

## AR Rahman recuperates after brief hospitalisation

Last Saturday, Oscar-winning music composer AR Rahman was admitted to Apollo Hospital in Chennai. However, AR Ameen, his son, provided an update, while the hospital issued a press release confirming that Rahman was discharged yesterday.

The musician returned from London on Saturday and started feeling unwell, prompting him to seek a check-up. Rahman was admitted to the hospital, where he received an ECG and echocardiogram.

As per ANI, all the tests conducted by doctors showed Rahman's condition to be normal. They stated that Rahman's condition was due to dehydration, probably resulting from fasting during Ramadan.

His team also dismissed "false" reports that suggested he was hospitalised due to chest pain.



## 'CHOKKOR 302'

### Mosharraf Karim ready to steal the show this Eid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After a prolonged hiatus, Mosharraf Karim is making his return to the silver screen this Eid-ul-Fitr with *Chokkor 302*. Directed by Saraf Ahmed Zibon, the film's teaser has already been released, garnering widespread praise from netizens.

Mosharraf Karim, who takes on the role of police officer Mainul in this thriller, recently spoke to The Daily Star about it. According to him, the narrative of *Chokkor 302* unravels multiple mysteries as the story progresses. "Zibon is one of my favourite people, and his storytelling approach is rather unique," said Mosharraf Karim. "Our promotional video has captivated the audience, and from that, I believe they will definitely come to watch the film in cinemas."

Director Zibon emphasised that the film does not only surround a murder mystery but that it also



dives into the emotional depth of humane relationships. The film, which received a government grant in 2023, was filmed in several locations, including Dhaka, Manikganj, Diyabari, and Sadarghat, among others.

Beyond his long awaited return to cinema, Mosharraf Karim is particularly excited about the film's release during the festive atmosphere of Eid. "My fans and well-wishers have been waiting for this comeback for so long. That wait will finally be over. I earnestly hope they will enjoy the film," he expressed.

Apart from his established career in theatre and television, Mosharraf Karim made his silver screen debut with *Joyjatra* in 2004.

Over the years, he has delivered several acclaimed performances in films such as *Daruchini Dwip* (2007), *Third Person Singular Number* (2009), *Television* (2012), *Jalaler Golpo* (2014), and *Haldaa* (2017). His Tollywood debut, *Hubba* (2024), received widespread acclaim from both critics and audiences alike.

Along with *Chokkor 302*, Mosharraf Karim also has another film, *Bikdakini*, awaiting release.

## Purobi Cinema Hall falls, Chayabani now Mymensingh's last standing

Mymensingh's iconic Purobi Cinema Hall, a relic of the city's golden film age, is being demolished to make way for a market.

Mymensingh once had five bustling cinema halls—Ajanta, Chayabani, Alka, Purobi, and Sena Auditorium. Over time, only Chayabani and Purobi remained. Now, as commercial developments take over Purobi, Chayabani will remain the sole survivor.

Purobi manager Kazi Delwar confirmed to local media that demolition began last month, he added, "A market is planned for the site, with hopes of a cineplex on the ground floor, though it may take four to five years."

On December 7, 2002, JMB bombed four Mymensingh cinemas, killing 17 and injuring over 200. Since then, the city's cinema culture has declined, with halls shutting down one after another.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?



### Indigenous Tree Plantation at Panthakunja Park

The Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement (BTPM) is hosting a 10-day tree plantation event featuring infrastructural art installations, music, and performing arts by environmental artists, aimed at raising awareness of the Panthakunja Park rehabilitation project.

The program invites public participation and contributions of indigenous saplings to restore the park's natural greenery during the monsoon season.

DATE: TODAY-SUNDAY | MARCH 17-23

TIME: 12PM-3PM

VENUE: PANTHAKUNJA PARK, KARWAN BAZAR



### 'Single White Female' remake in the works

Actresses Taylor Russell and Jenna Ortega are in discussions to star in a remake of *Single White Female*, as per recent reports. The film company 3000 Pictures is planning to remake the 1992 psycho-sexual thriller, which originally featured Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Russell and Ortega are set to star in and produce the remake. However, Sony, which has a partnership with the production company, has yet to comment on the project.

## NEWS

### Yunus to discuss law and order

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the world, reported BSS.

Top Asian leaders and CEOs of leading firms will participate in the conference.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen called on Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday to discuss the upcoming tour.

After the meeting with the ambassador, Shafiqul said that the chief adviser was likely to meet CEOs of some companies on the sidelines of the forum.

The Chinese envoy informed Yunus that Chinese companies made larger investments in Bangladesh after the interim government took charge last year.

"We hope that more Chinese companies will come to Bangladesh with their investment after the visit," Shafiqul added.

He said the chief adviser would hold talks with Chinese hospital chains to invite them to explore

business potential and set up hospitals in Bangladesh under joint venture initiatives.

The first bilateral meeting between Prof Yunus and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be held in Beijing on March 28, the press secretary said.

He said that issues related to bilateral interest will be discussed in the meeting.

Bangladesh wants to take its relations with China to a new height aiming to turn Bangladesh into a manufacturing hub, he said, adding, "They [China] think that this would be the most important visit by the Bangladeshi leader."

The government's focus will be on attracting Chinese companies to relocate their factories to Bangladesh, Shafiqul said.

On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last year, the chief adviser talked to the Chinese foreign minister and sought Chinese investment in

Bangladesh's solar energy sector.

In response, two Chinese companies, including the world's leading supplier of solar PV solutions Longi, will soon set up their offices and manufacturing plants in Bangladesh, according to Shafiqul.

During the visit, Prof Yunus would deliver a lecture at Peking University, which would confer an honorary doctorate on the chief adviser, said the press secretary.

The chief adviser will also visit the Chinese Hi-Tech parks.

Regarding the government's reform initiatives, Shafiqul said that Bangladesh had the full support of its friendly partners and well-wishers in its reform agenda, but the reform initiatives were completely "homegrown" and they would remain so, reported UNB.

"The reform process is fully homegrown. We are maintaining the highest transparency," he added.

### Bangabandhu

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began as a humble activist during his student years. After completing his studies at Islamia College in Calcutta in 1947, he enrolled in law at Dhaka University. However, his involvement in politics ultimately led to his expulsion from the university in 1948. That same year, he was imprisoned twice.

By 1954, he had evolved into an activist politician, driven by his involvement in the formation of the Awami Muslim League in June 1949.

Following Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy's death in 1963, he revived the Awami League in January 1964. In February 1966, he unveiled the Six-Point Programme for regional autonomy during a conference of Pakistan's opposition parties in Lahore.

In May that year, he was arrested under the Defence of Pakistan Rules. While in prison, he was charged, in January 1968, with conspiracy to break up Pakistan through what was given out as the Agartala Conspiracy Case.

A mass upsurge forced the withdrawal of the case on February 22, 1969. The next day, at a huge rally at the then Race Course Maidan, Sheikh Mujib was bestowed with the title "Bangabandhu" – the Friend of Bengal.

Bangabandhu led the Awami League to a decisive victory in Pakistan's first general elections in December 1970.

On March 7, 1971 he delivered the historic speech, which united the entire nation for the Liberation War.

As the Pakistan army launched its genocidal crackdown on Bangladesh on March 25, 1971, Bangabandhu was arrested shortly afterward. He was flown to West Pakistan, where he faced trial on charges of treason.

Pakistan's defeat and the emergence of an independent Bangladesh saw him return home on January 10, 1972.

During his rule, Bangabandhu made several controversial moves, including establishing the Rakkhi Bahini, introducing a one-party rule called Baksal, and banning or closing all but four state-owned newspapers.

On August 15, 1975, he along with most of his family members was assassinated by a disgruntled group of army men.

Bangabandhu's birthday used to be celebrated as National Children's Day throughout the past Awami League rule. It used to be a public holiday. However, the interim government has cancelled the National Children's Day.

### Tarique promises trials

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election in the future. Regardless of which party comes to power, he said there must be a programme, alongside various other activities, to ensure justice for all victims of torture and injustice.

"The trial must be conducted fairly at any costs. If we fail to hold trials for past injustices, and if there is no fair

and proper trial for these incidents, then injustice could happen once again in the country," he warned.

Tarique urged the victim families not to lose hope but to live up to their expectations.

"If we all remain united and vocal against injustice, we will certainly be able to hold these trials in this land," he added.

### Penalise wealthy

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towards direct taxes to alleviate the financial burden on ordinary citizens and for revisiting corporate tax.

The meeting addressed the inflation crisis, emphasising that monetary policies alone are insufficient, and discussed measures including buffer stock scheme and open market operations.

Participants also discussed

enhancing transparency in tax expenditures and integrating them into the monetary framework.

Prominent figures, including CPD Distinguished Fellow Mustafizur Rahman, PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar, and InM Executive Director Mustafa K Mujeer, contributed to the dialogue, underscoring the need for reforms to fortify the nation's economic foundation.

### Dhaka Central University for 7 colleges

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Once the proposal is approved by the DU Syndicate, the interim administration will be finalised, Majumder said.

The university's administrative structure is nearly complete, and final decisions will soon be made. Initially, the interim administration will be led by one of the principals from the seven colleges.

The UGC has conducted interviews with the seven principals, and one will be selected to head the new university. The respective principal's college will serve as the university's headquarters.

Earlier, on January 27, the DU authorities announced they would sever ties with the seven colleges following

demands from the students.

From the 2024-25 academic year, no new students will be admitted under DU though existing students will continue their studies under DU's administration.

Before the creation of the National University in 1992, the seven colleges were affiliated with DU.

After the National University was established, it took over the responsibility for the colleges and others affiliated with various public universities.

However, in August 2014, then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the education ministry to re-affiliate the colleges with their respective public

universities.

The process of re-affiliation was formally initiated in November 2016, and on February 17, 2017, the seven colleges were re-affiliated with DU.

The aim was to improve education quality, reduce pressure on the National University and eliminate session jams.

However, the re-affiliation led to significant issues such as delays in exam schedules, result publication and administrative inefficiencies, eliciting student protests.

In October 2024, students began calling for the establishment of an independent university for the seven colleges.

### US strikes kill 31 in Yemen

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Trump also issued a stern warning to the group's main backer.

"To Iran: Support for the Houthi terrorists must end IMMEDIATELY!" he said, adding it would be held "fully accountable" for any continued threats.

The Huthis vowed the strikes "will not pass without response", while Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi condemned the deaths and said Washington had "no authority" to dictate Tehran's foreign policy.

The Huthi Ansarullah website slammed what it called Washington's

"criminal brutality".

US Central Command, which posted videos of fighter jets taking off and a bomb demolishing a compound, said "precision strikes" were launched to "defend American interests, deter enemies, and restore freedom of navigation".

The Huthis' political bureau said its "forces are fully prepared to confront escalation with escalation".

The rebels, who have controlled much of Yemen for more than a decade, are part of the "axis of resistance" of pro-Iran groups

staunchly opposed to Israel and the United States.

They have launched scores of drone and missile attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the Huthis had "attacked US warships 174 times and commercial vessels 145 times since 2023".

The campaign put a major strain on the vital route, which normally carries about 12 percent of world shipping traffic, forcing many companies to take a costly detour around southern Africa.

### Govt seeks

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district magistrate, was constituted for each district with superintendents of police and public prosecutors as members.

Following verification by the field-level district committees, recommendations for withdrawal are being forwarded to the central committee by district magistrates and the Solicitor's Office of the Law and Justice Division.

The press release further stated that this initiative, undertaken jointly by the home and the law ministries, would continue to ensure that no innocent individuals and political activists are subject to harassment.