



NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

2021 ANNOUNCED

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Yesterday, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the final recipients of the National Film Awards 2021. The National Film Award is considered to be one of the most prestigious prizes given for films in Bangladesh. Every year, the government honours artists in various categories, for their contributions towards the film industry. Usually, the National Film Award is given in a total of 28 categories. However, this year 34 awards will be given in 27 categories. The 'Best Dance Director' category has been dropped

Kabho. Siam Ahmed (*Mridha Bonam Mridha*) and Mir Sabbir (*Raat Jaga Phool*) will be jointly taking the 'Best Actor' award home. Similarly, the 'Best Actress' award will also be jointly given to Azmeri Haque Badhan (*Rehana Maryam Noor*), and Tasnova Tamanna (*Nonajoler Kabbo*). While the 'Best Supporting Actor' award goes to Fazlur Rahman Babu, for his performance in *Nonajoler Kabbo*; Shampa Reza will receive the 'Best Supporting Actress' award for *Poddapuran*. The 'Best Actor in a Negative Role' award will go to Joyraj for *Lal*

both from *Poddapuran*—are to receive 'Best Singer' award in the male and female category. The 'Best Lyricist' award has gone to Gazi Mazharul Anwar for *Ontore Ontor Jala* from *Joiboti Konnar Mon*, while Shujeeo Shyam will be given the 'Best Composer' award for the same song. Rezwan Shahriar Sumit will also be recognised with the 'Best Script Writer' award for *Nonajoler Kabbo*, while the 'Best Screenplay Writer' category will go to Nurul Alam Atique for *Lal Moroger Jhuti*. Tauquir Ahmed's writing for *Sphulingo* has helped him capture the 'Best Dialogue' award. The 'Best Editing' award will go to Samir Ahmed (*Lal Moroger Jhuti*); 'Best Art Direction' to Shihab Nur Nabi (*Nonajoler Kabbo*); 'Best Cinematography' to the team of *Lal Moroger Jhuti*—Syed Kashaf Shahbazi, Sumon Sarker, and Mazharul Razu. Sayba Talukder, from the team of *Rehana Maryam Noor* will be picking up the 'Best Sound Designer' award, while 'Best Costume Designer and Makeup' will be going to Edila Farid Turin (*Nonajoler Kabbo*) and Md Farukh, Md Farhad, and Reza Milon (*Lal Moroger Jhuti*).

Dhar, produced by AKA Reza Ghalib, will be recognised as the 'Best Short Film', while the 'Best Documentary Film' award will go to *Boddhyo Bhumi*, produced by Kauser Chowdhury. On August 16, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry formed a 13-member jury board. In 2021, 21 full-fledged films, 17 short films and 7 documentary films—totaling 45 films—were submitted for the National Film Awards.



Closeup 'Ei Shomoyer Kachhe Ashar Golpo' coming this Valentine's Day

Closeup has kept the Valentine's Day tradition of bringing their much-anticipated series *Kachhe Ashar Golpo* for the last eleven years.

This year, three directors are going to tell their stories in the latest season of the show titled, *Ei Shomoyer Kachhe Ashar Golpo* instead of the general public. Three fresh pairs will be introduced through three of the short films. Priyontee Urbee and Tamim Mridha will be featured under the direction of Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, Aisha Khan and Sudip Biswas Deep will star in Raka Noshin Nower's fiction, while Tanjim Saiyara Totini and Shashwata Datta will pair up for Sakib Fahad's episode of the show. The title of the episodes are yet to be finalised. The series will be aired on February 14.

Nisho signs second film prior to shooting first

After announcing his debut film *Shurongo*, Afran Nisho has signed up for his second film *Kalpurnush*. The news has been confirmed by the production company of the film. Still in its initial stages, the script is currently being completed. The production company has already signed Afran Nisho as the hero while noted director Sanjoy Somadder is to direct the film. Meanwhile, Raihan Rafi's film *Shurongo* starring Afran Nisho and Tama Mirza is scheduled to begin shooting in February.

NEWS

Djokovic equals

FROM PAGE 12 There had been an air of inevitability about Djokovic triumphing once more. After his three-year ban from Australia was lifted, Djokovic won the lead-up Adelaide International before reinforcing his stature as an all-time great in Melbourne. His dominant win drew him level with Nadal on a record 22 Slams, two clear of Roger Federer.

Nasa finds strange

FROM PAGE 12 University of Arizona noted in a statement. "This feature looks a bit like a bear's face," it said. Researchers say the circular fracture pattern could be due to the settling of a deposit over a buried impact crater while the bear nose-like structure is likely a volcanic or mud vent. They suspect that the material deposited over the crater might be lava or mud. This isn't the first time weird geological formations have been spotted on Mars. In May last year, Nasa's Curiosity Mars rover spotted a strange rock formation that looked like an "alien doorway" on the Red Planet.

Ray of Sara

FROM PAGE 12 tumour in India recently. Sara had been suffering from tuberous sclerosis, a rare genetic condition that causes mainly non-cancerous tumours to develop in different parts of a patient's body since early childhood. Prof Sharfuddin also stressed on creating a movement to stimulate people for coming forward to increase the number of cadaveric transplantations. "Shobnom Islam, the mother of Sara Islam, will be made the brand ambassador for the cadaveric transplantation activities of the BSMMU. If this can be implemented, the tendency of patients to go abroad for transplantations can be reduced notably," he added. Prof Soyeef Uddin Ahmod, pro-VC, Prof Habibur Rahman Dulal, proctor and renal transplant surgeon, and Swapan Kumar Topadar, registrar of BSMMU, were present at the press conference among others.

BERC amendment bill passed

FROM PAGE 12 Khan called the act a "black law," and said that while the government has increased electricity distribution, corruption is also prevalent in the sector. "If the price of electricity and gas rises, it affects everything, but the government doesn't care because when it loses faith in the people, it enacts black laws." He went on to say that the government raised electricity prices 11 times in the last 14 years and that the bill would allow prices to rise even further. Mokabbir said that looting and corruption are to blame for the crisis in the power sector. "However, it hurts the government if people talk about it openly." He asked if this law was being passed for the benefit of businesspeople. Mokabbir later withdrew his amendment proposal and walked out of the House in protest of the bill. On January 5, Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the "Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022" in parliament.

'KNF man' found shot dead

FROM PAGE 12 use the indigenous people as cover and opened fire at the security forces, said the UNO. In panic, around 300 Marma people of 45 families took shelter at the Marma Welfare Association and over 50 Bawm people at Bawm Social Council Association Club's hall room in Ruma town, he said. Local union parishad Chairman Uahlamang Marma said, "Some villagers earlier told me that KNF criminals often went to their neighbourhood and tortured them." The security forces raided the area on Friday. Multiple gunfights took place between the security forces and KNF members in the last two days, he said, quoting locals. Villagers left their houses and took shelter in the forests for fear of life. Then they came to the Marma Welfare Club. "I think more people from nearby villages will come to the club in a day or two," he added. Marma Welfare Association General Secretary Shai Pruchi said the

The ordinance was proclaimed by President Abdul Hamid on December 1 last year, and on the same day, the law ministry issued a gazette announcing the amendment. Previously, the ministry of power, energy, and mineral resources adjusted the prices of fuel, including diesel, octane, kerosene, and petrol, without any public hearings, whereas BERC adjusted the prices of gas and electricity after public hearings. The BERC is an autonomous body established based on the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act 2003, aiming at improving power and energy infrastructure in Bangladesh. The law has previously been amended three times. With the amendment of the 2003 act, the ministry will not be required to hold a hearing to decide new prices for gas and electricity. On November 28, the cabinet approved an amendment to the BERC Act 2003 to empower the government to set fuel tariffs on its own under special circumstances without waiting for the commission's public hearing and decision.

security forces, local administration and community representatives were providing food, warm clothes, medicine and other essentials to the people. Meanwhile, security forces in a press statement yesterday said many Marma and Bawm families of Munaam Para, Mualpi Para, and Artha Para left their houses amid KNF attacks. "Bangladesh Army has arranged shelter for the people, who have become homeless due to KNF torture. "Food, warm clothes, medicine and other essentials for the families have been arranged by the army," said the statement. The KNF is trying to bring a reign of militancy and terror in the name of Bawm community people, it said. In the last three months, Rab officials on several occasions said the KNF was training and giving shelter to the members of militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya in the hills. [Our correspondents from Bandarban and Rangmati contributed to this report.]

Lawyer tortured in custody

FROM PAGE 12 whole day [on Saturday]. He saw Rajon being taken out around 5:00pm and being brought back around 11:00pm," said Mohiuddin. "Rajon told us that every day he was taken out for interrogation, they would go through the contact list on his phone and question him about them," said Mohiuddin. "My family had gone [to the police station] with food and clothes, hoping to give those to him. The duty officer kept insisting that he was not there, but Rajon heard our voices and called out,"

2 jailed over digging lake in reserve forest

FROM PAGE 12 violated the Balumahal and Soil Management Act-2010. Besides, we demolished the barriers constructed by the tea estate authorities on government roads to obstruct vehicular movement." Contacted, Nader Khan, managing director of the tea estate, said if the administration asked them to fill up the lake, they would do so. Meanwhile, the Chattogram district administration began demarcating 784 acres of land in illegal possession of the tea estate in the Ramgarh-Sitakunda reserve forest. The UNO said the district administration leased out 1,052 acres to the company, but it has illegally occupied 784 more acres. Abul Bashar Mohammed Fakhruzzaman, deputy commissioner of Chattogram, told this correspondent that

Israel moves to punish

FROM PAGE 12 The punitive measures announced are in line with proposals from Netanyahu's extreme-right political partners, whose support enabled him to return to power at the end of December. They are likely to apply primarily to Palestinians with Israeli nationality, known as Arab-Israelis, and Palestinians with residency permits for annexed east Jerusalem. Hours after the deadly shooting outside the synagogue in the settlement of Neve Yaacov, a 13-year-

the brother told this correspondent. Rajon had reportedly said, "Sir, I am here, tell them I am here!" The family also managed to collect a photo of Rajon inside the cell at the police station. "My father is a retired police officer, and so he has connections," said Mohiuddin. The officer-in-charge of Hatirjheel police station could not be reached for comments in spite of repeated attempts over the phone. Sub-inspector Sharmin told this newspaper that nobody named Abu Hossain Rajon was arrested.

the administration started an investigation into the encroachment by the tea estate and took action against the accused after a report was published in The Daily Star. "We will take strict action against the estate authorities if they resort to any irregularities in future," he added. This newspaper yesterday ran a report under the headline "Reserve forest defiled, defying court order". Abu Bakar, assistant land officer of Narayanhat land office, filed a case against the tea estate MD, Nader Khan, with Bhujpur Police Station under the Balumahal and Soil Management Act. On December 29, 2022, the forest department sued four employees of the tea estate at the Forest Court in Chattogram for digging the lake on 135 acres of land at Badurkhal in violation of a status quo order. Disputes between the forest department and the tea estate began

old Palestinian boy shot and wounded two Israelis just outside the walled Old City of east Jerusalem. The boy blamed for the attack in the Silvan neighbourhood was shot and wounded at the scene and detained. Another Palestinian hurt in prior clashes with Israeli forces in Silvan died from his wounds Friday, a Shaare Zedek hospital spokeswoman told AFP. The mounting toll was described as a "death spiral" by Pope Francis, who referred to both Palestinians and

"My brother is accused of causing violence and being involved in anti-state activities. But he is into none of that. He is a lawyer and worked as a human rights activist in our village home in Chatkhil of Noakhali," said Mohiuddin. Mohiuddin said Rajon was picked up from in front of Ad-Deen Hospital in Moghbazar. "I spoke to the people in the area and learned this from witnesses," he said. "When we saw him at the court, he was wearing the same clothes as the day he was picked up."

2 jailed over digging lake in reserve forest

in 2003 when the Chattogram district administration leased out 1,052 acres of land to the company, mentioning it in documents as khas land. Forest department officials said 134 acres of the leased-out land belonged to the reserve forest. They filed the case, seeking an amendment to the land record, saying that the land was mistakenly recorded as khas in the Bangladesh Survey (BS). In June 2016, the Forest Court issued the status quo order on the disputed land. According to data from the forest department, the land in question was recorded as forest in the Revisional Survey 1927-28. The Calcutta gazette issued in 1893 by the then Assam-Bengal Forest Department also recorded it as forest land, said the documents. But in the 1980s, the land was mistakenly recorded as khas land in the BS, the officials added.

Israelis killed. Blinken is expected in Jerusalem today to discuss steps for de-escalation. He will visit Ramallah the next day. Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu are due to meet separately with Blinken, for talks that have taken on renewed urgency amid the latest bloodshed. Israel's security cabinet responded to the latest attacks with another decision, to make it easier for Israeli citizens to obtain permits to carry firearms.