

# BHABNA on all channels at the same time

SHARMIN JOYA

Nayantara's family was assassinated while she went to visit her father-in-law. Upon returning, she discovers that all of her family members have been killed, and she is the only one left alive. Being the only successor to her family, she took over her father's place and becomes the chairperson of the village. This is the storyline in BTV's *Abar Ashibo Phire*, written and helmed by noted director Aminesh Aich.

Amidst the OTT wave, has Ashna Habib Bhabna accomplished something truly remarkable in the traditional television space whilst portraying Nayantara? We speak to her face-to-face about it.

**Why is 'Abar Ashibo Phire' important to you?**

This project will be released on August 15, and the plot is inspired from the assassination of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in 1975, what we consider as the darkest date in the history of Bangladesh. It has been inspired by the devastating experience that our Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina went through. This will be aired on BTV at 9 pm, simultaneously on all private channels. I am really excited that our Prime Minister might watch this work too.

**What did you do as a homework to play Nayantara?**

Whoever follows me on social media, must have noticed that I have been sharing interviews of our PM, as I was trying to study her persona. I found that she is not just a tremendous leader, but deep inside, she is very innocent and a soft-hearted person. Afzal uncle (Afzal Hossain) and I were told not to imitate them to become the characters, but take inspiration from their story. In this

journey, I discovered many layers in her persona, which amused me.

**After a long time, you and Aminesh Aich collaborated in a project...**

Yes, after three long years! See, I actually don't like to give the credibility of my career or hard work to anyone else. We all know that Aminesh is a great director and at the same time, he is a close friend of mine. Many people assumed that I get projects due to my personal relationships, this is extremely painful. In my long career, the first time I have worked with my father (Habibul Islam Habib) was in *Japito Jibon*. I am very careful about such things, and won't let anyone take the credibility of my efforts!

**You and Afzal Hossain share a lot of similarities. Do you discuss about your art with him?**

We share a lot about art, he is a student of Charukala, where I am just a self-taught artist. I feel like I have a lot to learn from him. Besides discussing acting, art we also talk about dance, and poetry. Whenever he gets an interesting video on dance, he forwards it to me on whatsapp, and I share lot of art works with him too. We share a great bond.

**When can we expect your first solo art exhibition?**

Very soon. I will be returning to the shoots of my upcoming film, *Excuse Me*, by the end of this month. Also, I am waiting for two of my featurttes (*Japito Jibon* and *Dampara*). As soon as I get some free time, I will focus more on my first solo exhibition on Dhaka.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR NEHEL

## Bangladeshi artist's painting going to the moon



Salbhi Sumaiya, a talented Canada-based artist who also operates as MerakiStudio.Art, painted a beautiful rendering of a wolf and her cub, called *Maternal instinct*, which is now destined to go to the moon.

The painting has been selected to be on the Lunar Codex along with 30,000 other arts from different artists. According to the website, the Lunar Codex is a time capsule that archives artistic information from Earth, to be sent to the moon.

Samuel Peralta, a semi-retired physicist and art collector from Canada is leading the effort. He has gathered artwork from 30,000 artists, writers, filmmakers and musicians from 157 countries, and the works are divided into a total of four time capsules.

## 'Pett Kata Shaw' to screen at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne



Nuhash Humayun's anthology horror series, *Pett Kata Shaw* is the only Bangladeshi feature to be showcased at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

*Pett Kata Shaw* will be screened at Hoyts Chadstone theatre on August 19 at 9 pm.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will run from August 12-20. The film has been curated by screenxcope in association with Poth

Productions.

Earlier on, *Pett Kata Shaw* was screened at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam in February.

# NEWS

## 51km roads badly damaged by floods

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estimate the extent of damage caused to the Chattogram Cox's Bazar and Chattogram-Bandarban highways.

Suman Singh, executive engineer (south division) of Chattogram Divisional Road and Highway, said most of the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar and Chattogram-Bandarban highways have been damaged by the floods.

Two teams are on the spot to assess the extent of damage, he said.

He said renovation work has started on some roads in the port city and the highways to keep traffic normal, but the workers are facing problems due to the non-stop rain.

### FAMILIES STILL STRANDED IN BANDARBAN

Some 120-130 families in Bandarban's Ruma upazila were still waterlogged yesterday as floodwater had yet to recede from the area.

Landslides caused by the recent torrential rain have blocked the channels through which water could recede, reports our Bandarban

### Some 120-130 families in Ruma upazila were still waterlogged yesterday as floodwater had yet to recede from the area.

correspondent, quoting locals.

"People of Khrikkhong, Bhaggomoni Para, and several other neighbourhoods are still stranded. They can't even come to the local market to buy daily essentials," said Janmoni Tripura, 45, a ward member of Ruma Sadar union parishad.

"Many croplands and fruit orchards have also been damaged by the flood," he said.

"Road communication from Ruma upazila to Bogalake has snapped because portions of the road have been damaged by landslides," said Shoi Hla Marma, president of Ruma Press Club.

Contacted, Ruma Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Syed Mahbul Haque said, "We have already taken the initiative to remove the floodwater and resume road communications."

## Body of a Bangladeshi recovered

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went missing after the accident, their family members claimed.

The eight left Bangladesh in phases about five to six months ago with the help of one Zakir Hossain, a local manpower broker, who was paid Tk 10-12 lakh for each.

Deceased Masud is a cousin of Zakir.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Masud's uncle Nurul said, "Zakir himself contacted me today [Sunday] over imo [an instant messaging app]. He said that Masud's body was found floating in the sea.

"But he couldn't elaborate. We don't know where [in the sea] and when the body was found. We don't know how we will bring the body back to Bangladesh. Zakir just told us to be patient and he will arrange everything to bring the body back to home."

Meanwhile, family members of Monir Hossain, who is believed to be alive, also said that they don't know

## They invoke 'hijrat'

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were placed on a five-day police remand for questioning yesterday.

During the raid, police found evidence that suggests that the "hideout" could accommodate at least 30 people in addition to the 10 arrested, a senior CTTC official told The Daily Star.

"We found about 500 toothbrushes, 60 soaps, combat boots, boxing gloves, and two sacks of extremist literature in the hideout," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Investigators also said they found some stethoscopes as well, suggesting there were three to four doctors who may have extremist views.

Among those arrested at the hideout was Maisha Islam, wife of a private hospital doctor named Sohel Tanzim.

The doctor along with college student Fahim Khan escaped the raid, having sensed the police presence.

Fahim's father Advocate Ayub Khan Babul said his son left their Jashore home on July 28 without informing anything to the family

where he was at the moment.

"A man from Libya contacted Ashraf [a local union parishad member] over imo. He said that my brother is still alive," said Lutfa Begum, elder sister of Monir.

"But we still have not been able to contact my brother."

Contacted, Ashrafur Islam, member of a Narayanpur Union Parishad under the upazila, said, "My brother-in-law Aman was also on that boat. He called me over imo today [Sunday] and told me that he and Monir are alive. But I don't know where they are staying."

Aman Miah, 21, was found and rescued shortly after the capsizing and was not one of the eight missing Bangladeshis.

Abdul Quader, brother of Rabiul Islam, also believed to be alive, said, "He [Rabiul] called me over the phone from a Libyan number around 11:00am today [Sunday] and said he was able to swim ashore. As far as I know, he is staying somewhere in Libya's Tripoli."

## Aedes larvae

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According to Kabirul Bashar, entomologist at the Jahangirnagar University, the mosquito control measures are not properly taken outside Dhaka.

"The government as well as the residents of those cities do not give as much attention to controlling Aedes mosquitoes as they do in Dhaka," he said.

According to GM Saifur Rahman, entomologist at the National University, the absence of surveillance at the district towns has been a major failure this year.

"The government must have effective surveillance to identify dengue hotspots. This will enable local government departments, community organisations, and educational institutions to conduct targeted interventions," he said.

The city corporation officials and the residents share the responsibility to curb mosquito infestation by creating awareness, cleaning houses, and eliminating potential breeding grounds, he added.

## 55 BCL men

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Mohaimin Chowdhury, an assistant public prosecutor of the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, confirmed the case details and said that Judge Suman Bhuiyan received the case and ordered Kotwali Police Station to record the case as an FIR and forward it to the court.

In the case statement, Prabal Chowdhury stated that he had posted Facebook statuses criticising the formation of some recently announced BCL units under the district and city units, as well as the involvement of a few BCL leaders in the illegal smuggling of sugar from India.

The former members of the BCL central committee mentioned in the statement that he was attacked and that his business establishment was vandalised because of the posts.

He also stated in the statement that Nazmul Islam, Rahel Siraj, and Nayeem Ahmed were carrying firearms and opened fire during the attack.

After the attack, the BCL central committee on Friday formed a four-member probe body to investigate the matter and submit a report as soon as possible.

Sunny Mohammad Akash, central deputy office secretary of BCL, told UNB that action would be taken against those found guilty as per the party rules.

## Questions leaked 10 times

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Jasim Uddin Bhuiyan Munnu, who was busted in 2020, was the mastermind of this racket.

His cousin Abdus Salam, a machine operator at the DGME press, used to leak questions for many years, with help from influential DGME officials while Jasim used to spread the leaked questions all over the country, using a strong network, said CID officials.

The recent arrestees are: Dr Moiz Uddin Ahmed Pradhan, 50; Dr Soheli Zaman, 40; Dr Mohammad Abu Raihan, Dr; ZM Salehin Showon, 48; Dr Md Zobaidur Rahman Johnny, 38; Dr Zillur Hasan Roni, 37; Dr Imrul Kayes Himel, 32; Abdul Quddus Sarkar, 63; Zahirul Islam Bhuiyan Muktar, 68; Roshan Ali Himu, 45; Akhtaruzzaman Tushar, 43; and Zahir Uddin Ahmed Bappi, 45.

Among them, Dr Moiz and Dr Soheli are a couple while Dr Imrul is the son of Abdul Quddus. Furthermore, ZM Salehin, Dr Roni, and Tushar were earlier arrested by Rab in 2015.

About the recent arrests, the CID said Dr Moiz was one of the masterminds of the question leak gang. After passing the MBBS, he became a member of the gang through a coaching centre called Fame.

Dr Moiz has two money laundering cases against him, the CID said, adding that his wife Soheli, another arrestee, is a doctor at the National Institute of Ophthalmology.

The court has ordered to seize assets of five of the arrestees.

Eight of the arrestees made confessional statements before a Dhaka court while Dr Moiz and Dr Zobaidur each were placed on four-day remand and Moiz's wife Soheli on two-day remand.

Dr Raihan ran the private coaching centre called Primate while ZM Salehin was connected with the coaching centre called 3 Doctors. Dr Zobaidur Rahman was the owner of the Medico Coaching Centre.

Dr Imrul was involved in this racket through his father Abdul Quddus Sarkar, a retired headmaster at Mintu Memorial High School in Tangail, who formed a question

paper leak syndicate in Tangail and Mymensingh, according to the CID.

Raids were conducted in different districts in connection with the case filed over the leaks under the Digital Security Act with Mirpur Police Station. With the new arrests, the number of arrestees in the case now stands at 23. 14 of them gave confessional statements before a Dhaka court.

After the arrest of ringleader Jasim, savings certificates worth Tk 21.27 crore in 38 of his accounts and Tk worth around 4 crore in his wife's bank savings were found.

Talking to this correspondent, CID Additional Superintendent of Police Jewel Chakma said medical admission test question papers were leaked on massive scales in 2006 and 2015. Besides, question papers were also leaked in 2001, 2003, 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2013.

Around 10 coaching centres, based mostly in Dhaka, had been involved in the leaks. Several medical coaching centres – including Medico, Primate, Fame, 3 Doctors, E Haque and Universal Coaching – were found to be connected with the racket, he added.

## Govt to import eggs

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Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection would drive to rein in the price.

The DNCRP already started raiding various warehouses in the capital and is imposing fines.

He said the commerce ministry can't import eggs if it wants. "To do so, permission of the fisheries and livestock ministry will be required. There is no scope to import eggs without their cooperation."

He said initiatives will be taken to import eggs immediately after getting the go-ahead from the livestock ministry.

Meanwhile, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim yesterday said it is now up to the commerce ministry whether it would consider importing eggs on its own.

If the market could be streamlined with domestic production, then may be there is no need for import, he said after a meeting on the egg price at the Secretariat.

He opined the price of an egg should not be more than Tk 12.