

Aurthohin announces new guitarist

On New Year's Day, Aurthohin shook their fans with an exciting announcement, introducing young guitarist Ehtesham Ali Moeen as the band's newest member.

"Happy New Year, everyone! Please join us in welcoming our new guitarist, Ehtesham. We'll be going live on Thursday night with some big announcements. Stay tuned," the post stated.

In a press release, Aurthohin wrote, "We strive to work with young musicians, and 23-year-old guitarist Moeen has now joined the band." As a permanent member, Moeen will feature in their albums.

The current lineup of Aurthohin features Bassbaba Sumon, Mark Don, and Ehtesham Ali Moeen.



Farooki's '840' to air as drama series on TV

For the first time in television history, the film **840** will debut as a drama series. Alongside its theatrical run, audiences will be able to watch the film as an eight-episode extended series on television — marking a first for simultaneous screening.

Directed by Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooqi, this film-turned-series will air from January 3 to 10, across various time slots and channels.

The series will air at 8:20pm on Channel i, with a repeat at 12:05pm. RTV will air it at 8:00pm, with a repeat at 8:00am. Deepto TV will show it at 10:30pm, with a repeat at 1:30pm the next day.

I HOPE FOR EVERYONE'S WELL-BEING

JAYA AHSAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jaya Ahsan new *Nakshi Kanthar Jamin* was recently released and she is also busy shooting for her first Bangladeshi web-series *Jimmi*.

The actress is excited about the new year. She said, "I hope that the new year brings blessings for everyone. May it bring happiness and peace to everyone's lives. I wish for everyone's well-being. As for work, I want to continue being involved in good projects. I want to stay immersed in work – work is everything."

Meanwhile, Jaya Ahsan starrer *Nakshi Kanthar Jamin* based on the renowned author Hasan Azizul Haque's story *Bidhobader Kotha* was released on December 27.

"The narrative in *Nakshi Kanthar Jamin* is very strong. The younger generation should watch this film, as they will learn a lot

about the Liberation War. Before its release in Bangladesh, *Nakshi Kanthar Jamin* was featured in several international festivals. It has received praise from acclaimed filmmakers and critics worldwide. Audiences have also appreciated it. This recognition adds an extra layer of satisfaction," said the actress.

At the end of last year, Jaya Ahsan began shooting for Ashfaq Nipun's new web-series, *Jimmi*. The series is expected to be released this year.

The actress remarked, "I am hopeful that it will turn out to be a great project. The audience will get to see something good. Let the work be completed first, then I will reveal everything. Let there be some surprise. Ashfaq Nipun is a talented director, so I believe it will be something worthwhile."

Regarding new films in both countries, Jaya Ahsan said, "Discussions are ongoing for new projects. I will share more once things are finalised. There are also new projects in India. Additionally, several films, including *OCD*, are awaiting release in India."

Sitar Soundscape with Nishit Dey

Satori Academy of Arts will feature an intimate exchange between sitar artiste Nishit Dey and listeners, as he is set to share his knowledge and experience in classical music on Saturday. Nishit, a fourth-generation musician from Mymensingh's renowned 'Dey' family, has been performing globally for over 15 years and is dedicated to teaching sitar through modern techniques.

Date: Saturday, January 04, 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Venue: Satori Academy of Arts, Banani

Dighi to headline Tagore's 'DENA PAONA'

Prarthana Fardin Dighi has landed the coveted role of Nirupama in the upcoming film adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's iconic short story *Dena Paona*.

Directed by Sadek Siddique and backed by a government grant, the film promises to bring a fresh perspective to Tagore's timeless narrative.

Dighi shared her excitement with local media, stating, "The director's narration convinced me that Nirupama would challenge my acting skills, and the film's basis on a Rabindranath Tagore story makes it even more exciting."

Miron Mohiuddin crafted the screenplay for the film, with Sadek Siddique personally adapting it into the final script.



COUNTRYWIDE

BHOLA'S ELISHA LAUNCH GHAT Passengers suffer for lack of gangways

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Several thousand passengers, who use the Elisha launch terminal in Bhola regularly, have been suffering for months due to the lack of gangways, connecting the pontoon.

Passengers and launch employees said launch services from the terminal are under threat due to the situation.

Despite the danger, thousands of daily passengers still use the launch terminal risking their lives.

Sources said about 10,000 passengers use the launch terminal every day.

In the absence of gangways, passengers often face minor accidents as they are compelled to use the concrete cement blocks (CC blocks), dumped along the riverbank.

Passengers said the situation is gradually deteriorating as the authorities are yet to take the necessary steps to resolve the issue.

The situation arises after the Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB), under the Bhola Riverbank Conservation Project, started dumping CC blocks along the riverbank at the launch terminal and close to the pontoon about six months ago, they said.

Since then, passengers have been forced to cross the uneven CC blocks to reach the terminal.

Although the terminal currently has a makeshift gangway, locals say it is fragile and risky.

During a recent visit to the launch terminal, this correspondent saw passengers were using the CC blocks to reach the terminal.

Zakir Hossain, manager of Sundarban Launch Service, blamed the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) for the trouble of passengers.

They have requested the authorities concerned on several occasions to build small makeshift stairs so that passengers can easily get avail the services, but to no avail, he said.

Mamun, a passenger travelling on Bhola-Barishal route, said people often suffer minor accidents crossing the CC blocks.

Emergency patients, elderly people, women and children are the worst sufferers, he added.

According to Bhola WDB, the riverbank conservation project to protect three-kilometre stretch of the Meghna riverbank including 880-metre portion under Elisha launch terminal, at a cost of Tk 689 crore, started in 2023 and will continue till 2027.



In absence of gangways, CC blocks dumped along the riverbank serves as passage for passengers to get on and down from launches at Elisha launch terminal in Bhola.

PHOTO: STAR

Wrong name of July martyr printed

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workers, mothers and pedestrians were not spared," reads the relevant section.

When this correspondent sought details of Nafiz, Nahiyan and Anas, sources at the textbook board said that they had picked the three – two male protesters and one female – for their extreme sacrifices for the country.

However, they admitted that Nahiyan's name was mistakenly printed in place of Nafisa. She was an HSC candidate at Shahajuddin Sarker Model Higher Secondary School in Tongi.

"We did not decide to include anyone named Nahiyan," the source said.

It could not be independently verified whether anyone named Nahiyan was martyred during the July uprising.

The source said all the fifth-grade textbooks are already at the printer's.

Contacted, NCTB Chairman Professor AKM Reazul Hassan admitted the mistake.

"We will look into the matter," he said, "We will correct it in the PDF versions that will be sent to the schools today."

The photo of Golam Nafiz, a 16-year-old fresher at Noubahini College, was featured in several newspapers during the July uprising. That photo of a bloodied Nafiz – shot by the police lying motionless in the footwell of a rickshaw while his head, with the Red and Green tied like a bandana, fell back and lolled in the air – became one of the iconic images of the uprising alongside those of Sayed and Mugdho.

Anas, who was a 10th grader, was killed on August 5, while protesting near Dhaka's Chankharpul. Before going to the protest, he had left a letter for his mother saying, "Ma, I am going to the protest. I cannot sit back at home anymore. It's better to die on the streets like a hero than stay at home like a selfish person, fearing death."

The chapter also discusses people who have made supreme sacrifices for the country. It includes the names of revolutionaries like Titu Mir, who resisted the oppression of the local zamindars and the British indigo planters during the colonial era and Pritilata

SC lawyers' team to seek Chinmoy's bail

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Daily Star over the phone yesterday evening.

Chinmoy is in a Chattogram jail.

Earlier, an anticipatory bail petition of Chinmoy was rejected by a Chattogram court as his lawyer Rabindra Ghosh, a senior High Court lawyer, had no Vakalatnama to represent Chinmoy in court and authorisation of any local lawyer to move the case.

However, several lawyers yesterday confirmed that he would not represent Chinmoy in court today.

A Vakalatnama is a document that authorises a lawyer to act on behalf of his/her client.

On December 3, Chattogram Metropolitan Session Judge Saiful Islam fixed today for the bail hearing.

Court sources said the SC lawyers from Dhaka also talked to the president and the secretary of Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) about the bail procedure of the

70 lawyers, who are among the 115 accused in a case filed by slain lawyer Saiful Islam Ali's brother Khan-e-Alam on charges related to explosives, attacks on justice seekers and vandalism on November 26.

Subrata Chowdhury, an SC lawyer who deals with the bail procedure of the accused lawyers, told this newspaper, "I talked to the CDBA leaders about their bail procedure. We, all the lawyers' community, have a strong unity and bond regardless of political affiliations. If any lawyer has been charged wrongfully, we all will work together to free them."

Meanwhile, the Chattogram Bar yesterday formed a human chain in the court building area, demanding the arrest of the rest of the accused in Saiful murder case and the transfer of the case to a speedy trial tribunal.

Addressing the human chain, CDBA President lawyer Nazim Uddin Chowdhury said, "ISCKON

leader Chinmoy instigated his supporters to murder Saiful. Using the megaphone of police, he provoked them while he was in prison van."

On November 26, a Chattogram court sent Chinmoy to jail rejecting his bail prayer after he was arrested in the capital the previous day.

Firoz Khan, former general secretary of Chattogram's Mohora ward BNP, on October 31 filed a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing Chinmoy and 18 others of disrespecting the national flag during a rally of the Hindu community in Chattogram's New Market area on October 25.

Following the bail rejection, supporters of Chinmoy blocked the prison van on its way to jail and demonstrated demanding his immediate release.

Later, police charged truncheons to disperse agitating Chinmoy's supporters, triggering a clash among law enforcers, lawyers, and the supporters

Waddedar, another revolutionary from the British era.

It includes Amanullah Mohammad Asaduzzaman and Matiur Rahman who were both shot by police during the 1969 mass upsurge and Sergeant Zahurul Haque, an accused of Agartala conspiracy case, killed by Pakistan military in 1969.

The same chapter also includes sections on Noor Hossain, Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon and Nazir Uddin Zehad, who had been killed during protests against military dictator Hussein Muhammad Ershad.

The chapter has sketches of Sayed, Mugdho, Titu Mir, Pritilata, Asad, Matiur, Noor Hossain, Dr Milon and Zehad.

3 lives lost

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rammed into them and others around 9:00am, said ASP Mehedi.

Both the deceased were fish sellers who were sitting by the Kanchan-Rupsi road. Four others were injured in the incident, he added.

Both the drivers of the three-wheeler and the car have been arrested. The vehicles have also been sized, said Mehedi, adding that no case has been filed over the incidents yet.

The trade fair is being held for the fourth time in a row at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal.

According to the layout plan of the fair, some 361 pavilions/stalls/restaurants of different categories have been allocated in favor of local producing and exporters firms, general business establishments and foreign business entities in a cent percent transparent manner.

Invest more

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a "Product of the Year," and this year, furniture is the product of the year.

In addition to this process, Dr Yunus said, he wants to introduce "Entrepreneur of the Year" to let everyone know who is behind the product.

The CA highlighted the government's initiative to promote Bangladesh's products in the global market with its diversified presence.

He said Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) has already secured a leading position in the global apparel market.

Yunus said the export trade is playing a significant role in cutting poverty and unemployment in addition to earning foreign currencies. "It's playing an important role in strengthening Bangladesh's economy."

Like the previous years, the Ministry of Commerce and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) have jointly organised the fair.

The spaces for stalls or pavilions of various categories have been allocated online for the first time in this trade fair.

The e-ticketing system has also been arranged for the first time in the fair.

Apart from this, BRTC's dedicated bus service would be available alongside Uber service at a special discount to facilitate the travel of buyers and visitors to and from the fair venue.

Besides, "Jury Chatter" and "Chhatrish Chatter" were created at the fair venue in honor of the sacrifices of students in the anti-discrimination students' movement.