



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Granting wishes to children with cancer

Farhana Satu's solo exhibition 'Onkur' underway

SHARMIN JOYA

**“I hope that people will buy my photos, so that I can donate the amount to at least one or two of those children, who can get cured with treatment.”**

Every year, 95 out of 100 children in Bangladesh who get diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia lose their battle to the cancer, due to the lack of treatment. Children from poverty-stricken backgrounds are most likely to leave the disease untreated, or at some point of treatment, cannot continue due to financial crisis.

21 photos of such children who have suffered from the disease have been exhibited in Farhana Satu's solo exhibition, titled *Onkur*. Among these children, only two of them were able to win their battle against the cancer. Organised by Mongol Deep Foundation, the exhibition is being held at *Batighar-Smritite Shorone Aly Zaker*. It was inaugurated on November 20, at the rooftop of Asiatic Centre. The exhibition has been curated by Protick Sarker.

Farhana is a Dhaka-based photojournalist and documentary photographer, who highlighted the lives of these children through her works. The stories of these children are often overlooked. Being a student of law, she chose to learn photography, and pursue her passion as a photographer. She took her diploma degree in professional photography from Pathshala South Asian Media Institute and Danish School of Media and Journalism.

She has been photographing these children since 2016, making them live their desired



Farhana Satu

lives, even if for a little while. "When I started taking their photos initially, I used to take photos in a documentary-like approach, then I realised that they are not fully participating in the process. I just wanted to spread some happiness on their faces."

She started to make friends with them. "I asked them what would they would desire to become. One of them replied that he wants to be a superman, because by that he can fly to his favourite place whenever he wants. Another child said that he wants to be a magician." After knowing this Farhana arranged the props for them to live out their dreams to her lens. Her actions brought unending joy to the children's faces. "Sadly, most of them are no longer with us."

Farhana informs that she met these children

in the palliatives of different hospitals, and she identified that these children could not afford to continue their treatment. The photographer ultimately decided to work on the children who could not run their treatment due to financial instability.

"I hope that people will buy my photos, so that I can donate the amount to at least one or two of those children, who can get cured with treatment."

Iresh Zaker, one of the founding members of *Batighar-Smritite Shorone Aly Zaker*, shared that as their first exhibition, this subject is the most appropriate. "My father lost his battle against cancer after fighting for four years. Since he was financially able, he took the best treatment from the best hospital in this world, and yet we lost him." Iresh asserted, "These children are not able to even minimal treatment due to their financial status, thus from our end, it is an effort to create an awareness and let people extend their hands to save these children." Iresh informs that they plan to hold at least 5 exhibitions every year, for the promising artists for absolutely free of cost. "We want to support the promising artists, to showcase their work in order for them to get appreciated and get monetised from their work."

The open-for-all exhibition will run until December 3. Although gates open from 3 pm, the emotions behind the photographs are best understood after the sun sets.

## Kanye confirms that he will be running for president in 2024

American rapper Kanye West has confirmed he will be running for the US presidency in 2024, teaming up with well-known alt-right figure, Milo Yiannopoulos.

In recent times, Kanye West has been heavily associated with the alt-right community, going on to purchase Parler—a conservative social networking platform. Now, he has introduced Yiannopoulos as the person who will be working on his presidency campaign.

Yiannopoulos, 38, is a former senior editor at Breitbart News Network—another far-right news website. More recently, he interned for Republican congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene.



## Chanchal Chowdhury gets a new look in 'Karagar' Part 2

Upon its release, Hoichoi's "Karagar" became the talk of the town, garnering an immense, positive response from the audience. Viewers were heavily intrigued by the mystery man, played by Chanchal Chowdhury, particularly due to his distinct look.

While the character was mute throughout Part 1 of the series, by the end, he began to speak. As a result, audiences were even more drawn into the elusive mystery behind Chanchal's character.

Now, in preparation for the release of Part 2 of "Karagar", the new look for Chanchal's character has been dropped. In the photo posted on Hoichoi Bangladesh's official Facebook page, the actor can be seen sporting a clean-cut look, wearing a white shirt. His hair also seems to be kept longer, while he can be seen wearing spectacles. In comparison to his disheveled look from Part 1, this is a complete switch.

"Karagar" Part 2 is slated for release on December 15 on Hoichoi.



## COUNTRYWIDE

### Inflation hurting landless farmers in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Sixty-year-old Mansur Ali, who has no arable land apart from his homestead on 15 decimals land.

For the last 30 years, the farmer from Bangram village along the Dharla river basin area under Mogolhat union in Sadar upazila has been cultivating other's land as a sharecropper.

Like him, sharecroppers Sekender Ali, 62, Rahim Mia, 58, Narayan Chandra Barman, 60, and Taher Ali, 50, of the village have been cultivating other's land for years.

Though all of them had a good yield of Aman paddy this year, they don't have any smile on their faces.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, about two and a half lakhs families in different upazilas of the two districts are involved in cultivating various crops.

Of them, more than 90,000 farmers are sharecroppers and cultivate others land.

Besides, almost all the sharecroppers

engage their family members in the field in order to save labourer cost.

Another sharecropper Mansur Ali of the village said he has been cultivating five bighas of land for several years now.

According to the agreement, the landowner gets one-third of the produced crop while the sharecropper receives the rest two-third, though the latter bears all the expenses including seeds, fertiliser and irrigation cost, he said.

"We have a good yield of Aman this year, but still had to count loss due to the drought like situation," Mansur said.

As there was not enough rain this year, farmers had to spend additional Tk 1800 to Tk 2000 for irrigating each bigha land, he added.

Farmer Narayan Chandra said, "We are still surviving because we do not employ any hired labourer, rather all our family members put their labour in the field."

Lalmonirhat DAE Deputy Director Hamidur Rahman said the landless farmers across the country have to work tirelessly to make ends meet.

### EC sets EVM price

FROM PAGE 12  
any company that manufactures the machine shares its information.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir, said, "There is no scope of assessing the market price of something when there is only a single source. For example, you cannot evaluate the price of patrol, you have to abide by the price fixed by the government."

According to the DPP, one EVM machine with all its accessories would cost Tk 3.33 lakh — more than 10 times what India paid to obtain its EVMs.

An EVM in India costs about Rs 20,000, said an EC official, preferring anonymity.

Besides, the price stated in the DPP is also higher than what the EC had spent on EVMs on previous occasions. When the EC bought 1.5 lakh EVMs from BMTF in 2018, each machine with accessories cost Tk 2.3 lakh, the official

said. Some of the EVMs were bought without accessories at the base price of \$2,487 that year. The base price (Tk 2,73,570 with the dollar rate at Tk 110) is the same this year.

"This time, the price of an EVM was higher due to the appreciation of the dollar. BMTF maintains a similar base price, but cost increased due to adjustment with the dollar," said Alamgir.

With the Jatiya Sangsad polls likely in late December 2023 or early January 2024, the EVM issue came to the fore especially after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an AL meeting on May 7 said voting machines would be used in all 300 constituencies in the election.

The move to buy the additional EVMs comes following the EC's August 23 decision to go for electronic voting in up to 150 constituencies in the

polls, despite objections from major opposition parties like the BNP and Jatiya Party (Ershad).

The EC has 1.5 lakh EVMs that can be used in 70-80 constituencies simultaneously in the next polls.

Against this backdrop, the EC sent the DPP to the Planning Commission in late October.

Introduced in 2010, EVMs were used in various local government elections. The then Election Commission, led by ATM Shamsul Huda, had used them in the city corporation polls but not in any parliamentary election.

In 2012, the EC, headed by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, also kept the EVMs out of the national polls.

The Nurul Huda-led commission overhauled the EVM system and used it for polling in six constituencies in the 2018 December national election.

### HC bars cheque bounce

FROM PAGE 12  
director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank.

This is decidedly damaging for the financial sector, said the managing director of a major bank on the condition of anonymity. "We will go to the Appellate Division to appeal against the verdict," he added.

Settling a case in the money loan courts usually takes a long time owing to the existing pending cases, said a central bank official on the condition of anonymity.

If the new issue is added to the money loan courts, resolving the cases will be even more time-consuming and difficult, he said.

As of December last year,

banks lodged 2,07,896 cases with the money loan courts to recover Tk 2,13,725 crore, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

Of those, 1,39,625 cases were resolved through which banks were supposed to get Tk 70,041 crore. But they recovered only Tk 19,704 crore.

The delinquent borrowers mainly take loans without placing any collateral securities or submitting forged documents, so banks largely depend on cheques given by the borrowers to realise the defaulted loans, the BB official said.

"It may become more difficult for banks to get their money back from large and habitual defaulters," he added.

### 101 yaba

FROM PAGE 12  
homemade firearms, and 70 bullets.

Arms and drug cases were filed against them by Inspector Sharif Ibne Alam of Teknaf Police Station on the same day.

One accused, Mohammad Rasel, 28, died at a hospital on August 7 the same year.

### B'baria SP

FROM PAGE 12  
Model Police Station on charges of attacking police.

A delegation of BNP's central committee, headed by Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, a member of the party's standing committee, yesterday visited Nayan's family in the upazila's Charshibpur village and expressed condolences.

It also demanded punishment of the killers.

### Biman staffers damage

FROM PAGE 12  
"carelessness of ground support staff of Biman".

On April 10, a Boeing 777-300ER of Biman, while being taken into a hangar, was rammed into the carrier's Boeing 737-800, which was already parked in the hangar.

The 777's radome, the cone at the nose of the plane, and its front bulkhead and the 737's horizontal stabiliser were damaged.

In June, a Biman 787 was rammed into another 737 at the hangar, damaging both.

In the same month, another Biman 787 aircraft collided with a boarding bridge.

A top official of Turkish Airlines said due to negligence of Biman's

ground staffers, two planes of Turkish Airlines were damaged in recent years.

Aviation experts questioned whether Biman's ground handling staffers were following the standard operating procedure.

Officials of different foreign airlines serving Dhaka said Biman's image at home and abroad was being seriously questioned because of such incidents.

Biman former MD and CEO MA Momen said such incidents show the level of callousness on the part of Biman staffers.

"The accidents might be the result of not taking action against culprits due to strong influence of CBA and union leaders," he said.

### BNP gets govt nod

FROM PAGE 12  
Earlier, the government-backed transport operators imposed strikes ahead of the BNP's recent rallies in Mymensingh, Khulna, Rangpur, Barishal, Faridpur, and Sylhet.

Several thousand BNP men poured into the venues two to three days ahead of those rallies to dodge the transport strikes. The opposition men cooked meals and set up makeshift tents to stay at the venues overnight.

The other conditions include: the rally must end by 4:30pm; loudspeakers must be used on a limited scale; no procession can be brought out for the show of strength; no statements can be made demeaning the country's independence and sovereignty, tarnishing its image and threatening national security.

The permission was granted on Tuesday, said Aminur Rashid Yasin, convener of Cumilla district (south) BNP.

The BNP has been holding the rallies protesting the price hike of essentials and fuel. Two more rallies will be organised in Rajshahi and Dhaka on December 3 and 10.

Meanwhile, Sherpur police have filed a case against 263 BNP men in connection with Tuesday's clash between law enforcers and the party men in the district town. At least 60 people, including seven cops, were injured in the clash.

Sub-inspector Aminur Rahman lodged the case with Sherpur Sadar Police Station on Tuesday night.

Our correspondents in Cumilla and Mymensingh contributed to this report.