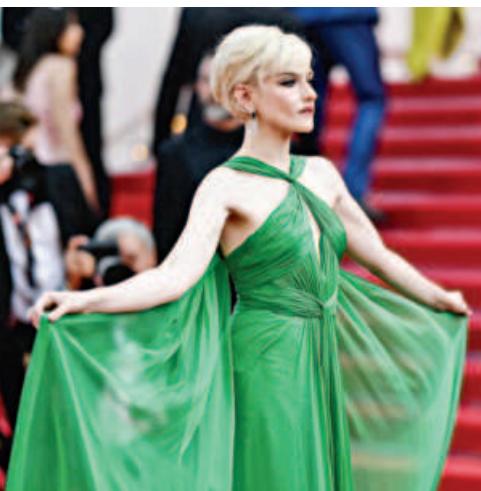




(L-R) Leonardo DiCaprio, Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro at the premiere of "Killers of The Flower Moon".



Julia Garner at the premiere of Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City".



Natalie Portman attends the premiere of "May December".

Jaya Ahsan attends IIFA Awards 2023

Dubai, the glitz city of lights, witnessed a star-studded extravaganza as the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2023 began on Friday.

Popular Bangladeshi actress Jaya Ahsan also attended the event with the Indian stars, leaving everyone in awe of her impeccable style and grace. She took to Facebook and shared some beautiful moments from the award ceremony.

She was adorned in a mesmerizing blue and white fusion saree, having draped the saare with a matching pair of embroidered pants. With a heavy necklace and minimal makeup, she completed the look with a white bag and coiffed hair.

On the second day, the gorgeous actress wore a sequined black saree, with a golden shimmer, backless blouse. The *Debi* actress kept her look natural, with a stylish necklace and earrings.



Curtains close on CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Bangladesh had its own film, Aronyo Anawer's "Maa", starring Pori Moni, screening at the Marche Du Film. We even had our own stall at the festival, for the first time ever.

AAQIB HASIB

On Saturday night, cinema's marquee event, the 76th iteration of the Cannes Film Festival finally came to a close. While the festival might initially have been a place for artists to assemble and recognise each other's efforts, the modern-day version is a pop-culture event that captivates the masses as well.

Like a sea of stars, celebrities flooded the red carpet with their glamourous outfits, once again becoming the main focus point for Cannes worldwide. Like each year, people argued back and forth over whether Cannes is a film or fashion festival, taking further focus away from the films being screened.

Looking back, the major movies being screened at the festival were *Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny*; Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*; Johnny Depp starrer *Jeanne du Barry*; Wes Anderson's *Asteroid City*; and Justine Trier's *Anatomy of a Fall*, just to name a few.

Bangladesh had its own film, Aronyo Anawer's *Maa*, starring Pori Moni, screening at the Marche Du Film. We even had our own stall at the festival, for the first time ever. However, the stall—which is expected to be a gateway into a country's film and culture—remained empty for the most part.

This mishap occurred over a reported logistical issue, where BFDC members were



Justine Trier receives the Palme d'or for "Anatomy of a Fall". PHOTOS: COLLECTED

denied their visa applications due to them applying too late. Hopefully, this will be a learning opportunity that will help us better prepare for next year's event.

One film that has been widely discussed, following its Cannes debut, is Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The world-famous director commented shortly before the festival, echoing the words of renowned filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, saying, "I am only now beginning to see the possibility of what cinema could be, and it's too late."

At Cannes, *Killers of the Flower Moon* would receive a standing ovation, with many in attendance calling it Scorsese's best film.

The festival had opened by awarding Michael Douglas and Harrison Ford the honorary Palme d'or. It would finally draw to a close by awarding the prestigious Palme d'or to Justine Trier, for *Anatomy of a Fall*.

In between, other awards had also been handed out with the most notable ones being: Jonathan Glazer's *The Zone of Interest* (Grand Prix); Tran Anh Hung for *La Passion de Dodin Bouffant* (Best Director Feature Film); Aki Kaurismaki's *Fallen Leaves* (Jury Prize); Flora Anna Buda's *27* (Short Film Palme d'or); Molly Manning Walker's *How to have Sex* (Un Certain Regard Prize); Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses* (Best performance by an actress) and Koji Yakusho for *Perfect Days* (Best performance by an actor), many more.

Music Director Shams Ahmed has become the first Bangladeshi-American to win an Emmy award for Music direction for a Super Bowl LVII piece, *Ragged old flag*, at the 44th Sport Emmys.

Shams Ahmed announced the news on his Facebook along with his Emmy award.

"To receive this award is an honour and blessing but to be the first Bangladeshi/Bangladeshi-American to win an Emmy Award for Music Direction. Feels absolutely unbelievable. Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support," read his post.

They were nominated in two categories - one for camera work, and the other for direct contributions in Music Direction.



NEWS

Liton's income rises fourfold

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Liton's income from fish cultivation has increased by more than seven times in the last five years. In 2018, he reported an income of Tk 32 lakh from fish farming, which increased to Tk 2.42 crore in 2023.

However, Liton, the immediate past Rajshahi mayor, didn't specify fish farming as his profession, rather he declared himself as a lawyer but showed no income from his law practice.

"Law has been my profession since the beginning. However, I no longer earn from it and only practice law sparingly to support my party members," Liton, also a presidium member of Awami League told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Shaheen Akhtar, Khairuzzaman's wife, also declared an annual income of Tk 3.10 crore, even though she had no income during the 2018 RCC polls.

Besides, the assets in her name have also increased in value.

In 2018, she declared immovable assets including 1.63 acres of

agricultural land, a three-storey building, and two flats in Dhaka's Banani. Now, she has 1.77 acres of agricultural land, a fish farm worth Tk 79 lakh, and a two-storey building.

Among her movable assets, Shaheen Akhtar had 50 bhorti gold ornaments and other assets worth Tk 92 lakh in 2018. Now her movable assets are valued at Tk 2.20 crore plus the previously owned 50 bhorti gold.

Regarding his wife's income, Liton said his wife has been importing stones from India with her cousin for the past three years and raising a fish farm by herself.

In July 2008, when Liton contested the mayoral election for the first time, he declared his annual income of Tk 2.44 lakh and a net wealth worth of Tk 5.29 lakh.

AHM Khairuzzaman was elected as Rajshahi City Mayor for the first time in 2008. He was then defeated by BNP's Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul in the next election in 2013. Liton was re-elected mayor in the 2018 election.

He served in several local political

posts before he was made a presidium member of the Awami League in November 2021.

His wife Shaheen Akhtar is the vice-president of AL's Rajshahi City unit.

LITON'S RIVALS NOT EVEN CLOSE

The four mayoral candidates in this election are Awami League nominated candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Jatiya Party's Saiful Islam, Zaker Party's Latif Anwar and Islami Andolan Bangladesh's Murshid Alam.

Saiful Islam reported an annual income of Tk 3.6 lakh and assets worth Tk 4.3 lakh. Latif Anwar reported an annual income of Tk 3 lakh and assets worth Tk 1.5 lakh. Murshid Alam reported an annual income of Tk 3.3 lakh and Tk 12 lakh in cash.

On June 21, the RCC polls will be held using electronic voting machines (EVMs) from 8:00am to 4:00pm without any break.

The voting will take place at a possible 152 polling stations.

The total number of voters this time is 352,157. Of them, 171,85 are men and 189,972 are women.

Influential man, his 3 brothers worked Rab

FROM PAGE 14

influential person, Rajib said, "You are wise people, you will understand. They changed the trajectory of our lives when we were councillors. I can't reveal his name even if I want to. There are safety concerns for me and my family."

He added that the law enforcers never found his involvement with any casino.

Besides, the law enforcers have not found any evidence of his bank account abroad and the allegations of abundant wealth turned out to be false, he said.

Habibur, the other former councillor, alleged that he too was arrested because the Ahmed brothers wanted him out of the area.

"There was not any previous case against me. Rab charged me with possession of a firearm that did not belong to me. I turned in my firearm in 2018, a year before my arrest. I have a proof," he said, adding that Rab also

changed his name to "Pagla Mizan".

"They took away valuable documents, money and gold ornaments from my house. These items were not mentioned on the seizure list. I still haven't got any of it back."

About the allegations, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Khandaker Al Moin said those who had complaints against Rab should have written to the Rab headquarters.

"We conduct raids following the legal procedures. If there was a deviation, the individuals could have said it any time in the last four years. They can even inform the court through a lawyer."

"I don't know why they are telling this to journalists four years after the raids."

Moin added that the individuals making the allegations might have an ulterior motive.

The Daily Star could not reach Joseph, Haris, Anis and their brother

for comments.

In 2019, Haris wrote an application to the home ministry, saying that he and his brothers Anis and Joseph were falsely accused of killing a man named Mostafizur Rahman alias Mostafa.

The application also mentioned that the false accusation was made by Mostafa's brother Habibur Rahman Mizan, who was one of the two former councillors at yesterday's press conference.

Haris was sentenced to life in prison in two cases on May 25, 2004, over the murder of Mostafa, and on March 3, 2004, over the murder of Dhaka University student Abu Morsed.

Even though Haris didn't mention anything about the second case in his letter to the home ministry, the latter issued a circular on March 28, 2019, announcing that the government had pardoned him in both the cases.

Haris' brother Joseph, who had been sentenced to death, got the presidential clemency.

Challenging in Barishal, smooth sailing

FROM PAGE 1

But the faction loyal to Sadiq is largely absent on the campaign trail, said local AL sources.

Sources involved in Khair's campaign said Khair did not attend the Friday's meeting as most of the participants were Sadiq loyalists.

The Sadiq-led faction of AL has so far remained aloof and they may vote in favor of the IAB candidate.

The Daily Star could not reach Sadiq for comments as his phone was found switched off.

Meanwhile, criticising the incumbent mayor yesterday, Khair said, "The mayor failed in all sectors. The city dwellers couldn't reach him when they needed to."

He made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting with members of Barishal Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Called last night, Rubel Hawlader, personal secretary of Khair, picked Khair's phone and said that Khair was in a meeting.

"Islami Andolok Bangladesh has the biggest vote bank after the ruling Awami League. Considering this, the Sadiq led faction may silently extend its support to the Islami Andolok candidate," Rafiqul Alam, general secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) of Barishal unit, told The Daily Star.

Also IAB, which was founded by late Fazlul Karim, popularly known as Charmonai Pir, has a strong vote bank in Barishal since it was founded in Barishal and run from the city.

As the BNP boycotted the election, a faction of its supporters may favour the IAB mayor candidate, making it difficult for the AL contender to win the mayoral race.

Kamrul Ahsan Rupon, son of BNP leader and former mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal, is running as an independent.

In the Khulna City Corporation polls, the position of AL-nominated candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque is quite the opposite.

No feud within the local AL is visible. Khaleque has a "clean image" and the major opposition BNP is not taking part in the election.

For this, it should be easy for the ruling AL candidate to win, say AL sources.

"We are conducting door-to-door campaigns. The local Awami League is united to get the party candidate elected," MDA Babul Rana, general secretary of the city AL, told this newspaper.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kudrat-e-Khuda, president of Khulna Sacheton Nagorik Committee, said, "A participatory and competitive election creates an environment

of accountability. The absence of competition and accountability may give a sense of impunity to the elected persons, which may put the Khulna City Corporation in crisis."

[Our Barishal and Khulna correspondents contributed to this report.]

Ruet VC quits

FROM PAGE 14

movement by locking the VC's office from today if their demands are not met, he said.

At 11:45am yesterday, over 50 teachers stormed his office and started a sit-in inside demanding their promotion.

According to the teachers, at least 80 teachers have been deprived of their due promotion over one year.

They refrained from attending classes for four days until May 24 and staged sit-in programmes on the campus.

The teachers said the acting VC was unable to take any steps to solve their problems.

Meanwhile, Prof Awal, secretary of Ruet Teachers' Association, said the appointment of Prof Sazzad violates the Ruet rules that ensure none other than teachers from the engineering faculties will be the Ruet VC.



Arab-Israeli students and Israeli left-wing activists lift flags and placards during a protest against a new law bill bolstering restrictions on raising the Palestinian flag, at the Tel Aviv University campus in the eponymous coastal city yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP