

Siam turns heads with striking new ‘JONGLI’ look

Siam Ahmed has unveiled a fresh more refined look for his upcoming film *Jongli*, sparking excitement among fans. Previously, his rugged appearance with long, unkempt hair and a beard gave the film a vastly different vibe.

Yesterday, Siam introduced his new look on his official Facebook page, writing, “I’m with Joni. You’ve met Jongli, now it’s time to meet Joni. Joni is coming with *Jongli* this Eid-ul-Fitr.” His announcement quickly gained attention, with fans expressing eagerness to see his transformation in the film.

This M Raahim directorial features an ensemble cast, including Bubly, Dighi, Dilara Zaman, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Rashed Mamun Apu, Sohel Khan, and Arfan Mredha Shiblu.

Jongli’s soundtrack is composed by Prince Mahmud, with singer Tahsan Khan lending his voice to one of the tracks.



Warner Bros releases 31 full-length movies on YouTube for free

Warner Bros Entertainment has taken a new, more accessible approach to monetising its extensive film catalogue by offering 31 full-length movies to stream for free on its YouTube channels, marking a departure from its previous attempts to drive revenue through subscription services.

The collection, which spans various genres and decades, includes classics such as *Mutiny on the Bounty*, Jackie Chan’s *Mr Nice Guy*, and *The Mission* featuring Robert De Niro. YouTube Premium subscribers can enjoy an ad-free experience.

This move reflects Warner Bros’ broader experiment with digital ad revenue and increasing visibility of its content. Additionally, the company has expanded its partnerships with platforms such as Roku and Tubi, providing free, ad-supported streaming access to its films.

Jay-Z and Eminem’s ‘Renegade’ contract put on the market



The original 2001 contract between Jay-Z and Eminem for their iconic collab, *Renegade*, is now up for grabs. Collectibles company Moments In Time is offering the 14-page document, featuring both artists’ real names—Shawn Carter and Marshall Mathers—for \$35,000.

Renegade, the sole song including a guest on Jay-Z’s album *The Blueprint*, was released on September 11, 2001.

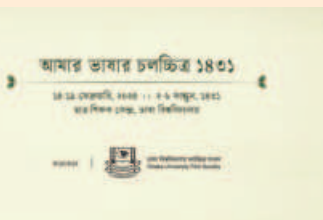

Initially recorded by Eminem and Royce da 5’9”, the track was reworked for Jay-Z’s album. The contract is considered a rare piece of hip-hop history, now sought after by collectors and enthusiasts alike.

WHAT’S THE HAPS?

Amar Bhashar Chalachitra

As February arrives with its crimson-hued *palash* blossoms, the spirit of resistance and remembrance will take centre stage at the 23rd edition of *Amar Bhashar Chalachitra*. The event, set against the symbolic redness of *palash* flower, commemorates the Bengali people’s historic resistance and sacrifices, honouring their struggle for language, autonomy, and freedom from oppressive forces.

Date: Saturday-Wednesday | February 15-19
Time: 10am-10pm
Venue: TSC, Dhaka University



Habib Wahid and wife reunite on-screen for ‘Pagol Hawa’



Habib Wahid is set to surprise fans this Valentine’s Day with *Pagol Hawa*, a romantic music video featuring his wife, Afsana Chowdhury Shifa. This marks their on-screen reunion after nearly four years.

The song, written by Srabon and composed by Habib himself, is poised to be a melodious experience, with visuals shot in stunning locations across Bangladesh and beyond. The cherished singer and his wife last appeared together in *Romantic Lage* (2021).

The music video of *Pagol Hawa*, which has been produced under HW Production House, will premiere on Habib’s YouTube channel during Valentine’s Day.

Pritom Hasan, Tanjin Tisha pair up for Valentine’s Day special release

Pritom Hasan and Tanjin Tisha are set to star together in *Glumpori*, a new web-film directed by Jahid Preetom.

While widely recognised for his music, Pritom Hasan has also showcased his acting talent in several web productions. Meanwhile, popular small-screen actress Tisha has made her mark through a few web projects. Now, the duo is coming together for *Glumpori*, adding to their growing list of on-screen ventures.

Chorki recently unveiled the film’s official poster on its Facebook page, announcing that the project will be released on Valentine’s Day.

The Chorki Original also features Parsha Mahjabeen Purnee in a pivotal role.



COUNTRYWIDE

LATE BLIGHT DISEASE Potato farmers struggle to save crops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Potato growers in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are struggling to protect their crops as cold weather and dense fog have triggered an outbreak of late blight disease this year.

The fungal disease, locally known as Patamora rog, is spreading very fast, causing deep concern among local farmers about possible financial losses.

High price of fungicides, needed to control the outbreak, is further increasing the production cost.

Thakurgaon Department of



Farmers spray pesticide at a potato field in an attempt to save the remaining plants from late blight disease. The photo was taken from Barunagaon village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

Agricultural Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Sirajul Islam said if not controlled immediately, the disease causes leaves to turn brown to blackish and eventually die.

The ongoing cold, fog and fluctuating temperatures have made the plants vulnerable to fungal attacks that starts at the leaf margins and spreads inward, with white fungal growth visible under leaves in the morning.

Dry conditions cause the leaves to shrink, while humid conditions accelerate its decay, he said, adding that if left untreated, the disease spreads to the entire plant, leading to its death.

DAE officials recommend spraying two grammes of Mencozeb or Metalexyl, mixed with one litre of water, once a week to control the fungal disease.

The situation is still manageable and

expected to improve with better weather conditions, Sirajul said.

During visits to different villages in Thakurgaon Sadar and Panchagarh’s Boda upazila, farmers were seen spraying pesticides to save their crops, but frequent usage of medicines is raising the production costs.

Farmer Shariful Islam of Barunagaon village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila cultivated potatoes on one acre of land, spending about Tk 1 lakh.

Shariful said he is trying to save his crops, already affected by late blight, by frequently spraying medicine as per

M’singh resists Urdu

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of the Muslim League, a student rally presided over by Rafiquddin Bhuiyan was held at Bipin Park in Mymensingh city in favour of Bangla as a state language in December 1947.

In February 1948, when the proposal for Bangla as a state language was opposed by the Muslim League in the Constituent Assembly, students and people launched protests in Mymensingh, just like the demonstrations in Dhaka and other parts of the country.

According to the book *Bhasha Andolon Teknaf Theke Tetulia* by Ahmed Rafiq, a campaign was held in Mymensingh ahead of a general strike slated for March 11. Funds were raised from public donations to meet the expenses of the movement.

On March 11, an all-out strike was observed in Mymensingh, with students marching around the city in procession and chanting the slogan “Rashtrobhasha Bangla Chai (We want Bangla as a state language)”. Student leaders later spoke at a rally organised by the local Renaissance Society at Bipin Park.

After Muhammad Ali Jinnah spoke in favour of Urdu as the sole state language of Pakistan in March, the Language Movement gained pace in Mymensingh like Dhaka and other parts of the country.

Police baton charged protesters during a student rally at Bipin Park on March 25.

On January 27, 1952, when the government declared Urdu as the state language of Pakistan, the students and public of Mymensingh took to the streets.

According to the book *Bhasha Andolon Kosh Part 1* by M Abdul Alim, a Sarbodolyio Rashtrobhasha Sangram Parishad (All-Party Language Struggle Council) was formed with Ananda Mohan College teacher Syed Badruddin Hossain as president. Rafiquddin Bhuiyan became the general

secretary of the Parishad.

A massive campaign was carried out ahead of February 21, the main day of the movement, as part of centrally announced programmes from Dhaka. Besides pasting posters on walls, the protesters in Mymensingh distributed leaflets.

On February 21, a general strike was observed, with a shutdown of businesses and a boycott of classes. Students, led by Syed Badruddin, brought out a procession from Ananda Mohan College and joined a rally at Bipin Park in violation of Section 144. The speakers demanded that Bangla be given the status of a state language immediately.

As soon as the news of deadly police firing on student protesters in Dhaka reached Mymensingh, the entire city erupted in protests. People gathered in front of Rafiquddin Bhuiyan’s residence to know the next course of the movement. On February 22, people from all walks of life took to the streets.

A condolence meeting chaired by Rafiquddin was held on the Town Hall premises, demanding Bangla as a state language, a fair investigation into the killings of protesters in Dhaka and the punishment of the perpetrators. A huge procession of students led by Ananda Mohan College’s Tahmidia Said joined the rally.

During a general strike at the college on February 23, a decision was taken to form Rashtrobhasha Sangram Committees in every subdivision of greater Mymensingh.

According to the book *Bhasha Andolon Teknaf Theke Tetulia*, on February 24, the city was entirely covered with posters and black flags. Protesters wore black badges and carried black flags during processions.

On the other hand, the Muslim League organised a grand rally at the Town Hall to show that the situation in the city was normal. The angry crowd of protesters later chased them away.

Former CEC Abdur Rouf no more

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Eidgah ground on the Supreme Court premises.

A third janaza will be held after Maghrib prayers at Dapunia High School ground in Mymensingh Sadar, followed by his burial beside his mother’s grave at the family graveyard, his son Additional Attorney General Mohammad Arshadur Rouf told The Daily Star.

Justice Rouf is survived by two sons and a daughter.

He served as the country’s fifth CEC from late 1990 to early 1995. He was also chairman of Barakah Foundation.

While he was praised for overseeing the much-anticipated 1991 general election, his tenure drew controversy due to the

Magura by-election in 1994 during the BNP’s regime.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Justice Rouf.

He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, the CA’s press wing said in a statement.

Recalling Justice Rouf’s contribution to the restoration of democracy after the fall of autocrat HM Ershad in December 1990, the chief adviser said, “Justice Rouf will always remain a symbol of Bangladesh’s democratic journey.”

Prof Yunus further remarked, “Justice Rouf was a towering figure in civil society. He worked tirelessly

for voting rights, reforms, and democracy, and the nation will always remember him with respect.”

Officials and staffers of the Election Commission also expressed deep condolence over the death of Justice Rouf.

SC JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS SUSPENDED

Judicial functions of the Appellate Division and High Court Division of the Supreme Court were suspended for the last half of yesterday in honour of Justice Rouf.

The judicial functions of the Appellate Division ran until 11:00am and the High Court Division proceedings continued until 2:00pm.

The SC administration issued two separate notifications to this effect.

Yunus to attend

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to help shape a brighter future.

Rafiqul said this year’s summit will continue to foster effective partnerships between governments while enhancing global dialogue and cooperation to strengthen the connection between governments and the people.

Bangladesh and the UAE share a historically strong and friendly relationship, which has been further strengthened through economic cooperation and common political interests.

A significant number of Bangladeshi expatriates reside in the UAE, contributing to Bangladesh’s economy through remittances. Additionally, bilateral trade is expanding in sectors such as textiles, agricultural products, and energy.

Teenager shot

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left the factory with police assistance.

“As the jhut truck reached Sharif Chowdhury’s house, his men started shooting from the roof of the house and at one point set the truck on fire. Two of our people, including a labourer named Manju, were shot.”

Rakibul, deputy general manager of Preeti Composite Textile Limited, said there was no trouble in their factory premises. “I heard that there was trouble outside the factory.”

“A person named Bakul Bhuiyan has a contract with us,” he added.

Mid Nur Alam Siddiquee, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said police are trying to identify those involved in the incident.

“We have received video footage of the incident,” he added.