



# Influencers to take the spotlight

The Marvel of Tomorrow rolls red carpet tomorrow

**The Gala Night will be chalk-full of stars tomorrow, with a musical act by Pritom Hasan, dance performances by Tiktokers Twink Carol and Joy Sarkar Bappi, magic show by Magic Razik, fashion show designed by Saifya, just to name a few.**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

In the age of digitalisation, influencers have established connection to the audience that often rivals celebrities.

To celebrate their prowess and achievements, the second iteration of The Marvel of Tomorrow, the definitive award programme that recognises influencers, will take place at the capital's Chef's Table Courtyard on Friday.

Arranged by The Marvel - Be You, launched the second season of their influencer recognition program.

Last year on December 9, the first-ever data-centric recognition & award program for the influencers and content creators in Bangladesh with more than 800 influencers, brands & agencies. 18 inspiring influencers were felicitated under 15 categories.

This year, 26 categories will be awarded at the event.

To be fully data-centric, Kantar Research is supporting the research and analysis for the event. Around 40+ Industry leaders and experts acting as the grand juries will do the qualitative analysis, after Kantar's quantitative analysis.

"After serving in the communication industry for so long, we completely understand and respect the value of influencers in the present digital marketing era", said Breity Sabrin, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Marvel-Be You. "I am proud to be a part of



something so meaningful."

"With huge expectations, Marvel of Tomorrow will impact more and create a bigger success this year," said M Jahangir Alam, FCMA, Group CEO, Bangla Trac Group, Director and CEO, LEVERnGEAR, Managing Director, CLAREx Ltd, Board Chair of The Yours Truly (parent company of The Marvel - Be You).

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dance performances by Tiktokers Twink Carol and Joy Sarkar Bappi, magic show by Magic Razik, fashion show designed by Saifya, just to name a few.

The gala night will be hosted by Rafsan Sabab, Sakib Bin Rashid and Sarah Alam, and the red carpet by Salman Muqtadir, Saba Chowdhury, Twink Carol and Magic Razik.

The event is presented by Daraz, Empowered by bKash, In association with The Daily Star.

## Pooja Sengupta giving dance lessons to Canadian envoy



Noted dancer Pooja Sengupta, who is also the artistic director of Turongomi Repertory Dance Theatre, has now become a tutor for Canada's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dr. Lilly Nicholls. The esteemed Ambassador has been taking dance lessons religiously, once every week, for almost five months now.

This time, Dr. Lilly Nicholls will be participating in a dance drama called Nandini, which will be organised at the Canadian Embassy. The production is being directed by Pooja Sengupta. Nandini will be staged this Thursday, at 7 pm.

## Jaya Ahsan, Pankaj Tripathi pose for upcoming Hindi film shoot

Jaya Ahsan will star opposite Pankaj Tripathi, Sanjana Sanghi Parvathy Thiruvothu and others in Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's upcoming untitled film by Wiz Films, HT Content Studio and KVN Productions.

The pictures of the cast were recently posted on social media, with Jaya looking stellar in a green top.

"This is my first film in Hindi and my character is an integral part of the movie. When this offer came to me, I was thrilled and said yes immediately because Aniruddha is the director, and I have Pankaj Tripathi as one of my co-actors. I have always wanted to work with them and the fact that it's my first Hindi film doubles the delight," said Jaya to Times of India.

The film is set to start shooting in December.



# NEWS

## US concerned over political violence

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yesterday, emphasising the need for "free expression, media freedom and peaceful assembly".

"As Bangladesh is coming closer to its national election next year, we remind Bangladesh of its commitments, as a UN member state, to free expression, media freedom and peaceful assembly among others written in the Declaration."

The Declaration says that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

"Ours is a shared humanity rooted in universal values. A threat to the rights of one person is a threat to the whole of society," she said in the statement ahead of International Human Rights Day on December 10.

The UN in solidarity with all Bangladeshis recommit itself to upholding the core values of dignity, equality and liberty, including thought and conscience, she added.

Lewis's statement comes a day after 15 foreign missions in Bangladesh sent in an extraordinary joint statement ahead of International Human Rights Day, a day when the opposition political party BNP announced a rally in Dhaka.

The signatories to the joint statement are the missions of

Australia, the UK, Canada, Denmark, the EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US.

They highlighted the fundamental role democracy plays in protecting human rights and promoting development in Bangladesh and reaffirmed the importance of free, fair, inclusive and peaceful electoral processes in the spirit of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

**TRAVEL ALERT'S COMING IN FAST**

The US embassy in Dhaka yesterday issued an alert ahead of the political demonstrations on December 10, saying that the rallies intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence.

Two of Bangladesh's largest political parties have announced rallies in different areas of Dhaka for December 10, the statement said.

"You should avoid demonstrations and exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gatherings. Review personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates," it added.

This comes following a similar alert from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office on December 6.

**US EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER DSA**

The US also expressed concerns over the Digital Security Act.

"We are of course aware that you and some of your colleagues - Pinaki Bhattacharya, Mofizur Rahman - have been charged under the so-called DSA, the Digital Security Act," Price said in response to a question from Mushfiqul Fazal, the White House correspondent for Just News BD, a web portal.

On October 15, KM Abdullah Hil Maruf, the sub-inspector of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, filed a case under the DSA against Bhattacharya, Rahman and Fazal with Ramna Police Station on charges of "conspiracy and tarnishing the image of the state".

Following the case, police arrested Rahman and he is in jail now; Fazal and Bhattacharya live in the US and France respectively.

Freedom of expression should never be criminalised, Price said, adding that it should never be a source or a subject of duress or intimidation.

"We have made our concerns about the DSA very clear. We have done so in our Human Rights Report. We have had frank and candid conversations with our Bangladeshi partners as well," he added.

## Bangabandhu's

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quote, which is also the foreign policy dictum of Bangladesh, has been inserted in the 14th paragraph of the resolution, according to a statement of the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

It reads, "Recognising the importance of combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment, and emphasising that friendship to all and malice towards none, in the spirit of constructive cooperation, dialogue, and mutual understanding, will help to achieve these objectives."

This text was developed based on Bangabandhu's maiden speech at the UNGA on September 25, 1974, where Bangabandhu emphasised the need for establishing world peace.

The resolution was cosponsored by 70 countries, including Bangladesh and other South Asian nations.

## Print media

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official duties, they can seek legal assistance from the council.

Based on the application, if the council deems the journalist is being accused for publishing correct news, then the council will provide legal assistance.

The press council will de-register a journalist when they: die, leave journalism, are convicted of a criminal offence by a Bangladeshi court or violate any condition for registration.

In the case of convicted journalists, the council can also postpone their registration depending on the gravity of the punishment.

Journalists can download the application form and know about the detailed application procedure by visiting the council's website [www.presscouncil.gov.bd](http://www.presscouncil.gov.bd).

## Tofazzel made

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than six years in different positions including secretary, director general, and private secretary to the prime minister.

Born on July 5, 1965, in Pirojpur, Tofazzel began his career in Bangladesh Civil Service in 1991.

## Key BNP leaders

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adding after verification police will file cases against the detainees.

He said police seized 15 cocktails from the BNP party office and found over Tk 2 lakh, 160 sacks of rice, over two lakh water bottles and prepared khichuri.

When asked, he dismissed BNP's claim that police took the bombs to the party office.

Haron said there was an ill motive behind BNP men blocking the road in front of the party headquarters in the afternoon. When police asked them to clear the road, they attacked law enforcers, blasted hundreds of cocktails and went on a spree of vandalism which ultimately led to a chase and counter chase.

Party leaders said they saw Rizvi picked up by law enforcers in front of the party office around 5:20pm and taken away in a prison van.

After Rizvi's detention, police picked up Aman, Salam and Khokon from there, party sources said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir took position in front of the party office around 4:30pm.

Talking to reporters later, he said law enforcers picked up more than 200 party leaders and activists from the spot.

He said the clash at Nayapaltan area is part of a conspiracy to foil the scheduled rally on December 10.

"This incident is to foil the rally. This is a conspiracy," Fakhru told reporters around 4:30pm.

He demanded that authorities withdraw the police force deployed in Nayapaltan so that they can hold the rally peacefully.

Biplob Kumar Sarkar, joint commissioner (operations) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said they have arrested many "criminals" and those who have been "instigating the criminals".

He said they stayed there to deal with the overall situation with great patience and they were repeatedly provoked.

"When we are attacked, when people's lives are threatened, common people are attacked, we were forced to conduct operations ... They even threw bombs from the second floor of their office," he said.

"Many bombs were kept there for carrying out subversive activities. We recovered those."

Asked about Fakhru's allegation that police brought bombs in bags, he said the operation was carried out before everyone's eyes and police recovered bombs and sticks, he added.

"We do not understand senior-junior leaders... those who committed terrorism, instigated terrorism, have been detained and legal action will be taken against them."

## Hoteliers count losses as guests stay clear

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BNP have been alleging that the drive is to arrest the leaders and activists of the party and its front organisations, centring the BNP's December 10 rally in Dhaka.

Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 257 people in the city. Since the drive began 1,279 people have so far been arrested in areas under the DMP.

The PHQ supplied data of arrestees

for three days from December 3 to 5, which shows 3,895 people were arrested during the three days. For the last two days no data of arrests was provided by the PHQ.

**BNP MEN FLEE HOMES**

BNP men and locals in different areas under Mirpur, Tejgaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Kafrul, Bhashan Tek, Pallabi, Shah Ali police stations told this newspaper that police were going to the homes of BNP leaders and

activists, asking their whereabouts since December 1.

In the wake of such drives, leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations fled their homes to avoid arrest.

"Police went to my home on Sunday and Monday and asked my family about my whereabouts," said a Swechhchasebak Dal activist from west Karwan Bazar area over phone.

rally through Tongi, Ashulia and Gabtoli.

Addressing the triennial conference of Noakhali district AL, Obaidul Quader, the party's general secretary, said their activists will remain vigilant in all cities, districts, upazilas, unions, wards, alleys and villages of the country on December 10.

## AL men 'on guard' for Dec 10 BNP rally

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A section of the activists there will remain on the street till the December 10 rally to observe the rival party's movement.

The Dhaka Metropolitan North unit AL will hold a rally on the trade fair grounds in Agargaon on December 13.

AL men are conducting rallies, and holding meetings and other programmes in different wards almost every day.

Sources of the Metropolitan North Awami League say that their main responsibility is to guard the entryways to ensure that BNP activists cannot come to the