



Tinu Rashid from Karnival

Black Zang

Owned



Cryptic Fate

SPECTACULAR CONCERT ROCKS *Liberation War Museum*



Probar Ripon from Shonar Bangla Circus

It was pandemonium at the Liberation War Museum on Friday as 'Live2Web Records: Playlist Live Concert' featured some of the hottest acts in Bangladeshi music today. The band Cryptic Fate headlined the concert soon after the launch of their new album, 'Noy Maash'. Also featured were Shonar Bangla Circus, Karnival, Owned, A K Rahul and Black Zang.

PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR



A K Rahul

COUNTRYWIDE

Fortune smiles on cauliflower growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Bumper yield and good market price have brought smile to cauliflower growers in Rangpur region this season.

Local farmers are making a handsome profit by selling the winter vegetable to the buyers from different parts of the country since the harvesting started in mid-January that would continue till the end of March.

A number of farmers in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram said due to favourable weather conditions they have an unexpected production of cauliflower this season.

Although the cultivation cost has increased a bit this year, compared to the last year, they are selling each cauliflower, weighing 900 grams to 1kg, to the wholesale buyers at Tk 20 to Tk 22, which was Tk 8 to Tk 9 during this time last year, they said.

Farmer Shafiqul Islam of Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said he planted 17,000 cauliflower seedlings on his four bighas of land, spending about Tk 1 lakh, this season.

"Only two weeks ago I sold 1,200 cauliflowers at Tk 28 per piece, which is now selling for Tk 20 to Tk 22," he said, adding that he is expecting to earn a profit of over Tk 2.5 lakh by the end of the season.

Shafiqul said last year he managed to earn a profit of Tk 62,000 by selling cauliflowers, cultivated on six bighas land.

Prabhat Chandra Sen, another grower from Baidyerbazar area in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila, said last year he grew cauliflower on 8 bighas of land, but this year he cultivated the item on 6 bighas land.

The cultivation cost of cauliflower has increased this season, but they are still getting a handsome profit due to good market price of the vegetable this season, he said.

Cauliflower growers are getting a good profit by selling their produces as prices of all types of vegetables is much higher this year, he added.

Maqbul Hossain, a vegetable vendor at Pauro Bazar in Kurigram town, said though supply of cauliflower is a bit less in local markets this season, its price is quite satisfactory for the growers.

According to data obtained from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), cauliflowers have been cultivated on 14,000 hectares of land in different upazilas of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts this year.

About 33,000 to 34,000 pieces of cauliflower can be cultivated on each hectare, DAE sources said.



Farmer Shafiqul Islam harvests cauliflowers from his field at Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Potentially habitable 'super-Earth'

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planet's surface. But there can be large margins of error associated with these factors, calling into question whether a planet really resides in the habitable zone, said lead study author Dr Georgina Dransfield, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham's School of Physics and Astronomy in the United Kingdom.

Astronomers believe that TOI-715b exists in a narrow and more optimal region around the star known as the conservative habitable zone, which is less likely to be affected by the margins of error.

"This discovery is exciting as it's the first super-Earth from TESS to be found within the conservative habitable zone," Dransfield said. "Additionally, as it's relatively close by, the system is suitable for further atmospheric investigations."

5 killed as truck rams easy bike

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identified as Sabbir Moral, 23, of Angardoha village in Kharnia union of Dumuria upazila; Nipa Dhali, 25, of Bill Pabla village in Gutudia union of Dumuria upazila; the easy bike driver Biswajit Biswas, 30, of Jieltala village in Shobna union of Dumuria upazila; and his two-year-old daughter Orni.

An unidentified 26-year-old woman also died.

Biswajit's wife Antima was seriously injured and is undergoing treatment at the KMCH

Widening road at the expense

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recently, this correspondent saw that workers were already removing soil to level the road. Several trees, planted under an afforestation project, were chopped down on both sides of the existing road while a few hills were also seen cut.

"As the instructions were from the high-ups, we can't obstruct the construction work," said Tarikur Rahman, range officer of the Karerhat forest office.

The Ramgarh Sitakunda reserve forest is home to 25 species of mammals, 123 species of birds, eight species of reptiles and 25 species of trees, according to the Forest Department.

Kamal Hossain, a former professor of the

Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chittagong University, has researched this forest for over a decade and published five papers on it.

"The existing road, which is already a safe route for timber smuggling, was also constructed on forestland many years ago. If it is widened, the forest will cease to exist in the future. The RHD needs to find an alternative route without destroying this reserve forest."

He added that forests in Chattogram have been suffering for long, as more than 22,500 acres were earlier razed by the Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority to set up the country's largest economic zone in Mirsarai.

Meanwhile, another 13,130 acres of forestland have already been occupied by encroachers, said a report of the Chattogram North Forest Division.

Environmentalists fear this project will be an additional blow to the fast-depleting forestlands of Chattogram.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sharif Jamil, member-secretary of Dhara, an environmental organisation, said, "The government is leasing out the forestland [for development projects], violating its commitment at COP-26 to stop deforestation by 2030."

Contacted, Pintu Chakma, project manager and executive engineer of Chattogram RHD, said, "We are being given 90

acres of the land from the Forest Department though we wanted 174 acres to widen the road.

"We have no other alternative but to use this forestland for the project. However, we will be careful...."

Contacted, Bipul Krishna Das, forest conservator of Chattogram region, said, "We agreed to hand over the 90 acres on condition that it be used only to widen the road. The RHD will never have the ownership of this land.

"We had initially rejected their application for permission to use this forestland. However, higher officials later requested us to give it as the road is meant to be used for international trade."

12 years of frustration

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The couple's only child Mahir Sarowar Megh, only five at the time, was in the flat. Megh, who is now 17, is still in the dark over his parents' gruesome death.

Runi's brother Nowsher Roman, also the plaintiff of the case, told The Daily Star that such comments from the top ministers don't surprise them anymore.

"Since the beginning, we have been getting such statements from the ministers. It's not the first time. The law minister's statement is just an addition to those statements."

The statements suggest that the government is not interested in serving justice "for some reasons".

"It was still okay if the investigation officer had said such a thing. But when a top minister of the government says this, where can we go for justice? Such statement makes the perception strong that some influential quarter might have been behind their murder," he said.

Since April 18, 2012, Rab has sought deferral

of the deadline to submit its findings to courts 105 times and the two previous agencies did it twice. In total, the deadline has been put off 107 times.

But right after the murder, Sahara Khatun, the home minister at the time, vowed to catch the killers within 48 hours. That 48 hours have now rolled into about 1,05,192 hours, but the promise remains unfulfilled.

The family members now express doubts about the sincerity and willingness of the government to solve the murder mystery.

Runi's mother Nur Nahar Mirza died two years back without seeing justice for her daughter and son-in-law.

About the investigation, Roman said that the Rab often arranges press conferences for even trivial matters like seizures of small amounts of cannabis. But in this case, they kept mum.

"At the very beginning, they [Rab] were interested in the case when they were not assigned. But after they were handed over the investigation, they failed to

do anything for the last 12 years," Roman said.

Contacted, Rab's spokesperson Khandaker Al Moin said that if the victim families are not satisfied with Rab's investigation, they can apply to the court to change the investigation agency.

About the investigation, Moin said: "We are working to unearth two specific things: the killers and the motive behind the killing. But so far, we didn't get anything conclusive."

After the case was filed on February 12, 2012, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station was tasked with the investigation. After three days, the case was handed over to the Detective Branch of police. After their failure, the case was transferred to the Rab on April 18, 2012.

Among the eight arrestees in the case, two got bail. The rest are behind the bar.

Rab Additional SP Khandaker Md Shafiqul Alam is the seventh investigation officer in the case. He was given the job on July 7, 2019.

On October 7, 2020, he

submitted a progress report into the double murder.

In the progress report, he said evidence seized from the crime scene was sent to the Independent Forensic Service (IFS) in the US for DNA tests. The IFS identified the DNA of two unidentified men. Later, another US DNA lab, Parabon Snapshot, was communicated for identifying the two.

The test results failed to come up with anything concrete, according to Rob officials.

A Dhaka court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the case on February 27.

Dhaka

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The application seeking the GI status for Tangail sari has been accepted for publication in the form of a journal, according to Zakia Sultana, senior secretary of the industries ministry.

A gazette will be published about two months after the publication of the journal.