

WHAT'S  
THE HAPS?



Jolokabbo 5:  
Musings in  
Watercolour

**Jolokabbo 5: Musings in Watercolour** is a winter celebration through the luminous art of watercolour. Featuring works by 54 artists, the exhibition captures the season's beauty with a stunning mix of light and shadowy colours. Explore winter's charm through masterful depictions of golden fields, turquoise seas, and simple rural joys.

**Date:** December 21–January 18  
**Time:** 10am–8pm  
**Venue:** Ground Floor, 12 Madani Ave  
The exhibition is open to everyone.

I'm a fan of Mehazabien's  
performance: JAYA AHSAN

The team behind Mehazabien Chowdhury starrer **Priyo Maloti** hosted a special screening of the film on Tuesday. Celebrities, supporters, and journalists gathered to watch the actress' debut film on the big screen, including prominent actress Jaya Ahsan.

"I am a fan of Mehazabien's performance. I don't really get much time to watch other projects, but I always

make time to watch her work. I have seen her growth as an actress over the years," shared Jaya at the press meeting.

She added, "I got goosebumps after watching Mehazabien's performance. We all need to go through a journey. I believe she has completed that journey, and that's why she was able to deliver such a powerful and fitting performance in the film."



Elita  
Karim's  
'CHINI DER  
CHAMOCH'  
features collabs  
with legends

Elita Karim has released her new album **Chini Der Chamocho** to wrap up the year on a musical note. The four-track EP includes lyrics by esteemed lyricist Shahid Mahmud Jangi and compositions by renowned musician Pilu Khan.

Popular musical personalities Naquib Khan, Bappa Mazumder, Asif Iqbal, Dilshad Nahar Kona, DRockstar Shuvo and Shafiq Tuhin, among others, were present at the album launching ceremony, which took place on Tuesday at a café in the capital.

Under the banner of Aajob Records, the album includes four tracks – **Prem Hobe Din Sheshe**, **Chini Der Chamocho**, **Bhalobashi**, and **Projapoti**. Amzad Hosen Bappy handled the mixing and mastering for all the songs.

Aishwarya Rai  
featured in Academy  
Museum's exhibition for  
'Jodha Akbar'

Aishwarya Rai has recently been featured on the official social media platforms of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organisation responsible for the annual Oscars.

The Academy shared a video clip from the celebrated 2008 film **Jodha Akbar**, starring Aishwarya Rai, along with a special announcement. The video offers a glimpse of Aishwarya's exquisite lehenga, designed by Neeta Lulla, which is now showcased on a mannequin.

In **Jodha Akbar**, Aishwarya Rai played the role of Queen Jodhabai, with Hrithik Roshan portraying Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Academy shared the video with the caption, "Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's red wedding lehenga from **Jodha Akbar** is a masterpiece of design and tradition."



'Squid Game' returns  
today, ready for a  
triumphant Season 2

Debuting in 2021, Netflix's global sensation **Squid Game** quickly captivated viewers with its chilling premise of a high-stakes competition where financially struggling participants play childhood-inspired games for a shot at financial freedom.

The series became Netflix's most-watched show, earning critical acclaim and prestigious awards, including Primetime Emmy Awards for actor Lee Jung-jae and director Hwang Dong-hyuk.

The **Squid Game** franchise has officially expanded and its second season all set to premiere today to awaiting fans worldwide.

Lee Jung-jae is reprising his role as Gi-hun. Other returning stars include Wi Ha-joon, Lee Byung-hun, and Gong Yoo among other new cast members.



CHARLIE PUTH  
announces new  
album for early 2025

Singer-songwriter Charlie Puth recently announced during a fan Q&A that his fourth studio album is set for release in early 2025.

Fresh off completing an Asian tour last week, Puth humorously remarked on narrowing the wait between albums, saying, "So not five years, not four years — next year."

On Instagram, he expressed, "I'm

genuinely excited about what I've been working on... no one is pressuring me." Last November, Puth, who recently married Brooke Sansone, dropped a holiday single, titled **December 25th**, which he spontaneously created in his studio.

Although the festive track differs from the style of his upcoming album, Puth released it as a special treat for his fans.

COUNTRYWIDE

Locals repair 3-km  
road thru' self-help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A group of people in Barlekha upazila joined hands to make a three-kilometre road suitable for vehicular movement as it turned from bad to worse in the last couple of years due to lack of renovation work for long.

While visiting the area recently this correspondent saw the all the potholes, developed on Kathaltali-Terakudi-Shimulia road, have been filled with mixer of cement and brick chips and made the important road much smoother than before.

Local people said the three kilometre-long concrete road from Kathaltali to Shimulia connects several thousand residents of at least 20 nearby villagers with the upazila headquarters.

Volunteers said they started the repair works in November and after several weeks of hard labour they were able to finish the job recently.

People living at different villages on both sides of the road said failing to get attention of the authorities concerned, despite repeated requests, local people took the matter into their own hands and started the renovation work.

Many volunteers worked tirelessly during the night time for several weeks and successfully fixed hundreds of potholes that have been causing serious trouble to the commuters for long, they said.



People in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila join hands to repair a local road themselves and at their own cost.

PHOTO: STAR

Usually, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) maintains the Kathaltali-Terakudi-Shimulia road, which serves as a crucial link to connect thousands of people with the upazila headquarters.

But due lack of maintenance work for years the important road developed numerous large and small potholes, which causes immense suffering to its regular users, especially after a little rain.

In the first week of November, some local youths led by one Shaheen Mia first decided to do the repair work on self-help basis, which would cost them Tk 1 lakh approximately.

Later, many other local residents including some auto-rickshaw drivers also joined them and collected the total amount of money from local community members.

One of the local residents Nazmul Islam, a banker, said under the guidance of Shaheen and Abdul Ahad, a skilled mason, local residents used to start the repair work around 10:00pm every night and continued the work till 4:30am the next morning with the aim to fill all the potholes along the three-kilometre-road so that people, who use the road regularly, doesn't have to face any trouble while travelling.

While talking, Shaheen said they decided to conduct the work at night to avoid the daytime traffic and not to disrupt vehicular movement.

Customs' sale

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following auction regulations.

According to auction rules, it is not mandatory to identify the validity of the goods, he said.

"The port authority has issued several letters to remove the cargo as it contained a high-risk substance. The auction process had to be completed quickly considering the importance at the last stage of the auction. As a result, it was not verified whether it was suitable for use before the handover."

However, he acknowledged that the product should have been re-tested considering the health risks.

"We currently have no further obligations following the sale. However, we will communicate with the auctioneer to explore potential options," Hossain added.

Several companies who participated in the auction said that the customs gave extra benefits to SA Trading

& Co.

Subsequently, a person named Kibria Tanim from the Bhatiali area of Chattogram filed a written complaint on November 24 to the customs authority.

The complaint states that the bidder SA Trading & Co. released the chemical with four shipper-owned containers.

"There is no chance to take containers with auction goods. But the bidder is selling those containers in the market," the complaint said.

Without the chemical, the value of the four containers snapped up in October is around Tk 80 lakh. In 2022, the chemicals were also released with 10 containers, which were worth Tk 2 crore, it said.

The containers were sold in the market and the government lost approximately Tk 2.80 crore from the sodium glycerolate consignment, the complaint added.

According to the auction rules, the customs authority

has the right to auction off imported goods if the importers fail to release the goods on time. Customs will either hand over the containers to the shipping agent upon payment of customs dues or sell them separately if the shipping agent fails to pay the customs dues.

Contacted, Customs Deputy Commissioner (Auction) Mohammad Saidul Islam said: "There is no opportunity to take containers with the goods in the auction. The truth of this allegation is not certain. However, the matter will be investigated."

The SA Trading owner Ibrahim said: "These are not like other containers. Exporters have made those for storing the chemical."

The auction documents mention the four containers as SOC 20-foot containers. At least nine auction and import documents of Chattogram Port and customs mention the four containers as SOC containers with individual container numbers.

4 of 5 arrestees innocent

FROM PAGE 12  
of them. They couldn't arrest the other identified attackers. The real perpetrators are being protected while innocent villagers like Jamal are being punished."

Contacted, police declined to comment on the allegation.

Meanwhile, the five arrestees were yesterday produced before a Cumilla court, which sent them to jail, said Jahir, sub-inspector of the court's General Recording Office.

Freedom fighter Abdul Hai Kanu was assaulted and humiliated by a group of people in Kuliara village of Cumilla's Chaudhagram upazila on Sunday.

A video that went viral on social media showed Kanu being forced to wear a garland of shoes while being

ordered to leave the area.

Hours later, he felt compelled to leave his ancestral home and take shelter in a relative's house in Feni.

Kanu alleged the attackers were Jamaat activists.

The incident sparked outrage across the country.

On Tuesday, police arrested the five on charges of being involved in the incident.

Jamal's arrest drew criticism from locals, who said he was being harassed for standing up for Kanu.

After Kanu was assaulted, Jamal posted a video statement on Facebook in support of the freedom fighter, locals said.

The Daily Star saw the video clip, in which Jamal said Kanu had a dispute with

former railways minister Mujibul Haque, which led to multiple cases filed against the freedom fighter.

Jamal added that Kanu was earlier forced to stay away from his village for around 14 years due to the rivalry with Mujibul.

Contacted, ATM Aktaruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Chaudhagram Police Station, declined to comment in this regard, saying it is an ongoing investigation.

"The freedom fighter's complaint was recorded as a case today [yesterday]," he said.

Meanwhile, the Cumilla's Additional Superintendent of Police Arafatul Islam could not be reached over the phone for comments despite repeated attempts.

So many people

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Bangladesh, including the financial ones, were ruined by the fascist system.

"So, we think reforms are very important. So many people didn't sacrifice their lives just for an election or vote," said Asif, also youth and sports adviser, adding that estimates suggest over 2,000 people were killed and more than 20,000 injured during the uprising.

The families of the martyrs, along with those injured in the uprising, also want reforms, he said.

The interim government's stance on completing the reforms is very clear, the adviser said. Reform commissions were formed almost three months ago and would submit their proposals soon.

"We will go for the election after completing the reformative actions through discussions with the stakeholders," the adviser

said.

He added that the interim government would prioritise development activities in the "neglected" northern districts.

Long-term development projects will be taken up for the people of the areas so that they will get benefits even after the end of the interim government's tenure, he added.

Responding to a question about allegations that the injured victims of the uprising in Thakurgaon are not getting enough support, Asif said steps will be taken after discussion with the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation.

Thakurgaon acting deputy commissioner Shahin Sardar, Additional Superintendent of Police Liza Begum, Executive Engineer of LGED Mamun Biswas, and Balladangi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Polash Kumar Debnath, among others, were present at the event.

17 houses of Tripura  
community 'torched'

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Gungamani Tripura, a victim, said, "Our houses have been completely burned to ashes. We couldn't save anything."

"Today is supposed to be the happiest day of the year for us. I never imagined such a thing would happen to us on Christmas." He demanded exemplary punishment of the criminals.

Citing Bandarban police, the CA's Press Wing in a statement said the law enforcers sent their officers to the spot. Police have also carried out raids to arrest the culprits. An FIR has been filed over the incident.

The statement said the deputy commissioner and the police chief of the hill district would travel to the village this morning.

Sarai Union Parishad Chairman Md Idris said he had heard that at least 17

houses had been burnt by miscreants.

During a visit to the affected area, Lama acting upazila nirbahi officer Ruppayan Deb said he had asked the victim families to file a written complaint.

The UNO said he initially gave one blanket and one sack of rice to each family. He also said he would discuss the matter with the deputy commissioner and the upazila project implementation officer and then take the next steps.

Md Enamul Haque Bhuiyan, inspector (investigation) of Lama Police Station, said the law enforcers were working to bring the criminals to book after an investigation.

He mentioned that many complaints and counter-complaints over land in the remote area have been filed since the ouster of the AL regime on August 5.