



Fazal-e-Khoda



Kanak Chanpa Chakma



Shimul Yousuf



Gazi Abdul Hakim

8 cultural personalities to receive EKUSHEY PADAK 2023

Fearless freedom fighter and Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste, Manoranjan Ghoshal will be felicitated this year.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The coveted Ekushey Padak, which is one of the highest civilian honours in Bangladesh, will be conferred to eight eminent cultural personalities this year.

Eminent actor Masud Ali Khan will be honoured with the award this year – the news comes after many in the entertainment industry raised their voices in order to bring his inclusion to attention, after a report titled “93-year-old Masud Ali Khan has no regrets” was published on The Daily Star.

Indomitable theatre personality and singer Shimul Yousuf will receive the honour.



Masud Ali Khan



Manoranjan Ghoshal

She debuted in theatre to raise funds for our Liberation War, and has been a prolific name in our cultural sphere.

Fearless freedom fighter and Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste, Manoranjan Ghoshal will be felicitated this year.

Flautist Gazi Abdul Hakim will receive the award after mesmerising the country with his tunes for 57 years.

Noted lyricist, the late great Fazal-e-Khoda penned the legendary song ***Salam Salam Hajar Salam***. For his illustrious career, he will be posthumously awarded the Ekushey Padak.

Beloved actor and elocutionist Jayanta Chattopadhyay will be honoured for his decades-long dedication, in the Elocutionist's category.

Director and producer Nawazish Ali Khan, who has received multiple accolades for ***Bornali, Janani, Gachh Manush and Kobi***, will add the Ekushey Padak to his impressive repertoire of awards.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma is the only artist to be included in this year's Ekushey Padak list. She has already won multiple national and international awards for her paintings depicting Bangladesh's ethnic minorities.



Tahsan's UNHCR goodwill ambassador term extended

Recently, popular Bangladeshi actor and musician Tahsan Khan signed on for a new term as goodwill ambassador in Bangladesh for UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency.

Tahsan Khan has been supporting UNHCR's advocacy and outreach activities since 2019. He has visited the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar annually and has supported UNHCR in raising awareness about the needs, struggles and dreams of refugees.

“I am happy that I will keep on working for the refugees in coming days. I hope I can make a bigger impact in raising awareness and bringing harmony between host communities and refugees through my work with UNHCR”, said Tahsan Khan.

Harry Styles wins big at BRIT Awards



A week after his notable wins at the Grammys, Harry Styles has won all the categories he was nominated in at the BRIT Awards, British pop honours.

Harry won in the coveted Album of The Year category for ***Harry's House***, Song of The Year for ***As It Was***, Best R&B/Pop Act and Artist of The Year.

Harry dedicated his Artist of The Year award to the female acts that did not get nomination in a male-dominated category saying, “I'm really, really grateful for this and I'm very aware of my privilege up here tonight.”

Harry styles rose to fame as one of the members of the boy-band One Direction.

NEWS

Not a robbery but murder plotted by son

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headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

He said that after Halim was murdered, Masud instructed Rubel to tie him up so that it looked like a robbery.

On Saturday, a PBI team arrested Rubel, who was in hiding, from his sister's house in the capital's Jatrabari.

He gave a confessional statement before a magistrate, revealing Masud's involvement in the murder.

PBI is now trying to arrest Masud, Monirul said.

The PBI official said Masud hired

Rubel for Tk 5 lakh to help him kill his father at his home in Fatullah's Dharmaganj Maula Bazar area.

As part of his plan, Masud kept the gate of the building, as well as the entrance to the flat open on the night of January 31.

Rubel entered the house around 10:00pm. The two of them went into Halim's room when he fell asleep around 11:00pm.

Masud held down his father with a mosquito net while Rubel began strangling Halim. As Halim screamed for help, Rubel smothered him by pressing a pillow to his face.

Later, Masud took his father's pulse to confirm his death.

He then stole the money from the cupboard and gave Tk 5 lakh to Rubel and handed the CCTV storage drive to him to destroy it.

As per the plan, Rubel then tied up Masud's hands and legs and went into hiding after burying the storage drive under a pile of garbage next to the house.

The PBI said they seized Tk 4.43 lakh from Rubel's possession during the drive and based on his information they also recovered the storage drive from the spot.

Refiners seek duty cut on sugar import

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goods ahead of Ramadan.

At the meeting, the wholesalers and retailers said the refined sugar and loose edible oil are selling at higher prices than the ones fixed by the government as the mill owners are charging them more.

“And we are the ones who have to pay the fine,” said Abul Hashem, vice president of Bangladesh Sugar Merchants Association, at Moulvibazar in Old Dhaka.

To solve this problem, Hashem demanded that the price should be fixed at three levels: refineries, wholesalers and retailers.

“The mills are giving us receipts at one rate and charge us another rate. We will not be allowed to enter the mill gates again if we disclose this,” said Golam Mawla, president of the Bangladesh Wholesale Edible Oil Traders' Association.

But the mill owners denied the allegations. Later, both parties got

involved in the argument.

“Not giving receipts while buying or selling goods or charging a different price than the one mentioned in the receipt are black marks on the community,” said FBCCI president Jashim Uddin.

Due to such behaviour of a few businessmen, the entire business community is defamed.

“Do business with ethics. There may be some bad businesspeople, they need to be identified,” he added.

Over 900 BNP men sued in four districts

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Explosive Substances Act.

Noor Alam, sub-inspector of Araihaaz Police Station, filed the case on Saturday night, said Azizul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station.

An activist of the BNP was arrested in connection with the case, he added. In Sirajganj, 400 BNP men were sued in two cases.

Jahangir Hossain, general secretary of the Awami League's Kalia Haripur union unit, filed a case against 193 named and 200 unnamed BNP men for vandalising motorcycles, while Saiful Islam, sub-inspector of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, filed another case against them for obstructing law enforcers from performing their duties and exploding bombs during the violence, said police.

Ten BNP men were arrested in the cases, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station.

In Noakhali, four cases were filed against 61 named and 185 unnamed BNP men with Sudharam Model Police Station, Begumganj Model Police Station, Sonaimuri Police Station, and Senbagh Police Station.

Of the cases, one was filed by Senbagh Police Station's Sub-inspector Badiul Alam and the rest three were filed by local AL leaders, said police sources.

Five BNP men have so far been arrested in the cases, said an official of the police's Special Branch.

In Mymensingh, 175 BNP men were sued yesterday for blocking roads, vandalising vehicles and obstructing police from performing their duties.

Bhaluka Model Police Station's Sub-inspector Rezaul Karim filed the case accusing six named and 169 unnamed BNP men, said Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Two BNP men were arrested in connection with the case, he said.

In Gazipur, police yesterday

arrested a youth who brandished a firearm during a BNP procession at Bormi Bazaar in Sreepur upazila.

Arrestee Zahidul, 35, is of Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila, said police.

Meanwhile, four activists of Jamaat-e-Islami were detained yesterday after they brought out a procession in the capital's Badda area.

The party brought out a procession from the Suvastu Valley Shopping Mall area of Badda around 2:00pm, said police, adding that the rally marched different roads of Badda and ended at Gulshan Badda Link Road.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said Jamaat had no permission to bring out the procession.

On Thursday, Jamaat sought permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police to bring out a procession in the capital. DMP, however, did not grant the permission.

2 prosecution witnesses go ‘hostile’

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Trumps Club when Soheli was killed but he knew nothing about those who were involved in the murder.

He, however, had told investigators that several accused, including businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai and owner of Trumps Club Afakul Islam alias Bunty Islam, were behind the killing.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Sadia Afrin Shilpi told The Daily Star that Maj Hafiz was aware of everything regarding the killing but he spoke in favour of the accused. So, he was declared hostile.

“Another witness Rowshon told investigators that she was the wife of Soheli Chowdhury. But she now claimed that she was a fan of the actor, not wife,” the public prosecutor added.

In her statement, Rowshon told the tribunal that she could not say anything about the killing. Moreover, she did not know why she was made a witness in the case.

Among the nine accused, Ashish Rai Choudhury, Tariq Sayeed Mamun and Sanzidul Islam Emon, now behind bars, were produced before the tribunal during yesterday's hearing, while Adnan Siddiqui and Faruque Abbasi were earlier exempted from personal appearance.

Four other accused – Aziz Mohammad Bhai, Afakul Islam, Selim Khan and Harun-Or-Rashid alias Leather Liton – are absconding.

The judge yesterday set February 26 for the next hearing.

Earlier, three witnesses, including

the complainant, testified.

On December 18, 1998, criminals shot the actor dead at the Trumps Club in Abedin Tower in the capital's Banani.

After an investigation, Detective Branch of police submitted a charge sheet before a Dhaka court on August 2, 1999.

On October 30, 2001, Dhaka's Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against them.

Two years after framing charges against the accused, the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal 2. Following a petition of an accused, the High Court stayed the trial proceedings of the case in 2003. The stay was withdrawn in February last year.

HC slams AL leader over ‘terrible act’

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Our duty is to find all those who have been merciless with the trees,” the bench said after seeing photos of damaged trees during the hearing of a suo moto (voluntary) rule.

Earlier in the day, Shahrir Alam, senior vice president of Bagmara upazila's Shubhadanga union, appeared before the bench in compliance with its summons order.

He submitted an affidavit through his lawyer Md Zahedul Haque Zahid and claimed he was not involved in the incident and did not know who had damaged the trees.

Shahrir was kept standing in the courtroom from 11:00am to 1:00pm

and then from 2:30pm to 4:00pm till the end of the court proceedings.

The court ordered him to appear before the bench in person again on February 23.

It then also ordered the officer-in-charge of Rajshahi's Bagmara Police Station to appear before it on that date and submit a report describing what legal action has been taken in connection with the damage of the trees.

During the proceedings, Bagmara Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Abdur Razzak submitted a probe report saying that palm trees on Baigachha road in Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila have been damaged by using

insecticides.

Meanwhile, Shahrir Alam verbally confessed before the probe committee, led by the upazila nirbahi officer of Bagmara, that he injected the insecticides into the stems of the palm trees as his mango trees don't grow due to the palm trees at the area.

He, however, refused to give any written statement to this effect, Agriculture Officer Md Abdur Razzak said in the report.

Following a report and editorial published on Bangla Daily Prothom Alo, the HC bench on February 1 summoned Shahrir Alam to appear before it yesterday in this regard.

Putting up a brave fight

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Md Shanto Mia, 18, of Korail slum, studies at Rupnagar Govt School and College. Earlier, he used to work at his father's betel leaf and cigarette shop.

After he enrolled in 11th grade, his younger brother had to drop out of his madrasa to look after the shop in order to keep the six-member family from starving.

“I'm currently looking for a job as I don't want my father to be burdened with my education expenses,” Shanto said.

He has been studying science so that he could land a job as a medical technologist or a nurse and do something for the slum people, many of who suffer from the absence of

primary healthcare.

Maulana Abdus Sobhan, president of Korail Slum Development Association, said the Korail slum is home to around 30,000 families with 20 NGO-run primary schools but no college.

“Only a few students have gone to university and every one of them has had to manage their schooling by themselves. Most parents are reluctant to send their children to school due to a loss in income.

“However, the situation has improved as many parents are willing to educate their children now.”

Iqbal Hossain, education manager of the “Education and skill for adolescents and out-of-school children” programme of Unicef,

said that currently, there are no programmes to help slum children pursue tertiary education, as they face many challenges in continuing just secondary education.

“As they lack basic education facilities, and the out-of-pocket education cost is so high, only those who are highly passionate and can earn, or get scholarships from different agencies, can continue their studies.

“However, we have been working with the secondary education ministry to create flexibilities for slum students, so that they can continue their studies at their own pace and we have also been advocating the government in mitigating the secondary dropout challenges,” he said.