

Prolific actor, Ekushey Padak awardee JAMAL UDDIN HOSSAIN no more



Jamal Uddin Hossain sharing the screen with Tahsan Khan

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

artist joined the renowned theatre group Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, and began acting in stage plays in the '70s. In addition to being an actor, he was also a theatre director and directed several notable plays on the Dhaka stage.

After leaving Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, he eventually founded the Nagorik Natyangan Ensemble. He was a presidium member of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. He acted in many popular dramas on BTV as well.

Some notable plays he directed on the Dhaka stage include **Chand Boniker Pala**, **Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi**, **Raja Rani**, **Bibi Sahab**, and **Jugalbandi**. His direction of **Chand Boniker Pala** brought him significant acclaim on the Dhaka stage. Many of the plays he directed reached their 100th performance, a testament to his success.

For the past 15 years, he had mostly been sporadic in acting. During this time, he was actively travelling back and forth between the United States and Canada. His wife, Rowshan Ara Hossain, is a renowned actress. Their son, Tashfin Hossain, is a professor at a university in Canada, while their daughter lives in the United States.

He was deeply devoted to theatre, and dedicated his life entirely to it. He balanced both acting and directing stage plays with equal passion. At one point, he also served as the Radio and Television Drama Parliament president.

The artiste actively participated in political and cultural movements, often marching in rallies. He was also present at the Shaheed Minar during theatre movements. Both

Chand Boniker Pala and **All My Sons** were once selected as the best plays of that particular year. That same year, he won the BACHSAS Award for Best Director.

His Nagorik Natyangan Ensemble included theatre groups from Bangladesh and Kolkata. He last performed in **Tora Shob Joydhoni Kor**, written by Syed Shamsul Haque and staged in New York.

Actor Abul Hayat and the late actor grew up together. "He was my childhood friend. We grew up in Chattogram's Tiger Pass and studied in the same primary school. We have endless memories together. The first play I did was with Jamal, back when we were in primary school," he told The Daily Star. "To me, he was always Mintu. We worked extensively in both theatre and television. Today, one of my closest friends left us. I pray for his departed soul."

Renowned actor Tariq Anam Khan remarked, "In this country, a few highly educated people started acting when he began his journey as an artiste. I was impressed by his performances on stage, particularly his remarkable portrayal of the police officer in **Dewan Gazir Kissa**."

He also mentioned, "We collaborated in **Macbeth**, and his acting ability was exceptional. He might have been my senior, yet he was a good friend. Hearing about his passing has been deeply saddening."

Jamal Uddin Hossain notably authored an autobiographical book titled **Amar Jibon Amar Sujon**. According to his son, the late actor was laid to rest in Canada's Calgary yesterday after the **Janazah** prayers post Zuhr.

Jennie's 'Mantra' takes over iTunes charts worldwide



The famed K-pop girl group Blackpink's member Jennie released her new solo single, **Mantra**, on Thursday (October 10) – serving it as the perfect anthem for pretty girls everywhere.

According to Soompi, **Mantra** quickly topped iTunes charts in multiple countries after its release, reaching No. 1 in at least 47 regions, including the US, Brazil, Singapore, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Remarkably, **Mantra** is the sole track by a female K-pop solo artiste to have claimed the top spot on the US iTunes Top Songs chart in 2024 so far. In March 2024, she joined forces with Brockhampton's Matt Champion for a fresh collaboration titled **Slow Motion**.



'Pride and Prejudice' series in the works at Netflix

A new adaptation of Jane Austen's **Pride and Prejudice** is currently in the works at Netflix. Moreover, Dolly Alderton, the author of **Everything I Know About Love**, is writing the script. As of now, no cast has been confirmed, and the streaming platform has yet to officially approve the project. Netflix previously tackled Austen's work with a 2022 film version of **Persuasion** featuring Dakota Johnson.

Pride and Prejudice tells the story of sharp-witted Elizabeth Bennet, who learns that love can conquer pride and prejudice through her evolving relationship with Mr Darcy.

However, Alderton's representative did not respond to Variety's request for comment.



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Veteran actor and Ekushey Padak awardee Jamal Uddin Hossain, 81, passed away yesterday while undergoing pneumonia treatment at a hospital in Canada.

He had travelled from Atlanta, USA, to visit his son, Tashfin Hossain, at his home in Calgary, Canada. On September 18, he was admitted to the hospital after he fell ill.

Jamal Uddin was an engineer by profession. After graduating from BUET, the passionate

NEWS

Children at risk in 21,500 shabby schools

FROM PAGE 12

primary schools in 11 districts of Sylhet and Chattogram divisions, according to the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE).

Bangladesh has 1.07 lakh primary educational institutions, including 65,567 belonging to the government. Nearly 1.1 crore students of grades one to five are taught by more than 3.84 lakh teachers at the government primary schools.

Official data shows around 20 percent of the total primary schools across the country are in dilapidated conditions that have put the lives of tens of thousands of students and teachers at risk.

They have to give and take lessons in shabby buildings vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters like cyclones, floods, and earthquakes.

According to the DPE, another 16 percent of the school buildings also need repairs.

Field-level officials at the DPE and teachers said that the roofs of most of these schools are in ramshackle conditions.

DPE officials said that in July this year, 49,656 school buildings were "new, good and usable", 18,271 were "old", 16,998 were "repairable", 11,613 were in "dilapidated" conditions, 5,252 were "risky", 3,307 were "abandoned", 1,348 were "non-usable", and the rest were under construction.

They said a lot of the government primary schools are 40 to 50 years old. Many of the 26,193 primary schools, which were nationalised in 2013, are also in bad shape. Several hundred others have been damaged by floods or

cyclones.

In many cases, school authorities are holding classes even in buildings declared "abandoned", risking the lives of teachers and students.

DPE Director General Abdus Samad said renovating these school buildings is a continuous process.

"It is on our list of priorities. We take all kinds of steps so that students and teachers do not have to attend classes in fear," he said.

As many as 27 percent of government primary school buildings needed repair, according to the Impact Evaluation Report of the Third Primary Education Development Program, conducted by the Planning Commission's Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division and published in June 2023.

The report is based on information collected from 480 primary schools.

A total of 19 percent of the 1,200 students interviewed for the impact evaluation report said their classrooms are risky as rainwater gets through leaks in the roofs.

Prof Mohammad Tariq Ahsan of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research said the shabby condition of the schools takes a toll on the educational atmosphere.

"It is obvious that students and teachers constantly remain in fear during classes. Such a situation puts a huge psychological pressure on them, affecting the process of learning," he said.

"Schools should ensure an atmosphere favourable to joyful learning. But a school building in disrepair lacks such an environment,

Sayed, we are enjoying freedom today. We now work as representatives of the government to uphold that legacy," he added.

During the event, Nahid rejected an honorary crest presented by the university as a teacher who had opposed the SAD movement was also being honoured. The Daily Star has learnt from people present at the event.

Addressing the government's inattention towards Rangpur for long, Nahid said the region has been overlooked in national budgets, receiving less than areas like Gopalganj. He emphasised the interim

for which students lose concentration in the classroom. They also lose motivation," he added.

Teachers also face some problems. They feel upset, a feeling that greatly affects teaching, Tariq pointed out.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Farid Ahmed said that they are constructing a new building and beautifying 342 government primary schools in Dhaka.

Prof Tariq said it is a good step that many government primary schools in Dhaka are set to go through beautification for improvement of the physical ambience.

But such a programme should be implemented for all schools across the country, not just the capital, he added.

Secretary Farid said they have plans to expand the programme to the rest of the country and renovate all primary schools across Bangladesh in the next five years.

FLOOD DAMAGE

Floods in the country's southeastern and northeastern regions in August have caused damage to the infrastructures, furniture, books, and documents at 2,799 government primary schools across 11 districts, the DPE said in a press release on September 10.

The affected schools included 763 in Noakhali, 501 in Lakshimpur, 553 in Feni, 22 in Brahmanbaria, 523 in Cumilla, 169 in Chandpur, 164 in Chattogram, 77 in Moulvibazar, eight in Sylhet, and 22 in Habiganj.

Citing initial estimates, the DPE said repairing the school buildings damaged by the floods would require around Tk 33 crore and the directorate would get budget allocation for the work.

government's commitment to addressing the disparity and ensuring fairness in future allocations.

Regarding the Teesta mega project, Nahid reiterated that the government is committed to securing Bangladesh's rightful claims based on fairness and equality, dismissing any submissive foreign policies.

The inauguration ceremony at BRU was attended by the BRU's Vice Chancellor Md Shoukat Ali, University Grants Commission member Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan as well as family members of Abu Sayed and various faculty members.

Tigresses exit

FROM PAGE 12

competition, the Tigresses only managed to score 106 for three in 20 overs after having opted to bat first.

After a slow start in the Powerplay, managing 21 for one, Sobhana Mostary – team's best batter in the tournament – struck 38 off 43 balls, while skipper Nigar Sultana Joty made an unbeaten 32 off 38 balls to guide score past three digits at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

"The way we started in the Powerplay wasn't great. When you don't get a good start in the Powerplay, it will be difficult. We tried to build a partnership, but we played a lot of dots, and against this South African line, it wasn't good enough," Joty said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

South Africa, in reply, lost opener-cum-skipper Laura Wolvaardt for seven in the third over off leg spinner Fahima Khatun, who ended up with 2-19 in her four overs. However, Tazmin Brits and Anneke Bosch struck 42 and 25 runs, respectively, sharing a 53-run stand

for the second wicket to take their side close to victory.

Although both batters departed in quick succession, Chloe Tryon (14 not out) and Marizanne Kapp (13 not out) ensured no further casualties in their innings as South Africa reached target in 17.2 overs to top the group, with six points in four games.

The Bangladesh captain also felt sorry for the crowd who came to the venue to support them in their last game.

"Though we couldn't do well, they supported us, and I feel so sorry that we couldn't win it today for them," Joty remarked.

Bangladesh fielders had a poor outing as well, dropping as many as four catches while also missing out on a couple of run-out chances, easing South Africa's run chase.

Despite the victory, South Africa will now have to wait for the results of the other group matches involving West Indies and England to see which two teams among these three will qualify for the semifinals.

India smash records

FROM PAGE 12

Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib had India opener Abhishek Sharma mistime a pull to give a simple catch in the third over, but the number one-ranked T20I side never let anything budge them from dominating proceedings.

Samson and Suryakumar hit the ground running as the hosts reached 82 for one in the Powerplay – their joint-highest score in the first six overs in T20Is. However, this time, they lost a wicket less than the last time they managed the same Powerplay score in a T20 World Cup game against Scotland in Dubai in 2021.

Samson hit 11 fours and eight maximums while Suryakumar laced his 35-ball 75 with eight fours and five sixes as India broke the record for most runs (232) scored from boundaries in a T20I innings

with a total of 22 sixes and 25 fours.

Riyen Parag (34 off 13) and Hardik Pandya (47 off 18) played quickfire cameos at the death as India remained just shy of becoming only the second team ever to reach the 300-run mark in the format, after Nepal's 314 for three against Mongolia in 2023.

Bangladesh reserved their best batting effort in the series for this game, getting to their highest total after being restricted to 127 all out and 135 for nine in the first two matches, respectively.

However, Liton Das' 25-ball 42 and Towhid Hridoy's unbeaten 42-ball 63 could only prolong the inevitable outcome in a contest in which the Tigers bid adieu to their most capped (141) T20I player, Mahmudullah Riyad, after he had announced his retirement from the format just before the second T20I.

Israel's war on two fronts

FROM PAGE 12

military said it had intercepted a projectile.

Israel's military said Hezbollah fired about 320 projectiles into Israel over the weekend of Yom Kippur, which ended at nightfall.

It also said roughly 280 "terror targets" were attacked in Lebanon and Gaza over the same time period.

For the third time, it declared a "closed military area" along the

Lebanese border in northern Israel, this time including Shtula and nearby areas.

Such measures since late September have preceded ground operations inside Lebanon.

In an interview with AFP, UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti said he feared an Israeli escalation against Hezbollah could soon spiral out of control "into a regional conflict with catastrophic impact for everyone".

Sycophantic media outlets

FROM PAGE 12

e-Alam Siddique.

During his speech at the BRU, Nahid paid tribute to Abu Sayed, a BRU student martyred during the SAD movement on July 16.

"We remember all the martyrs of the July revolution, including Abu Sayed, who gave their lives for the aspirations of a mass uprising. We aim to carry forward the same aspirations to advance Bangladesh."

Nahid also highlighted that the martyrdom of Sayed, who fought for justice, represents the spirit of the country's ongoing fight for freedom. "Through the blood of martyrs like