



(L) An earlier show of 'Rarang'. (M) Chanchal Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid and A K M Hasan. (R) Chanchal Chowdhury and A K M Hasan in 'Rarang'.



PHOTOS: STAR

# Milestone for ARANYAK NATYA DAL

Mamunur Rashid, Chanchal and A K M Hasan reunite for Rarang's 200th

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mamunur Rashid has written many plays for his own drama group, Aranyak Natyadal, throughout his illustrious career. He has also directed several plays for the stage as well. Among them, one of his most successful plays, which he has both written and directed, is *Rarang*.

The first show of *Rarang* took place back in 2004. Now, the 200th show of the play will take place today, November 18. Originally, Chanchal Chowdhury, one of the most popular actors of the current era, acted in the first show of *Rarang*, back when he was in university. Today, the actor will once again be taking to the stage to act in the 200th show of the play.

In addition to writing and directing *Rarang*, Mamunur Rashid also plays a special role in the play. The play has been shown in various districts of Bangladesh. So popular was this play, that it has also been staged in several countries, receiving widespread praise, both domestically and abroad.

Speaking about the success of *Rarang* Mamunur Rashid said, "This play was staged in six international festivals. This has been a great success for both the Aranyak Natyadal

and Bangladeshi theatre. It is also a pleasure for me, as the writer and director, to see my play achieve such success."

The play was also staged in South Korea, where it received an impressive response from the audience. *Rarang* would also go on to receive widespread praise after being staged in India's Kerala, Baharampur and Kolkata.

*Rarang* is the first play in Bangladesh, to be written about the indigenous community. Following the assassination of Alfred Soren in 2001, protests took place all over the country. A large protest was organised in Naogaon, where the murder had taken place. Mamunur Rashid was invited to this protest.

At that time, the Santal community gifted Mamunur Rashid a bow and arrow. Afterwards, Rashid spent many years researching the incident, eventually writing

*Rarang* as a result.

Talking about the incident, Rashid said, "I spent four years researching the situation. Several times, I would visit the Santal village over there, to increase my learnings. That's how I would write the play."

"After being gifted the bow and arrow, I immediately decided to write a play about Alfred Soren. This initiative was what actually helped

get it done. I hope that through this play, more people now know about Soren. The first show of *Rarang* took place at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy," continued Mamunur Rashid.

Recalling the memories of the first show, Rashid seemed to become emotional. He shared how he had felt overwhelmed by the response from the audience in that first show.

"The audience showed us so much love that day," said Rashid.

"It took 18 years to do the 200th show. I could have done it earlier. There are not enough halls. Besides, COVID-19 also did a lot of damage. Still, I am overjoyed at the fact that I am being able to do the 200th show of *Rarang*," said Rashid.

"More and more people are learning about the Santal community through this play. They are getting to know how this community was destroyed and deprived. The history of how they have had to fight for their lives is also showcased in *Rarang*. This, I believe, is the ultimate achievement of a writer," shared Rashid.

Chanchal Chowdhury acted in the first show of *Rarang*, and now he will be acting in the 200th show. In the play, he takes on the role of a *daroga*. After a gap of almost two years, he is finally returning to this play.

In response to his return, Chanchal said, "This play is much talked about and I received a lot of love by acting in it. It's one of my favourite plays and I am so glad to be able to be a part of the 200th show."

## 'Ki Ache Jibone Amar' singer Md Ibrahim no more

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Popular singer from the 80's, Md Ibrahim passed away at his residence yesterday at 9:30 am. The artiste was suffering from cancer for a prolonged period.

The news of his death was confirmed by lyricist Delowar Arjuda Sharaf to The Daily Star.

The singer was famous for singing about broken heartedness, voicing numerous tracks on the topic.

Over his career, Ibrahim voiced over 450 songs, singing in a total of 41 albums.

## 'Miss World Bangladesh 2022': Open for Applicants

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In preparation for the upcoming beauty pageant, *Miss Universe Bangladesh 2022*, a press conference was held at The Daily Star Centre, yesterday.

Engineer Mehedi Hasan, Chairman of the Omicon Group, officially announced the launching of the competition. He also introduced the main jury panel members, Sadia Islam Mou and Sara Zaker. Former winners of Miss World Bangladesh, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee and Jessica Islam also shared their experiences with those present at the event.

The winner of *Miss World Bangladesh 2022* will get a chance to represent Bangladesh on the global platform, which will be held in 2023.

The online application process for the competition is already underway. Interested candidates can easily register by visiting the Miss World Bangladesh Facebook page or their official website [www.missworldbangladesh.com](http://www.missworldbangladesh.com).



# NEWS

## Tokyo considering Dhaka's request

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Japan is supporting Bangladesh in establishing connectivity and industries between Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar.

"This industrial belt is a nexus for wonderful sustainable development of Bangladesh. Japan will continue to provide support in the development journey of Bangladesh," Naoki said.

Bangladesh has sought budget support for the current fiscal year from Japan. Asked about it, the ambassador said they provided budgetary support to Bangladesh during the coronavirus

pandemic and were considering the request for similar support. However, Japan is yet to come to any conclusion.

He said Japan continued to provide support during the pandemic, especially the very important projects like Metro Rail-6, Matarbari Deep Sea Port and Third Terminal. The Metro Rail-6 will be launched in December.

"I can tell you Japan will continue to stand by Bangladesh in the development trajectory."

Asked about the global economic situation and the impacts on Bangladesh, he said Japan has full

confidence in economic situation and management of Bangladesh though the whole world is suffering due to the global economic situation amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

He said Bangladesh was one of the top five countries that came out of the crisis successfully, but unfortunately the war is affecting all.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said he thanked Naoki for successful completion of his tenure in Bangladesh and that the relationship between the two countries improved to a great extent during his tenure.

## Pelosi to step down as top Democrat

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With Pelosi stepping down from leadership, and fellow octogenarians Steny Hoyer and James Clyburn, the number two and three Democrats, signalling they will do the same, the party is on the cusp of a generational shift in power.

New York lawmaker Hakeem Jeffries, 52, who is expected to become Democratic minority leader in the next House, called Pelosi the "GOAT" — a sports reference to the Greatest of All Time.

"Thank you for all that you have done for America," Jeffries said.

Her announcement met with a far different reaction on the Republican side. "The Pelosi era is over. Good riddance!" tweeted Colorado lawmaker Lauren Boebert.

Kevin McCarthy, a 57-year-old Republican lawmaker from California, is lobbying to take over the speaker's gavel from Pelosi in the Republican-majority House.

McCarthy won a party leadership vote by secret ballot Tuesday but potential far-right defections could yet complicate his path when the House's 435 newly elected members — Democrats and Republicans — choose a new speaker in January.

On Thursday, House Republicans signaled they would wield their new power to make the president's life more difficult — announcing plans to investigate Biden and the business connections of his family, particularly those of his son Hunter.

"This is an investigation of Joe Biden, the president of the United

States, and why he lied to the American people about his knowledge and participation in his family's international business schemes," said Jim Comer, a Republican lawmaker from Kentucky.

With inflation surging and Biden's popularity ratings cratering, Republicans had hoped to see a "red wave" wash over America in the midterms, giving them control of both chambers of Congress and hence a block over most of Biden's legislative plans.

But instead, Democratic voters — galvanized by the Supreme Court's overturning of abortion rights and wary of Trump-endorsed candidates who openly rejected the result of the 2020 presidential election — turned out in force.

## Childhood abuse

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The study also shows that children or teens who use Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, and other social media apps are the most likely to be victims of online sexual abuse.

Interviews with the mothers of 45 children with autism, who are admitted to a tertiary-level hospital in Dhaka, showed that every child aged between three and nine were subjected to physical or mental abuse.

A total of 8.9 percent of them were sexually assaulted at some point.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of BSMU, said, "No child below 16 should be given a mobile phone, because they are not equipped with the sense to differentiate between good or bad. Many end up being involved in criminal activities [without knowing]."

He advised the guardians not to allow their children to use mobile phones for more than two hours a day, and not more than 30 minutes at a stretch.

## Webb reveals

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of gas at the neck of the hourglass. However light spills out from the top and bottom of the disk, lighting up the hourglass-shaped clouds.

The clouds are created by material ejected from the star colliding with surrounding matter, the statement said. The dust is thinnest in the blue sections and thickest in the orange parts, it added.

The protostar, which is just 100,000 years old and at the earliest stage of star formation, is not yet able to generate its own energy.

The surrounding black disk, which is around the size of our solar system, will feed material to the protostar until it eventually reaches "the threshold for nuclear fusion to begin," the statement said.

"Ultimately, this view of L1527 provides a window into what our Sun and solar system looked like in their infancy," it added.

The protostar is located in the Taurus molecular cloud, a stellar nursery home to hundreds of newly formed stars around 430 light years from Earth.

## DB now says Fardin last seen

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Fardin was then seen talking to a youth wearing a white t-shirt. He helped Fardin get on a white human hauler. Three to four other people were in the vehicle that was heading towards Biswa Road and Tarabo after crossing Sultana Kamal Bridge, he said after analysing CCTV footage.

The driver and his helper are under surveillance, he claimed.

Asked about Rab's claim that Fardin was in Chonpara around 2:34am, Harun said the human hauler went towards Tarabo.

"If he wanted to go to Chonpara, he had to first come to Noapara and then to Chonpara from there, which is time-consuming. It would take at least 2:40am to 3:00am to reach Chonpara," he said.

The DB chief, which is tasked with investigating the murder, said, "We have kept the human hauler driver and helper under surveillance and we will talk to them. We will try to know whether Fardin was forced to board the vehicle."

A human hauler usually carries around 18-19 passengers, but it left with only five people, including Fardin, said the official.

Harun, however, said, "It is yet to be known where he was killed. He might have been murdered in Biswa Road area."

"We have collected information on Fardin's possible travelled areas, including Rampura, Gulistan, Keraniganj, and Jatrabari," said the official.

He was with his friend Amatullah Bushra until 9:45pm on November 4 and had a meal at a restaurant.

But then Fardin travelled to different areas in the capital for the next three to four hours, said Harun, adding, "We are trying to know the reason behind the movement as he may not be mentally stable."

"We are also trying to get the motive for the murder."

Earlier, Rab said they found involvement of Chonpara slum drug dealer Rayhan Mahmud and his gang in the murder. Fardin's mobile phone location was also traced near Chonpara slum around 2:34am and he was killed near the shanty, Rab added.

But the motive will be clear once Rayhan and others involved are arrested, said Rab.

The decomposed body of Fardin, a third-year student of civil engineering department of Buet, was recovered from the Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on November 7.

Police so far arrested Bushra, a third-year student of a private university, after Fardin's father Kazi Nuruddin filed a case mentioning her as a prime suspect. Bushra is now in jail after her five-day remand.

Talking to reporters near the DB office, Nuruddin said, "Why will my son have a dispute with the Rayhan gang? I understand that he [Rayhan] is a bad person, but tell me why my son will be his target?"

"Why will he [Fardin] go there [Chonpara]? How is that possible? Based on which information it shows that my son went there?" he asked reporters.

He ruled out of his son being under any stress.

## At the cost of many migrants' lives: HRW

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Begum, senior researcher at HRW, in a statement.

The statement was shared during a virtual media briefing hosted by HRW on "FIFA Qatar World Cup Tarnished by Abuses".

At the briefing, HRW released a five-minute video in advance of the tournament in which migrant workers and their families speak.

"Many migrant workers, their families and communities are not able to fully celebrate what they have built, and are calling on FIFA and Qatar to remedy abuses of workers that have left families and communities destitute and struggling," Rothna said.

In February last year, UK-based The Guardian in a report revealed that more than 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have died in Qatar since it won the right to host the World Cup 10 years ago.

At the briefing, Brac Migration Programme head Shariful Hasan said in last 14 years, more than 1,300 Bangladeshi migrant workers died in Qatar.

Officially, most of these deaths have been attributed as due to "heart attack", but questions remain on how a person as young as 25 or 26 years die from such causes, Shariful said.

Shariful pointed that Bangladeshi migrant workers often undergo

multiple challenges such as payment of high migration cost and poor living condition in the host country.

In the past six years, more than 50,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers were deported from Qatar, he added.

In yesterday's statement, HRW said the International Labour Organisation reported that the Qatari government has reimbursed \$320 million to wage abuse victims through the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund.

However, the fund became operational only in 2020. For many other workers, their journey ended abruptly with unpaid salaries for physically demanding work in the extreme heat, it said.

## 1 killed, 20 hurt

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declared dead there.

Meanwhile, critically injured Joyal Sheikh, 35, was sent to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital.

After Jalal was declared dead, almost all the men in the area went into hiding.

Many locals alleged their homes were vandalised as well, even though they had nothing to do with the clash.

Ratan Matubbar, 62, a resident of Jatrabari village, said, "During the clash, a group of people with lethal weapons entered my house and they vandalised it. They also took away our valuables."

Aktaruzzaman said, "Some people backed by Billal Fakir killed my supporter Jalal and left at least 10 others injured."

Billal alleged Akhtaruzzaman's men were the ones who started the clash.