worker who got married one and a half years ago.

His wife Sharmin Akhtar

is seven months pregnant. "My baby will never see his father," wailing Sharmin said.

In Chattogram, the district administration identified 30 landslide-prone hills, in which around 10,000 people live.

Every monsoon, the authority makes efforts to relocate the people to safer places, but the initiative goes in vain largely due to the poor and unhygienic conditions of the shelters.

Around 170 people died in massive landslides in June 2017 in Chattogram, Rangamati and Bandarban districts, disconnecting

regional communication for days.

A high-powered committee, formed after 127 people died in a landslide in the port city's Motijarna in 2007, put forward 30 recommendations, including permanent rehabilitation of the people exposed to landslides, afforestation on hills so they can ward off landslides, stopping hill cutting, and building fences around the hills to protect them from grabbers.

It has been 15 years since the recommendations were forwarded, and none of those has been executed yet.