

## BAPPA MAZUMDER revives Lucky Akhand’s melody in ‘Bhober Nodi’

Seven years after Lucky Akhand’s passing, his timeless music lives on with *Bhober Nodi*, a new song performed by Bappa Mazumder and Sayeeda Shampa. Based on a melody composed by the legendary musician, the track features lyrics by Golam Morshed and music arranged by Bappa.

Set to release today on *Gaan Janala* YouTube channel, the song celebrates Akhand’s enduring legacy. Bappa expressed gratitude for the opportunity, praising Akhand’s soulful compositions and Shampa’s complementing vocals.

Lyricist Morshed highlighted the collaboration as a tribute to Akhand’s influence, which continues to inspire Bangladeshi music today.



## 12 entertainment stars in BBC 100 Women 2024 list

The BBC’s 2024 100 Women list celebrates inspiring figures driving change amid global crises, including 12 entertainment industry icons who have used their platforms to challenge stereotypes and inspire action.

Afghan singer Elaha Soroor’s anthem *Naan, Kar, Azadi!* has become a powerful symbol of resistance for Afghan women. Pakistani singer Hadiqa Kiani has combined music with humanitarian work, rebuilding homes for flood victims through her *Vaseela-e-Raah* project. Malian artiste Inna Modja advocates for climate justice as a co-founder of Code Green and highlights Africa’s environmental efforts through her film *The Great Green Wall*.

Other honorees include Japanese comedian Naomi Watanabe, British singer Raye, and Indonesian heavy metal vocalist Firda Marsya Kurnia, all of whom continue to inspire change through their creative and social contributions.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### ‘Gai Gaan, Miley Prane Pran’

An intimate musical gathering for music lovers at Jatra Birotti, featuring Shorbonam, Argha Dev, and Rodoshi Isfar Fatemi.

**Date: December 7**

**Time: 7pm**



## BEYONCÉ crowned as ultimate pop icon of the 21st century

Billboard has named Beyoncé the greatest pop icon of the 21st century, celebrating her 25-year career of record-breaking achievements, constant reinvention, and unmatched artistry. With 32 Grammy wins—the most in history—and 11 new nominations for her 2024 album *Cowboy Carter*, she continues to dominate.

Beyoncé boasts nine No 1 singles, 24 top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100, and eight No 1 albums since her 2003 debut *Dangerously in Love*. Billboard’s list ranks Taylor Swift and Rihanna at No 2 and No 3, respectively, alongside other stars like Adele, Drake, and Lady Gaga shaping modern pop culture.



## Teerondaz Repertory returns to Shilpakala after 8-year ban

After an eight-year hiatus, Teerondaz Repertory returns to Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy this Friday, marking its comeback with a debate and two performances. Banned in 2016 for a Sundarbans awareness issue, the troupe’s return follows the political shift post-July Uprising.

The day begins with *Bagbitanda* (Verbal Duel) at 4pm, featuring Deepak Suman and Anu Muhammad debating autocracy and development, with audience participation.

At 5:30pm and 7pm, the group will stage *Konthonalite Surjo* (The Sun in the Windpipe), exploring identity and existential struggles. The cast includes Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Shayer Niyogi, and Deepak Suman, among others.



## Khijir Hayat Khan resigns from Film Certification Board

Filmmaker Khijir Hayat Khan has resigned from the Bangladesh Film Certification Board just three weeks after its reformation in September. Announcing his decision via Facebook on December 3, he stated, “Holding a government position doesn’t mean censoring one’s thoughts... I can’t change myself for any position or title.” He cited personal reasons for stepping down.

The 15-member board, formed to address filmmakers’ demands, includes figures like Dr Zakir Hossain Raju and Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed. Chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the board oversees film certification in Bangladesh.



# NEWS

## Pacers lead Tigers to glory

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quicks, including Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, and Nahid Rana – the latest to make his way in the pace unit and the most exciting of all – now making their presence felt in almost every other matches, Bangladesh finally seem to have cracked the code of bundling the opposition out twice in a Test.

The second Test against West Indies was turned on its head on Day 3 when Nahid terrorised the hosts’ batters with deliveries that clocked around and even over the 150kph mark.

From 85 for one to getting bundled out for just 146, still 18 runs away from the Tigers’ low 164-run first-innings total, West Indies batters were left bamboozled, bruised, and shocked by what Nahid offered during a spell of fierce fast bowling. He ended up with his maiden Test fifer in the first innings, and that seemed to have sparked a belief in the troops to go in the ascendancy from there on.

In the second innings, Jaker Ali’s relentless career-best 91 off 106

deliveries, stand-in skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz and opener Shadman Islam’s sudden attack on the Windies bowlers to Taijul Islam wrapping things up on Day 4 – the foundation for all of it were laid by Nahid had done in the previous innings.

The pacers even played a crucial role on the fourth day as well, with Taskin reaping the benefits of bowling in tandem with Nahid as he gave Tigers two crucial breakthroughs in between spinners weaving their web.

The Test series win in Pakistan saw pacers take a total of 21 wickets in two matches and even the famous win over the BlackCaps in Mount Maunganui in 2021 was on the back of a brilliant spell by Ebadot Hossain.

From a time when Bangladesh had to rely mostly on spinners making most of the pitches tailored to suit them to the Tigers knowing that now they have what it takes to overpower opponents even in their own backyards – this particular WTC cycle will definitely work as a confidence booster for even better Test outings in the coming years.

## Amu, Qamrul

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The AL leaders, who were arrested earlier in other cases, were brought to the court from Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj around 10:20am.

Qamrul was dressed in a khaki shirt, black trousers, and black glasses, while Amu wore a white Panjabi and pajama. They were produced before the court around 11:40am.

As state prosecutor Gazi Monowar Hossain Tamim read the allegations against Amu to the tribunal, he stated that the accused, as the coordinator of the 14-party alliance, had decided to impose a curfew and issue shoot-on-sight orders to suppress the student movement.

Amu remained silent, but he shook his head as the charges were read.

Qamrul has been charged with ordering the indiscriminate shooting of students and ordinary people in the capital’s New Market area, which led to numerous fatalities. The killings were carried out by Chhatra League, Jubo League, and law enforcement agencies.

As the prosecutor detailed the charges, Qamrul smiled faintly.

Briefing journalists after the court proceedings, prosecutor Gazi Monowar Hossain Tamim said, “Today [yesterday]

is a significant and remarkable day for all of us. Qamrul Islam was the very person who formed this tribunal. Now, he is here to face trial for his crimes.”

Then Hasina-led AL government constituted the ICT in March 2010 to try the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

Prosecutor Monowar yesterday said they told the tribunal that both Amu and Qamrul were present at the meeting that decided to issue the shoot-at-sight order. “The following day, many innocent students and civilians were shot dead, and many others injured across the country.”

According to the prosecutor, the ICT has already issued arrest warrants for about 70 high-profile individuals, including former ministers, judges, bureaucrats, an army major general, and law enforcement officials, in a case filed over committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising.

However, only about 25 of them have been arrested so far.

DB police arrested Amu in the capital on November 6.

Qamrul was detained on November 18 before being shown arrested in the murder case of one Abdul Wadud.

## 12 remanded

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Clashes between police, lawyers, and followers of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari erupted after he was denied bail in a sedition case on November 26. Saiful Islam Alif, a lawyer, was killed during the clashes.

Police have arrested 39 people so far in five cases over the violence and the murder.

## Banks were considered

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Mansur, who took over the central bank in August, recounted what he had seen when he first surveyed the economy. “Everything was a disaster,” he told the NYT. Now he says he is “cautiously optimistic” that things are being stabilised.

This “is not the year for economic growth,” Mansur added. But inflation is coming down, and remittances are going up. “We have to be satisfied with that,” he said.

## MPs begin push

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also filed a complaint of “insurrection” against the president, some of his ministers and top military and police officials – which can carry a penalty of life imprisonment or even death.

Even the leader of Yoon’s own ruling party described the attempt as “tragic” while calling for those involved to be held accountable.

In a show of public anger against the president, thousands of protesters converged around his office in central Seoul on Wednesday evening after staging a rally in Gwanghwamun Square, demanding Yoon quit.

In his late-night television announcement imposing martial law on Tuesday, Yoon cited the threat of North Korea and “anti-state forces.”

More than 280 troops, some flown in by helicopters, arrived at parliament to lock down the site.

But 190 lawmakers defied rifle-carrying soldiers to force their way into parliament to vote against the move.

The constitution says martial law must be lifted when a parliamentary majority demands it, leaving Yoon with little choice but to retract his decision and call off the military in another television address six hours later.

## Rice to be imported

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The current rice stock is below the 10.5 lakh tonnes recommended by experts for enabling market interventions by the government to foil price manipulation by private millers and traders.

Public food stocks stood at 10.90 lakh tonnes, which includes 6.69 lakh tonnes of rice, on December 4.

Meanwhile, food ministry officials said they have initiated efforts for both government-to-government arrangements and open tenders.

Bangladesh has signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam and Myanmar for rice imports and the deals are valid until 2027, they said.

In addition, the advisory committee

on government purchases recently eased public procurement rules for rice imports through open tender, bringing down the time needed to 15 days from 42 days.

The advisory committee on economic affairs has also decided, in principle, that the government would import 5 lakh tonnes of rice.

Estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension show that Aman acreage declined to 57.35 lakh hectares this season from 57.5 lakh hectares in the previous one.

The Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission in a report on October 29 cited the DAE estimate and said the recent floods had caused a production loss of 8.39 lakh tonnes.

## Student leaders

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establish non-partisan, student-council-based politics on campuses, ensuring representation of students.

Hasant also said that student’s representation in the interim government should be ensured through elections to student councils before the national elections.

The student organisations also decided that each platform will submit a proposal by December 20 outlining the reforms in student politics.

“A new kind of politics led by student organisations is the need of the hour. We, the leaders of student organisations, will outline the nature

of the reforms we want,” Shibgatullah Shibga, literary affairs secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir, told the briefing.

The student leaders claimed that 30 student platforms attended yesterday’s meeting. However, according to meeting sources, Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, and all the left-leaning student organisations were absent.

Contacted, Nasir Uddin Nasir, general secretary of Chhatra Dal, stated that while the interim government has mentioned involving students in various initiatives, including the reform commissions, only a particular group has been engaged so far, and no discussions were held with other organisations.

## Hindu temples, houses

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houses. The house and family temple of Guru Dey, president of Upazila Puja Udjaan Parishad, were vandalised. They also looted several gold jewellers’ stores and shops owned by Hindu people.”

Rahul Das Ratul, a resident of Manglargaon, said, “They attacked my neighbourhood around 10 o’ clock at night. I called 999 and then the army team arrived.”

“I don’t understand why all of us have to suffer because of a single man’s fault?” he asked.

Police filed a case under the Cyber Security Act, accusing the man. A Sunamganj court later sent him to jail.

The army set a temporary camp at Manglargaon village to prevent the risk of further incidents, said the OC.

Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ilias Mia said, “We suspect the incident was preplanned:

the mob was instigated to attack Hindu properties. The damage is not as much as it is said to be. We met the religious leaders in the upazila to keep the situation calm.”

Also on Tuesday night, a temple titled Sree Sree Kali Mandir was partially damaged in an attack at Gaziteka village of Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar, said Abdul Qayyum, officer-in-charge of Barlekha Police Station.

The idol, a hand pump, part of the boundary wall, and tiles were vandalised, he said, adding that no complaint had been filed over the matter.

Quoting locals, the officer said the incident occurred late at night.

“We visited the scene,” he told this correspondent.

Late last night, around 100 students of Dhaka University demonstrated near the TSC against the attacks on Hindu community.

## Rejoinder, our reply

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opposition to someone’s inclusion.

“At this critical juncture of the country and its polity we strongly urge the country’s media to refrain from the kind of malpractice that the report has done,” it added.

**Our Reply**

After getting the rejoinder The Daily Star talked to some other members of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee who attended the November 22 meeting. They confirmed that there was no discussion on the inclusion of any particular individual, but they had different views on the inclusion of new members.

That is why the Jatiya Nagorik Committee formed a seven-member search committee to scrutinise the proposed inclusion. However, the committee did not further discuss with the members on the findings of the search committee, although it is a norm of a democratic organisation to have such discussion.

We apologise for mentioning the inclusion of the particular individual.

However, The Daily Star in its report raised the procedural flaw of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee and the rejoinder didn’t mention anything on it. The report also had the comments of the platform’s spokesperson and maintained all journalistic norms and procedures. We stand by our report.

## Over 700 escaped

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with higher protein levels to ensure better nutrition, better medical services and security.

High-risk prisoners are kept in specialised cells equipped with mobile phone jammers. Officials search those cells regularly, he said, adding that CCTV cameras have been installed in some cells to monitor illegal activities.

The prison authorities are going to deploy dog squads in some prisons to prevent the entry of drugs, he added.

The prisons chief said they are going to change their logo, as it contains a boat symbol, following demands from different quarters and the general public.

Responding to a query about the attack on a former lawmaker inmate at BSMMU under jail custody, the IG prisons said the incident occurred due to security lapses. However, there were prison guards present, and due to their intervention, the incident did not escalate further.

“We have taken an important initiative to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. We are planning for a Central Prisons Hospital. If it is built, prisoners will be treated there, and we will not need to send them to government hospitals,” he said.