



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

Welcome back, SWAGATA

SHARMIN JOYA

Actor, musician and anchor Zinat Sanu Swagata released her latest music video on Friday, through a programme at a restaurant in Gulshan. The rock song, *Say Something*, is a duet by Swagata and Hasan Azad. This is their second collaboration together.

The Daily Star caught up with Swagata to know more about her music, acting career and more.

"As we both penned the lyrics for the song, I wrote my part, and Hasan wrote his part," shared Swagata. "The song might sound that it is implying to a corrupted person, but it is actually about all of us who make mistakes and repent."

The lyrics for the song have been penned jointly by the singers, and they have also composed the music, produced by Khayam Sanu Sandhi. The music video has been directed by Aninda Kabir Avik.

"I don't expect this song to go viral, as it is dark and the theme itself is heavy, thus it might not reach people as light hearted projects does."

Swagata also aired her grievances about the condition of the music industry. "It is hard to call it an industry, we lack almost everything that is needed for us to be called a proper industry."

Amidst all negativity, Swagata finds a ray of hope in the fact that when artistes take the reins for the release and marketing for their own music, they will be in control of their own royalties.

The song is available on Swagata and Hasan's official Facebook and YouTube channels.

The artiste has been working as an actor on the television serial *Bou Shashuri*, which has been airing on Boishakhi television for a long time now.

Upon being asked on

the future of her acting career, Swagata is still looking for roles that makes her feel challenged. "My role in *Lal Moroger Jhuti* was one of the most satisfying characters that I did, however, my screen time was too short." The actor also informed that she is busy shooting for Eid-ul-Azha projects. "I will be working on both series and single fictions for the upcoming Eid, and I am also waiting for a few of my big screen projects to be released." The films are—*Manusher Bagan*, *Oshombhob* and *Dewaler Desh*. She will also host the special show, *Chhaya Chhondo*, this Eid-ul-Azha.



Rihanna surpasses Taylor Swift, becoming Forbes' richest self-made celebrity

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Rihanna, Beyoncé, and Taylor Swift all made Forbes' list of America's Richest Self-Made Women. The annual ranking of the country's most successful women entrepreneurs, executives, and entertainers was revealed on June 1. Rihanna with a phenomenal self-made score of 10, the *Work* singer ranks 20th on the list of richest self-made women.

Rihanna has an estimated net worth of USD 1.4 billion, which she has amassed from her achievements in both the music and cosmetics businesses.

Meanwhile, Taylor Swift claims the 34th position on the Forbes list, with a remarkable "self-made score" of 8 and an estimated net worth of \$740 million.

Rajinikanth finishes shooting his 169th film

Legendary Indian star Rajinikanth recently wrapped up his upcoming film *Jailer*, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar. The film, which counts as Rajinikanth's 169th project, also features Jackie Shroff, Shiva Rajkumar, Mohanlal, Tamannaah Bhatia and Ramya Krishnan, among others.

Taking to its social media accounts, the production house of *Jailer*, Sun Pictures shared, "It's a wrap for *Jailer*! *Jailer* From August 10."

Rajinikanth will be seen playing the lead role, 'jailer Muthuvvel Pandian' in the action thriller. *Jailer* was first announced last year in February.



COUNTRYWIDE

Cry for drinking water in remote Netrakona villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Several thousand people from the indigenous community at different remote villages in two upazilas of Netrakona have been suffering immensely for want of drinking water for years.

People, mostly belonging to the Hajong community, living at several villages in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazila said the crisis becomes acute in dry season when most of the water sources dry up due to the scorching heat.

Although several thousand people have been living in the bordering Lengura, Rongchhati and Kharnoi unions under Kalmakanda upazila, and Kullagara and Durgapur unions under Durgapur upazila for some 400 years, they never had any modern facilities for drinking water, villagers alleged.

Drinking water is a far cry for the villagers as they do not have any easy source of getting drinking water, said Sajol Hajong, a former member of Lengura Union Parishad (UP).

Locals said the situation gets more worsen during this time of the year due to lack of water in the springs and decline in underground water level.

As a result, indigenous villagers, mostly women are compel to collect drinking water from different spots.

Nayem Hajong of Gopalbari Chengri village in

Kalmakanda said there are around 10 ring wells in his village, where over 70 families live.

But, villagers have been collecting drinking water in such a way for years, he said.

Farmer Rupkumar Hajong of the village said this problem can be minimised through proper planning, but unfortunately such a situation is continuing for decades.

Saidur Rahman, chairman of Lengura UP in Kalmakanda, said around 50 ring wells have been installed at different spots in his union in the last three years, but those too are insufficient.

Motilal Hajong, a retired schoolteacher, said nearly 20,000 indigenous people living in Gopalpur, Bijoypur, Kullagara, Arapara, Sangara, Gujikura, Bhawanipur and Guchhagram villages in Durgapur upazila have been collecting drinking water from insufficient natural sources for decades.

While talking, Nazrul Islam, engineer at Kalmakanda Department of Public Health, said they are planning to install submersible pumps on community basis to supply drinking water in the hilly areas from reserve tanks.

Netrakona Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anjana Khan Majlish said they have taken up a project to install 10 deep tube wells in the hilly areas of Kalmakanda and Durgapur in order to mitigate the serious water crisis.



Some women from the indigenous community collect water from a drying up spring at Chandradanga Betgara village in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Fugitive held

FROM PAGE 12

stabbed Mitu to death.

After the grisly murder in 2016, a bounty of Tk 5 lakh was declared by the CMP to catch Musa and Kalu alive.

The PBI last year pressed charges against Babul and six others, alleging that Babul was the mastermind of the murder.

In its 2,084 page charge sheet, the PBI named 97 witnesses.

The dramatic turnaround from the complainant to prime accused happened after Babul was summoned for interrogation to the Chattogram PBI metro office in May 2021.

PBI officials said Babul had been involved in an extramarital affair while he was in Cox's Bazar as an additional SP there. He hired the mercenaries to murder his wife.

Testimonies were given by Sayful Haque -- Babul's business partner -- and Kazi Al Mamun -- a relative of fugitive accused Musa -- before the court in this regard.

Sayful said he arranged the money from Babul's share of profits from their business and sent the money via mobile banking service to Musa, said a top PBI official.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was stabbed and shot dead when she was walking her son to his school bus stop at the port city's GEC intersection. After the murder, Babul filed a case against three unidentified men with Panchlaish Police Station.

Load shedding

FROM PAGE 12

demanded more allocation for the energy sector to ensure uncut power for the enterprises.

If the industries do not get enough electricity and fuel at fair price, their production will be hampered, which will affect the economy, said FBCCI President Jashim Uddin.

The industry will have to create jobs for the youths who are joining the job market every year, he said. "But how will they do it if energy crisis hampers manufacturing."

Apart from the energy sector, the government should give more focus on skills development, he said.

The FBCCI also demanded cancellation of all types of advance income tax (AIT) and advance tax (AT) on imports as the process of getting refunds of the AIT, AT is very complex and it increases the cost of doing business.

Over 18,000

FROM PAGE 1

There were a total of 1,14,539 government primary schools, kindergartens, NGO-run schools, ibtadai madrassas, and other private schools in the country last year.

The number was 1,33,002 in 2020 and 1,18,891 in 2021, shows the DPE data.

The number of NGO-run schools fell from 4,619 in 2020 to 3,753 in 2021 and 2,911 in 2022. The number of kindergartens fell from 29,897 in 2020 to 28,193 in 2021 and 26,478 in 2022.

The number of primary school-level students was 2,15,51,691 in 2020, and it fell to 2,0,90,057 in 2021, and slightly rose to 2,0,46,091 in 2022.

The number of secondary school-level students was 2,15,51,691 in 2020, and it fell to 2,0,90,057 in 2021, and slightly rose to 2,0,46,091 in 2022.

Farid Ahmed, secretary at the primary and mass education ministry, said many students quit schools during the pandemic and enrolled to Qawmi madrasas. This happened mainly because of the temporary suspension of a stipend programme for students.

Japan to launch satellite

FROM PAGE 12

after space exposure, scientists said.

The international research group has determined that the satellite LignoSat, slated to be jointly launched in 2024 by Nasa and Japan's space agency Jaxa, will likely use Magnolia wood -- "Hoonoki" in Japanese.

Magnolia, researchers said, has relatively high workability, dimensional stability and overall

Rasheda points out that the closure of so many schools means a greater number of educated people are unemployed.

Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Kindergarten School and College Oikya Parishad, says the chances that the closed schools would reopen are slim.

During the pandemic, the owners sought financial assistance, soft loans, and waiver of utility charges, but did not get any, he said, adding that only government incentives could bring the schools back to life.

However, the government currently has no plans to provide incentives to schools and kindergartens, ministry officials say.

If the closed schools are to resume their academic activities, the DPE will not stop them, said its director general Shah Rezwon Hayat.

The data shows that the number of pre-primary students was 39.50 lakh in 2020, 31.36 lakh in 2021, and 33.83 lakh last year.

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Magnolia, researchers said, has relatively high workability, dimensional stability and overall

strength, making its properties ideal for the mission.

"Wood's ability to withstand simulated low earth orbit -- or LEO -- conditions astounded us," Koji Murata, head of the research effort, said in 2021.

"We... want to see if we can accurately estimate the effects of the harsh LEO environment on organic materials," Dr Murata said.

whereabouts and the conditions the women were in."

Soon after the interrogation, the recruiting agency shut its office and its employees went into hiding, the official added.

"The [recruiting] agency later started the process to bring the 12 women home hoping that they would be able to avoid legal complications."

Ziaul further said that they were trying to convince the women to file a case against the recruiting agency.

This newspaper could not reach the officials of MH Trade International for comments.

12 women return from KSA

FROM PAGE 2

complained that he could not contact his wife since she reached Saudi Arabia.

The man alleged that his wife was abused both mentally and physically. He also complained about the recruiting agency and sought assistance from the AAPBn for bringing his wife home.

After receiving the complaints, the AAPBn intelligence team started working on the matter, said Ziaul.

He said that they contacted the recruiting agency and enquired its officials about the allegations. "We also wanted to know about the