

Thakurgaon special ‘Ityadi’ episode to air this Friday

The much-discussed episode of the popular magazine show *Ityadi* is set to hit screens this weekend, following its shoot earlier this month at the historic Rajbari of Ranishankail, Thakurgaon. Contrary to rumours suggesting the shoot was cancelled due to a vandalism incident on January 9, production house Fagun Audio Vision confirmed that the show went on without major issues. The special Thakurgaon-based episode is now set to air on BTV on January 31 (Friday). This episode features an exclusive, apolitical interview with politician Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, a native of Thakurgaon. For the musical performance, Robi Chowdhury and Liza will voice a song composed by Kishore Das and written by Liton Adhikary Rintu.



ARIJIT SINGH to receive the Padma Shri honour

India's leading musician, Arijit Singh, will be honoured with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to music. The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the recipients of the 2025 Padma Awards, which include seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awardees. Singh, known for hits like *Tum Hi Ho*, *Jhoomo Jo Pathaan*, and *Kesariya*, has become a beloved figure in Indian music. Other notable awardees include late folk singer Sharda Sinha (Padma Vibhushan), filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and actor Ajith Kumar (Padma Bhushan). President Droupadi Murmu will present the awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan in March-April 2025.



Selena Gomez, Natalie Portman eyed for Britney Spears’ biopic

Jon M Chu, known for directing *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Wicked*, is set to bring Britney Spears’ memoir, *The Woman in Me*, to the big screen. First announced in August 2024, the film has generated immense excitement among fans worldwide. According to a Life & Style report, either Selena Gomez or Natalie Portman is highly likely to portray the pop icon in the biopic. An insider revealed that Britney Spears has great admiration for Natalie Portman, and considers her an incredible actress. “Britney also adores Selena Gomez both personally and professionally, believing her talent and experience as a former child star would offer a unique perspective on the role,” added the insider.

Rosé earns fifth Guinness World Record with ‘APT’



Blackpink’s Rosé has made history by becoming the first K-pop artiste to top Apple Music’s Top 100 Global Chart, with her title track *APT* from her solo album *Rosie*, marking her fifth Guinness World Record. The record was confirmed on October 24, further cementing her global influence. *APT*, a collaboration with Bruno Mars, also achieved the highest ranking by a K-pop act on Billboard’s Pop Airplay chart. Additionally, Rosé became the first K-pop soloist to secure a top-ten hit on the UK charts. Her achievements include Song of the Year at the Asia Artist Awards and a nomination for Best Music Video at the iHeartRadio Music Awards.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Animal Farm’

Prachyanat School's 47th batch presents a timely adaptation of George Orwell's classic *Animal Farm*, a powerful political allegory about freedom, equality, and rebellion, adapted and directed by Jaganmoy Paul. Join in to experience the gripping portrayal of farm animals banding together to rise against their tyrannical owner, Mr Jones, this week.

DATE: THURSDAY | JANUARY 30
TIME: 6:30PM ONWARDS
VENUE: BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY

Duronto TV introduces three new cartoon series for Season 30



After completing 29 successful seasons, Duronto TV is ready for its 30th season, which began yesterday. This new season will feature three new and exciting cartoon series – the drama-based preschool cartoon about six siblings *Cleo and Cuquin*; the thrilling adventures of Milo, Yuka, and friends in the series *Polinópolis*; and the animated comedy *PINY Institute of New York* about an aspiring fashion designer, who earns a scholarship to the prestigious PINY Institute. *Duronto Shastho Duronto Mon* fans can also look forward to new episodes. Besides, Duronto TV will continue airing its regular programmes, cartoons, and movies. Other highlights of the channel's 30th season include the shows *Dustu Misty*, *Bornomalar Ghor*, *Khatta Mitha*, *Ronger Khelay Surer Bhelay*, and many more.

NEWS

Ex-army chief KM Safiullah

FROM PAGE 12 complications, including diabetes, hypertension, thyroid issues, fatty liver, and dementia. A namaz-e-janaza of the war hero was held after Zohr prayers in Narayanganj's Rupganj. He was buried at the Military Graveyard in Banani with state honour following another namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka Cantonment's Army Central Mosque at 4:00pm. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus expressed deep shock and sorrow at the demise of Safiullah. “We remember with gratitude his contribution,” Prof Yunus said in a condolence message. “People from all walks of life in Bangladesh will remember his heroic life forever with gratitude.” The chief adviser prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and

expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members. The army prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and extended sympathy to the grieving family. In 1971, Safiullah was the second-in-command of the Second East Bengal Regiment stationed in Joydebpur. Under his leadership, the Bangali soldiers of the regiment rebelled. At the beginning of the Liberation War, he served as the commander of Sector 3. Later, when three regular army brigades (known as forces) were formed, Safiullah took command of the ‘S’ Force. He was awarded the Bir Uttam title for his gallantry during the Liberation War. Born on September 2, 1934, in Rupganj, Safiullah served as the army chief from April 7, 1972 to August 24,

1975. He was in command as army chief during the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members on August 15, 1975. After the assassination, he pledged allegiance to the government formed by Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed. He later served as an ambassador to various countries, including Malaysia, Canada, Sweden, and England. He returned to the country in 1991 and voluntarily retired from service the following year. Safiullah joined the Awami League in 1995. He contested the parliamentary elections from the Narayanganj-1 constituency in 1996 and was elected MP. In 2007, he joined the Sector Commanders Forum and went on to head the organisation.

Home adviser acknowledges crime streak

FROM PAGE 12 murder, from across the country. Responding to another query, he said around 700 inmates, who escaped from prisons after August 5, are still at large. While most of the escapees have been recaptured, we are still trying to apprehend the remaining fugitives. He said some top criminals on bail are believed to have re-engaged in criminal activities. “If those on

bail are found involved in criminal activities, they will be apprehended and brought to justice.” The home adviser made these remarks while inaugurating a new hotline number (09612021690) for the relatives of inmates, which aims to improve transparency and assist the relatives. “This emergency service will be operational round-the-clock in the prison...,” he said.

The adviser said relatives, through the hotline, would be able to know about a prisoner's location, date of appearance in court, date of meeting with the prisoner, scheduled date for having phone conversation with the inmate, prisoner's health condition, date for release on parole, and any complaints as well as suggestions. He said those injured in the July uprising will be given jobs in the hotline service.

Clinical Sinner

FROM PAGE 12 also thrust him alongside Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only men to successfully defend their Melbourne Park titles this century. But it proved more misery for Germany's Zverev, who remains one of the world's best players never to taste Grand Slam glory, falling short once again in his third big final. “We worked a lot to be again in this

position. It's an amazing feeling to share this moment with all of you,” Sinner said, referring to his coaching team. He also had words of consolation for Zverev. “A tough day for you. You're an amazing player. Keep believing in yourself because I think we, all the players, and the coaches, whoever is involved in the sport, know how strong you are, not only as a player, but also as a person.

S Korea’s Yoon

FROM PAGE 12 comment. The indictment was also reported by South Korean media. Anti corruption investigators last week recommended charging the jailed Yoon, who was impeached by parliament and suspended from his duties on December 14. A former top prosecutor himself, Yoon has been in solitary confinement

since becoming the first sitting president to be arrested on January 15 after days of defiant, armed standoff between his security detail and arresting officials. Over the weekend a court twice refused prosecutors' request to extend his detention while they conducted further investigation, but with the charges they have again requested that he be kept in custody, media reports said.

Shafiqul terms ex-home boss ‘butcher of Bangladesh’

FROM PAGE 12 “You can realise the quality of those who are giving him a platform,” said the press secretary. CA's deputy press secretaries Apurba Jahangir and Abul Kalam Azad Majumder were also present at the briefing where the press secretary shared the highlights of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' engagements at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The chief adviser returned home

from Switzerland on Saturday. The interview of fugitive mass-murder accused Asaduzzaman carried by The Indian Express is full of lies and misinformation, said the CA's press wing. Kamal, a close associate of ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who is reportedly hiding in India, is one of the masterminds of the July-August killings. The Indian Express carried his lies without verifying the information, the press wing said.

Rift between July uprising leaders, BNP

FROM PAGE 12 in his post. The law adviser said that AL leaders and activists, fuelled by these rumours, have attempted sabotage and added that one or two anxious individuals even called him to know what was going on. The law adviser said he believes the BNP is not interested in conspiracy or any event like the “one-eleven” political changeover. He said student leaders are not going to form a political party or join one while remaining in the interim

government. The “July Proclamation” will be a political document, and student leaders are sincere in incorporating opinions of the forces of the uprising in its formulation. He also said the BNP and student leaders have no reservations about reaching a greater election-centric consensus, albeit the nature of the consensus is subject to discussion. “So, there is no reason for disagreement. Instead, everyone has to understand there is no alternative to unity,” the law adviser said.

In his post, Prof Nazrul termed AL a party of “those who committed genocide” and said it possesses lakhs of crores of looted money, many blind followers and opportunist groups, a strong publicity network, as well as being “backed by foreign power”. If they are to be prevented, then everyone has to be united, keeping in mind the sacrifices made by martyrs of the July uprising, he said. “There will be differences among us, but it should not reach the level that could encourage Bangladesh's enemy,” he added.

1 killed, 10 hurt

FROM PAGE 12 had been out of the area for the last few months. The clashes erupted around 6:00am yesterday when Ashrafal's followers were trying to enter the area and Zakir's supporters tried to stop them. The clashes continued for around five hours, leaving at least 11 persons injured. Of them, critically injured Alamgir was taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said OC Adil. Clashes between the two groups

erupted again at around 4:00pm and the clash continued for around half an hour, OC Adil told The Daily Star. It could not be known immediately whether any more people were injured in the second round of violence. Raipura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Masud Rana said in the evening, “The area where the clashes took place is very remote. The situation is still out of control. So far, we can confirm one death and two others critically injured.”