

Mosharraf Karim stars in latest ‘Dui Shaw’ episode on Chorki

The new *Dui Shaw* episode, titled *Bhaggo Bhalo*, premiered on Chorki today. It addresses the question, “Why can’t an astrologer predict their own fate?” through Mosharraf Karim’s character, an astrologer who computes others’ destinies.

Directed by Nuhash Humayun, this episode centres on an astrologer who unexpectedly goes viral. The cast includes Jebunessa Sobhan, Adnan Adib Khan, and Samia Othoi.

Nuhash previously shared that *Dui Shaw* explores contemporary fears within society, a theme he has aimed to capture throughout the series.

This is Mosharraf Karim’s first collaboration with Nuhash. The actor stated, “I felt it was something I had to be a part of.”



Grammy to honour Prince with Lifetime Achievement Award

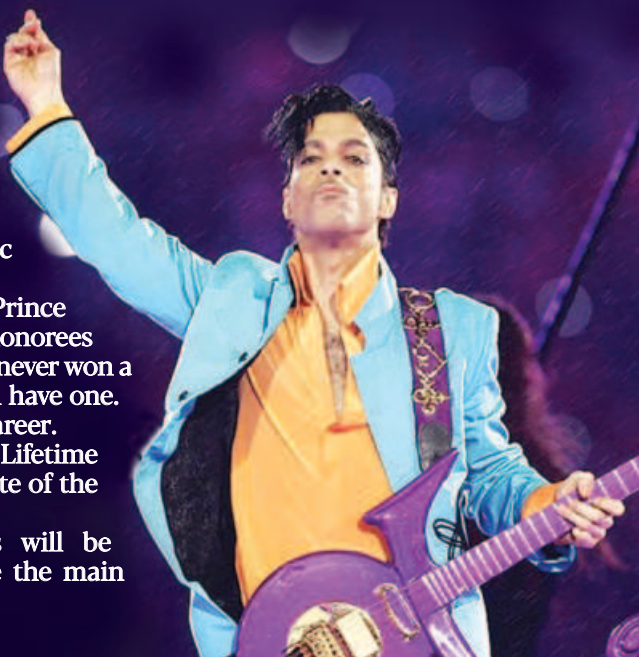
Late American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, and actor Prince Rogers Nelson, widely known as Prince, will be honoured with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award next February.

This prestigious recognition, usually reserved for artistes who have been under appreciated, will celebrate Prince’s iconic and influential career.

With seven Grammy wins to his name, Prince has earned more than the other six honorees combined: Beverly, Shanté, and Valli have never won a Grammy, while The Clash and Jones each have one. Taj Mahal has won four Grammys in his career.

The recipients of this prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award were selected by a vote of the Recording Academy’s national trustees.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented on February 1, the day before the main Grammy ceremony in Los Angeles.



Banned film ‘Makeup’ receives clearance after 5 years



After five long years, Anonno Mamun’s film *Makeup* has been approved for release with some scenes cut, the director confirmed to local media.

Last October, the Appeals Committee banned the film under the 2023 Certification Act after reviewing it, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had announced.

The director then finally submitted *Makeup* to the newly formed Certification Board, which approved its release on December 17 with a “U” (signifying Universal) grade, suitable for all audiences.

In January 2021, the Bangladesh Film Censor Board banned *Makeup*, citing offensive content that negatively depicted the film industry, as noted by former member Khorshed Alam Khosru.

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN to direct Homer’s ‘The Odyssey’ film adaptation



Universal has announced Christopher Nolan’s next film, an adaptation of Homer’s *The Odyssey*. The epic will follow Odysseus’ perilous journey home after the Trojan War and is set for a global IMAX release on July 17, 2026.

Touted as a “mythic action epic,” the film will feature a star-studded cast, including Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Anne Hathaway, and Charlize Theron, among others.

Known for historical dramas like *Oppenheimer* and *The Prestige*, this marks Nolan’s first venture into Greek mythology. His stellar year began with his first-ever Oscar wins for *Oppenheimer*, and ended on a high note as well, with Nolan being Knighted by King Charles in a ceremony last week.

Duronto TV’s special programme for Christmas

Duronto TV is spreading holiday cheer with a delightful lineup of Christmas specials today through these shows:

Hoi Hoi Holla Season 3: Dr Safdar Chowdhury and the kids in his building gear up for a grand Christmas. Dressed as Santa, Safdar plans to surprise everyone with gifts—until the presents and costume mysteriously vanish. Suddenly, two Santas appear with the stolen gifts! Who are they? Find out today at 11:30am and 8:30pm.

Banai Mojar Khabar Ma Baba Ar Ami: Join Hanschen Lucas Adhikary Tomon and his mom as they cook up festive treats—fruit cake, duck steak, and more at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.

Aji Shubhodine: A special dance show will air at 9am.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?



A special screening of the film *Noya Manush* will be held at TSC, Dhaka University on the occasion of Christmas. Directed by Shohel Rana Boyati, it features Rawnak Hasan and Mousumi Hamid among others. The story is about the struggling lives of the people of *char* area. Tickets are priced at Tk 100 and at Tk 50 for students.

Time: 2pm and 4pm
Venue: TSC
For tickets check the film’s official Facebook page.

COUNTRYWIDE

Early variety pumpkin brings smile to farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Early variety of pumpkin has brought fortune to the farmers in Rangpur region as good yield and fair price of the item this year has come as a boon to them.

Cultivation of pumpkin, both usual and early varieties, is gradually becoming a profitable crop for farmers living along the rivers – Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, Jinjiram, Dudhkumar and Gangadhar – in Rangpur region as it brings much better returns compared to the expenses.

As a result, several thousand farmers, especially landless, in the char areas of the region are inclining towards pumpkin cultivation for the last few years.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), pumpkin has been cultivated on a total of 9,300 hectares of land in greater Rangpur region’s five districts Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari, with a target to produce 3,34,800 tonnes of the crop.

Of the land, about 1,500 hectares have been brought under early variety of pumpkin cultivation.

Out of the total production, nearly 85 to 90 percent of the vegetable is produced in the char areas of the region.

The yield has been very good this year as more farmers leaning towards pumpkin cultivation, DAE sources said.

Farmers said harvest of early variety pumpkin is almost completed, but they

will harvest the usual variety in February and March next year.

Farmer Rasul Mandal of Char Shoulmari in Kurigram’s Roumari upazila said he planted hybrid breed usual variety of pumpkin on three acres of land, early variety on one acre this season, spending Tk 1 lakh.

He has already harvested about 7,000kg of the early variety and sold them to buyers in local wholesale market at Tk 30 per kg, Rasul said, adding that he will harvest the usual variety in mid-February.

Meherul Islam of Char Kalmati in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said alongside the usual one, he planted the early variety of pumpkin on his decimals land.

He got 1,650kg yield from the small piece of land and sold each kg of the vegetable for Tk 30.

Another farmer Dhiren Chandra Sen of Char Madhupur in Rangpur’s Kaunia upazila said char farmers are now making good profits from early variety pumpkin on sandy lands.

Although the production is a bit low in his locality, but the price is quite good, he said.

Rangpur DAE Additional Director Obaidur Rahman Mandal said pumpkin cultivation on sandy lands is helping many farmers in 500 char villages along the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, Jinjiram, Gangadhar, Teesta and Dharla rivers to overcome their poverties.



Like him many farmers in the region are happy as harvesting of early variety pumpkin has given them opportunity to earn good money. The photo was taken from Mahipur in Rangpur’s Gangachara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC seeks info on Hasina, family

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Mujib Industrial City, establishment of an Indian economic zone in Mirsarai, a development project at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial City in Mirsarai, and two modern fire station projects in the same area.

The ACC has requested documents from the CAO, including project proposals, approved plans, budget approvals, allocated budgets, fund disbursement details, expenditures, and the current status of these eight projects. It also sought copies of any investigation reports on these projects, as well as a summary of project timelines.

Additionally, the ACC has sent a letter to the BFIU requesting all documents related to local and international financial transactions involving Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, and Rehana’s daughter Tulip Siddiq, a UK lawmaker.

The ACC’s investigation team has requested details on offshore bank account statements and other accounts linked to the individuals under investigation.

An ACC official, questioning anonymity, said the investigation team has sought personal information about these individuals from the EC and the passport department.

On December 17, the ACC opened an investigation into allegations of corruption against them over amassing Tk 59,000 crore from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

‘PROBE AGAINST HASINA UNDERWAY’

Shafiqul Alam, press secretary of the chief adviser, yesterday said the interim government was probing graft allegations against Hasina.

“This is our top priority. She had established a system of corruption here. The people of Bangladesh want to know who were involved in this massive theft. It is our moral responsibility to inform them. You will definitely learn about the extent of

her theft in the future,” he said at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

“There is a white paper that gives an idea of how much money has been siphoned off from Bangladesh. Every year, \$16 million has been laundered. This is the money of the people of Bangladesh. And you have seen how the banks have been looted. We are investigating this matter with utmost seriousness,” Shafiqul added.

SWAPAN, MANSUR SUED

The ACC yesterday filed two cases against former state minister for LGRD Swapan Bhattacharjee and his wife Tandra Bhattacharjee for amassing illegal wealth and laundering money.

According to a case statement, Swapan illegally acquired assets worth Tk 2.49 crore and laundered Tk 41.65 crore through transactions in 19 bank accounts.

In the second case, Swapan and Tandra have been named as accused. Tandra is accused of amassing illegal assets

worth Tk 5.55 crore and laundering Tk 10.36 crore through transactions in 10 bank accounts.

The ACC said Tandra’s wealth is a result of her husband’s illicit assets.

The graft watchdog yesterday filed another case against former Awami League lawmaker Mansur Rahman for possessing illegal wealth worth Tk 3.60 crore and laundering Tk 6.10 crore through transactions in three bank accounts.

In another development, the ACC yesterday decided to launch an investigation against eight individuals, including former prime minister’s military adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddiqi and ex-senior secretary Mohibul Haque, over embezzling funds in the name of developing the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, officials said.

On August 5, Hasina fled to India in the face of a student-led mass uprising, bringing an end to 15 years of AL rule. Her sister Rehana was with her at the time.

Student

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station did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

The incident has intensified fear among journalists in the wake of the revolution.

One journalist, Omar Faroque, who had been a senior editor of the television station, said he was among the five who received a termination letter citing no reasons.

“The television authorities requested a few of us to step down for the greater good of the station,” Faroque told AFP.

“We demanded an explanation for the decision, but the authorities refused to provide any.”

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has repeatedly insisted he wants media freedom.

CA’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam sought to distance the government, saying that if someone “takes any action, the responsibility lies with them.”

Press watchdogs say many journalists – seen by critics as having supported Hasina when she was in power – face police investigations in apparent retaliation for their past work.

At least four journalists were imprisoned, and scores are facing legal cases across the country.

Hasina and her government were frequently accused of exerting undue pressure on the handful of independent media outlets, including shutting down newspapers and TV channels and imprisoning journalists.

After Hasina’s government fell, several TV channels, including Somoy TV, came under attack for their alleged allegiance to her Awami League.

In November, protesters besieged the offices of Prothom Alo, the largest Bangla-language newspaper, and threatened to shut it down, as well as The Daily Star.

Press freedom in Bangladesh has long been under threat.

Bangladesh ranks 165 out of 180 countries in press freedom, according to Reporters Without Borders.

Reforms should be left to an elected govt

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They also called for initiatives to bridge the gap among the parties.

The leaders criticised the formation of a new political party and vowed to continue opposing the government until their demands are met, meeting sources said.

Speaking anonymously, one of the leaders at the meeting said the interim government is likely to take time to form a new party, raising concerns for BNP and others.

After the meeting, Gono Adhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan accused the interim government of avoiding the banning of AL by putting the blame on BNP.

“Our clear statement is that we’ll build a mass resistance against those who rehabilitate the Awami League.” He too blamed the government of “wasting time to form a party.”

Mostafa Mohsin Montu, president of a faction of Gono Forum, called for unity based on the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War.

“There is no alternative to unity in the current political situation. For the last 15 years, people have been deprived of their voting rights. After August 5, the opportunity for change has come.”

Montu also said that reform proposals must be

discussed in parliament, adding, “We want to solve the problems through an elected government.”

Shamsul Alam, coordinator of Bam Gonotantrik Oikya, said, “The government will be requested to hold elections as soon as possible,” while Ismail Samrat, convener of Bangladesh Sadharon Chhatra Odhikar Songrokkhon Parishad, demanded that the election be held by next June or July.

“Awami League loyalists are still in the administration. Prices of goods are rising, and the law-and-order situation is worsening,” Samrat added.

Meanwhile at a separate

event yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said there was no place in his party for those who were involved in killings, corruption and terror activities.

He made the comment at the Thakurgaon Public Library during a blanket distribution programme.

About removing autocracy, corruption and fascism from the country, he said, “The only way to overcome corruption and fascism is by establishing the people’s rule. In other words, there is no alternative to governing the country through a parliament elected by the people.”