



Samrat with his father, Nayak Raj Razzak.



Chanchal Chowdhury with his father.



Apurba with his father.

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

'If I could embrace him one more time'

Fathers play a great role in a child's life. They are the shadow, guide, and often the most reliable friend one can have. Commemorating Father's Day today, stars who have lost their father have expressed feelings that remain untold, and what they would say if they got another chance.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

I would share all my good news with him: Apurba

Not just for any special occasion, I remember him every day. Whenever I receive good news, I wish that I could share it with him, but he is far away. My father was a simple man, and I have always said that he is my hero!

I was quite close to him, and we used to talk a lot about so many things. He left us so early, and there are so many things I want to share with him every day. Only a child who lost their father can understand the void.

I wish I could say 'baba' one more time: Chanchal Chowdhury

Whenever I went to my hometown, I used to hear baba's voice. Now that he is gone, I can't hear his voice, neither I can say the word baba. Without him the house is empty.

My father was a teacher, and all of my siblings and I were his students. I have always tried to



Aruna Biswas with her family

live with my father's ideals, and want to keep them until my last breath.

I have lots of things to share with my father, and it hurts that I cannot share anything with him now. A father sacrifices a lot for his children, and I pray for all the fathers in the world on this Father's Day, and wish that they always remain happy.

My father was my friend: Samrat
I miss him all the time. Baba was my friend and confidant. He had all the solutions to all of my problems. Baba was a family-oriented person and loved his family. He would spend quality time with us. After he retired from the film industry, all of his time was for the family.

Whenever we gather for a

family programme, we deeply feel his absence. Even today, some of his friends come over to meet us, and at that time, we miss him more. If he were alive today, I would hug him and say 'I miss you all the time baba'.

I can still feel his presence: Aruna Biswas

I never want to forget my baba. He will always be in my thoughts. I can still almost feel how he smelled, walked, and talked and drank tea. Baba was a teacher and an actor. I took the initial acting lessons from him, as did many renowned actors in the country. He was known as 'Jatra Samrat' Amalendu Biswas. He was a freedom fighter, and sacrificed a lot for the country.

My father was a bookworm and he used to read all night and go for a walk early in the morning. After that, he would have a cup of tea and take rest. During that time, I used to wake up from sleep and run to his bed and lying on the bed with him and taking his smell was one of my favourite things to do.

Minar lends voice to Tollywood film 'Babli'

Minar Rahman, who made us fall in love with his melodious voice, will be lending his voice to Raj Chakrabarty's upcoming film, *Babli*.



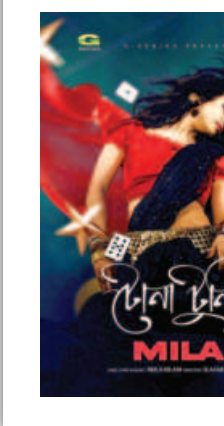
The film is based on a novel by Buddhadeb Guha. For the first time, popular actor Abir Chatterjee and actress Subhashree Ganguly are set to star together in a film.

The first song from the movie, *Dube Achi*, was released yesterday. The song has been composed by Indraadip Dasgupta and written by Subrata Barishwala.

Mila drops another item song

From *Bapuram Sapure* to *Chera Pal*, Mila's songs have made us groove to her peppy songs and upbeat rhythms. For a long time, she was missing from the music scene but now she has made a roaring comeback with her second item song.

This Eid-ul-Azha, as part of G-Series' Eid surprise, Mila surprised her fans with special new song which was released, yesterday. Mila made her comeback with the song *Tona Tunu*. Not only did she sing, but she also wrote the lyrics and composed the music for the song. Maruf Chowdhury stars alongside her in the music video, which was directed by Ilzar Islam.



"*Rupban* was my first item song. I haven't been seen in a song of that genre since. Many a time, my fans have expressed interest in seeing me perform another item song, but no one could provide lyrics that resonated with me. Finally, I decided to write the lyrics myself and arranged the tune and music in my style," revealed the singer.

NEWS

Rain likely on Eid day

FROM PAGE 12
warned of "short-term" flooding in the country's northern and northeastern regions due to heavy rainfall.

The northern, northeastern, and adjoining upstream parts of the country are expected to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next 24 to 72 hours. As a result, the Surma-Kushiyara, Sarigowain, Someswari, Jadukata, and Jhalukhali rivers in the northeastern region may rise rapidly and cross the danger level at some places, according to the FFWC bulletin issued at 9:00am.

In that case, the low-lying areas of Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar may experience short-term flooding, it added.

At the same time, Teesta, Dharla, and Dudhkumar rivers in the northern region may also rise rapidly and cross the danger level at some places, resulting in short-term floods in the adjoining low-lying areas, the bulletin also said.

The major rivers in the northeastern region are already on a rising trend and may continue to rise in the next 72 hours, it added.

The water level of the Brahmaputra and the Jamuna rivers may also rise in the next 72 hours, according to the FFWC bulletin.

Meanwhile, the Teesta's water level is already rising quickly, and thousands of people who live along its banks and in its char areas fear that flooding may occur at any moment.

On Friday, authorities concerned opened all 44 sluice gates of the Teesta Barrage at Dalia Point in Nilphamari as the river was swelling due to incessant rain and the onrush of water from upstream India.

"It is alarming how fast the Teesta has been swelling since Friday evening! If this situation continues, flooding will occur in our area at any moment and damage our homes and cropland," said Aftab Ali, a resident of Charganai village in Rangpur's Kaunia upazila.

[Our Dinajpur correspondent contributed to this report.]

Mangoes from 4 continents in one single orchard

FROM PAGE 12
Africa, Australia and America]."

He established the Matri Bagan, including a nursery on a three-bigga land, with 150 mango plants.

A marketing graduate, Shibli aspires to develop his career as an agro entrepreneur with focus on fruit varieties, especially mangoes, from across the globe.

"Twenty-six mango varieties are already giving great output. The remaining 16 have been planted and will soon start bearing fruits.

"Whenever I learn about a new variety of mango from anywhere in the country, I rush there to get it! My dream is to turn my orchard into the only one in the country that grows the most variety of mangoes from around the world!"

Visiting Matri Bagan recently, this correspondent saw mangoes of different shapes and colours swinging from tree branches. Many were covered in fruit bags to ensure pests and birds do not affect them.

A lot of research also goes into the work to determine conducive atmospheres for each variety.

"The mangoes from different countries have different characteristics. But since we're growing them all in the same orchard, we're taking special care. We use the fruit bags also to ensure they get their proper shape and colour," Shibli added.

In his Matri Bagan, each tree – mostly two to two and half years old – bears at least 20-40kgs of mangoes.

"Though my orchard is new and the trees are young, we're satisfied with the production from each of them ... We'll get more yield from each tree as they get older."

Shibli gets orders from different supershops for mango supplies, "But I am not going for commercial sales yet. Maybe next year, if production increases. However, if someone separately wants to buy mangoes from me, I sell the foreign varieties

at Tk 500-1,000 per kg."

Shibli also produces seedlings of various fruits by grafting the mother trees in his nursery. Including the 42 varieties of mangoes, there are 200 varieties of fruits growing in his nursery.

Grafting or graftage is a horticultural technique whereby tissues of plants are joined so as to continue their growth together.

Many fruit and plant lovers also buy saplings of different fruit varieties from Matri Bagan.

"When I began the nursery five years ago, I earned around Tk 70,000-80,000 a year from selling saplings. Now, with my varieties widened, I get Tk 40-50 lakh a year.

"Along with growing my agro business, I want to help people with job opportunities in my area through my orchard."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sheikh Mehedi Hasan, a resident of Shahapar village in the upazila, said he often goes to Shibli's orchard to observe the beautiful mangoes from different countries.

"It's not possible for us to go to all these countries, but Shibli has at least made it possible for us to get the taste of mangoes from there! It's rare to get so many varieties in one single orchard."

A gold medalist farmer from the upazila, Md Sajahan Ali Badsha said, "It's not easy to grow fruits or crops from different countries on one single field, but Shibli has shown how to make it possible.

"Many farmers try to cultivate foreign varieties together but, in most cases, they don't succeed. What Shibli is doing will revolutionise the agro business."

Mita Sarker, agriculture officer of Ishwardi upazila, said, "Shibli is inspiring all those around him with this work. He is successful in grafting trees and also growing the fruits from so many countries. With time, all those varieties will be able to tolerate our weather and we can get more production."

Crisis eases

FROM PAGE 12
had not received daily supplies since June 6.

Yamin Hossain, additional district magistrate, said, "Residents of St Martin's Island will not face any shortage of food as they have just received a month's worth of food supplies."

He also mentioned that special arrangements would be made to reach the mainland in the event of a medical emergency.

Meanwhile, as of last morning, there had been no sound of gunshots or explosions from the Myanmar side.

Political feud

FROM PAGE 12
Aktaruzzaman by demanding a bigger cut from their gold smuggling racket, they said.

Amanullah, the main hitman hired by Aktaruzzaman, is a leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party. In his confessional statement made on June 5, Amanullah said his party decided to kill him 26 years ago because of his involvement in smuggling and land grabbing.

Investigators said they are verifying the claims.

Tanvir Bhuiyan, who assisted the killing under Amanullah's command, mentioned in his confession that the lawmaker travelled to Kolkata after he was told that the business conflicts would be solved there.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan recently said, "We never said Azim was killed over gold smuggling. We have always been saying that the MP's constituency is a crime-prone area. We must know what happened there. We are investigating, we will tell you everything after the probe is done."

Intelligence officials say the puzzle can only be solved after Aktaruzzaman, believed to be in the US, is caught.

Bangladesh's National Central Bureau of the Police Headquarters sent a letter requesting Interpol to issue a red notice for Aktaruzzaman, said its Assistant Inspector General Ali Haider Chowdhury.

"Interpol has yet to respond. Considering the importance of the matter, we are trying again and again," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Investigators hope that India can bring the key suspect back by using its extradition treaty with the US. The probe will be incomplete otherwise, they said.

Habibur Rahman, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said, "There is no interference in the investigation. We are investigating independently."

Tigers' chance to seal

FROM PAGE 12
beaten South Africa in this format.

However, a comprehensive 25-run win against the Netherlands in their penultimate group-stage match has given Chandika Hathurusingha's men breathing space ahead of their game against Nepal, an opposition they beat by eight wickets in Chattogram in the only encounter between the two teams during the 2014 T20 World Cup.

Nepal, though, have come a long way since their maiden appearance in Bangladesh, having finished second behind Oman in the Asia Qualifiers ahead of the ongoing edition. The associate nation may not have registered a victory in their first three matches, but they showed they can create a lot of problems for any side on their day as they pushed South Africa to the brink on Friday but eventually succumbed to a heartbreaking one-run defeat.

Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel said he did not want to go home empty-

handed and wanted to give their fans something to cheer about with a win against Bangladesh.

"We will play for pride. We wanted to beat a Test playing country. It didn't happen today, so we want to do that in the next game. The confidence that we got today, we want to carry that," Paudel said at the post-match press conference following the defeat against South Africa in Kingstown.

But Bangladesh would feel that they have passed the more difficult hurdles and would want to seize the golden opportunity of securing qualification.

Veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who played a match-winning knock of 64 not out against the Dutch following a lengthy lean patch with the bat, certainly felt that way.

"Obviously, the match against Nepal is very important for us. If we win, we will go to the second round which will be a big achievement for us," Shakib had said after the Netherlands victory.

Arundhati to face trial

FROM PAGE 1
153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

Under Indian Penal Code sections 153A, 153B and 505, a maximum sentence of up to three years is provided, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

However, section 13 of UAPA relates to unlawful activities for advocating, abetting or inciting any unlawful activity and is punishable with imprisonment of up to seven years.

It was alleged in the 2010 FIR that the accused had strongly propagated that Kashmir was never part of India and was forcibly occupied by the Indian armed forces and every possible effort should be made for the independence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir from the State of India.

The FIR was registered on a complaint by social activist Sushil Pandit on October 28, 2010, following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, they added.

It accused Roy and Hossain

of delivering the "provocative" speeches at a conference organised under the banner of 'Azadi-The Only Way' on October 21, 2010, at the Little Theatre Group (LTG) Auditorium on Copernicus Marg in central Delhi.

Besides Roy and Hossain, those who delivered speeches at the conference in 2010 included Kashmiri separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani, S A R Geelani (anchor of the Conference and prime accused in the Parliament attack case), and pro-Maoist cultural activist Varavara Rao.

However, the decision to try Arundhati Roy and Hossain under the tough anti-terror law has triggered a war of words between the opposition parties and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party yesterday.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) condemned the move and claimed that the move "defies logic except the fascist kind".

Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad said, "Fascism thrives on crushing dissent, particularly from intellectuals, artists, writers, poets & activists. BJP manufacture crises daily to distract and overwhelm dissenters enabling them to divert attention from their failures. This assault on free expression & democratic values is unacceptable," Hariprasad posted on X.