

TikTok celebrates rising Bangladeshi talents



The vibrant TikTok community in Bangladesh shone bright last night as the TikTok Creator Awards 2024 took center-stage in Dhaka. Held for the second consecutive year, the event celebrated Bangladeshi content creators revolutionising digital storytelling and entertainment.

Creators were recognised across 10 categories, from fashion and travel to education and food. Notable winners included Gulfam Shahana Jana (Video of the Year) and Nadir On The Go (Creator of the Year).

Pooja Dutta, head of Content Operations, South Asia, highlighted TikTok's commitment to nurturing local talent, with winners selected through a transparent, community-driven voting process.

Pori Moni's Kolkata debut 'Felubakshi' releasing soon



Pori Moni is all set to make her debut in Kolkata's film industry with the much-anticipated mystery-thriller **Felubakshi**, which is scheduled for release on January 17.

Fans first heard about her Kolkata project in early March this year, and after months of speculation, the production house has finally confirmed the release date.

Directed by Debraj Sinha, **Felubakshi** is a gripping thriller where Pori Moni plays the character Labonno. Starring alongside her are renowned Kolkata actors Soham Chakraborty, Madhumita Sarcar, and others.

Farooki's '840' coming to halls this December with sky-high anticipation

Following the release of the trailer for Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's **840**, also known as **Democracy Pvt Ltd.**, significant buzz has been created among the audience. The one question that came to everyone's mind was when, where, and how the successor to **420** can be watched. Here's the good news for viewers—**840** is set to release in cinemas across the country on December 13.

The official poster for the project was unveiled yesterday, announcing the release date of the film.

The film stars Nasir Uddin Khan, Marzuk

Russell, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Bijori Barkatullah, and Zakia Bari Mamo, alongside several local actors from Rajshahi and Naogaon.

Almost 16 years ago, director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki sparked a storm of discussions with his satirical series **420**, which highlighted contemporary social and political issues in Bangladesh. Now, he is back with its double-up.

The film is produced by Nusrat Imrose Tisha in association with Impress Telefilm. The cinematography for the film has been done by Sheikh Rajibul Islam, while the music direction and sound direction are handled by Pavel Areen and Ripon Nath respectively.



Afran Nisho announces new film on birthday



Yesterday, Afran Nisho surprised his fans on his birthday with the announcement of his upcoming film, **Dagi**. After staying away from the spotlight for over a year and a half, the actor revealed his return to the big screen, which will take place on the next Eid-ul-Fitr. The film is being produced by SVF, Alpha i Entertainment Limited, and the OTT platform Chorki.

Directed by Shihab Shaheen, **Dagi** features an ensemble cast including, Tama Mirza and Sunerah Binte Kamal in lead roles. The director described the film is a story-driven film, where the story itself is the hero. It's a tale of redemption and forgiveness. The actor sports a new look where he is spotted with a tied-up hair and black sunglasses.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

NINE FILMS for free

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Film Archive, is hosting special screenings of nine contemporary short films by emerging filmmakers. The event is free and open to all.

Date: December 11

Time: 6pm

Venue: Bangladesh Film Archive



NEWS

CA asks Meta

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to reengineer it to make it perfect," he said.

"With Facebook, you have a tremendous amount of possibility. Facebook could be used to make young people entrepreneurs," he said.

Prof Yunus said the Bangladesh government would remain engaged with Facebook for the benefit of the country's young population.

Lamiya Morshed, principal coordinator for SDG affairs, Shazzeb M Khairul Islam, chief adviser's personal secretary-2, Ruzan Sarwar, head of Meta's public policy for Bangladesh and Nepal, Nayantara Narayan, associate general counsel of Meta, Alice Budisatrijo, Meta's head of misinformation policy for Asia-Pacific, were among those present at the meeting.

Pacers strike early

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Tanzid's stay ended in the 24th over when he got caught at point off Alzarri Joseph, after which Miraz and the returning Afif Hossain (28 Off 29) formed a 54-run stand. After Afif and Miraz departed in quick successions, Mahmudullah and Jaker took the onus and together added 98 runs off just 74 balls to ensure Bangladesh set a challenging target.

Golani, the man

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himself as a champion of pluralism and tolerance.

In recent days, the insurgency even dropped his nom de guerre and began referring to him by his real name, Ahmad al-Sharaa.

The extent of that transformation from jihadi extremist to would-be state builder is now put to the test.

Insurgents control capital Damascus, Assad has fled into hiding, and for the first time after 50 years of his family's iron hand, it is an open question how Syria will be governed.

The 42-year-old al-Golani—labeled a terrorist by the United States—has not appeared publicly since Damascus fell early yesterday. But he and his insurgent force, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS—many of whose fighters are jihadists—stand to be a major player.

For years, al-Golani worked to consolidate power, while bottled up in the province of Idlib in Syria's northwest corner as Assad's Iranian- and Russian-backed rule over much of the country appeared solid.

Under AL, ACC became a political weapon

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Golap, once a special assistant of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The ACC started investigating complaints of his amassing nine properties in the US only after a court directive.

Conversely, BNP leaders faced corruption cases against them during the AL's 15-year rule, all of which were dismissed after the regime's fall on August 5.

Prominent figures, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas and Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, and Chairperson's Adviser Zainul Abedin Faruk, were acquitted due to lack of evidence.

On August 29, Mirza Abbas was acquitted in two graft cases. The Special Judge Court-6 of Dhaka in the verdict stated that allegations brought against Abbas could not be proved.

On November 26, the ACC acquitted Faruk in a case filed for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC as the prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against him.

On December 1, the ACC acquitted Mosharrar in a graft case as the charges against him could not be proved.

The ACC has allowed itself to protect and provide impunity to those linked with power and on the other hand harass the political opponents of the ruling party or individuals disliked by the government for one or another reason, said Ittekkharuzzaman, also the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

"That ACC failed to take any action against high-level individuals including ministers, MPs, and other banking and financial sector swindlers of the authoritarian regime until August 5 despite having credible information proves that their decision making has been based not on the merit of allegations but the status and identity of

individuals."

They demonstrated the same practice when they sweepingly withdrew cases against opponents of the former regime when it became clear that they could become power holders as a result of the transition, he said.

No new decisions on new inquiry, investigation and prosecution can now be taken because of the vacant posts of ACC chair and commissioners.

So, a new commission needs to be formed with urgency, he said.

"However, this is a catch-22 situation. While a quick appointment is necessary, the question is whether it may turn out to be a case of putting the cart before the horse."

This is because the matters related to the appointment of the commissioners are on top of the priority issues the commission for reform of the ACC has been trying to address.

"Which of the two options to adopt or whether an interim arrangement to be made to keep the ACC operational until actual reform of the commission commences based on reform proposals of the ACC reform commission is for the government to take," he added.

The former ACC DG Moydul echoed similar concerns, asserting that the previous government engaged in unchecked corruption while the ACC did little to address it.

Even after August 5, the commission filed only one case, which was a "mere eyewash," he said.

"Currently, the ACC is going through a crisis, as there is no commission in place. Corrupt individuals are taking advantage of this opportunity."

The delay in forming the commission is working in favour of the corrupt entities, allowing them to transfer their assets and funds.

"Therefore, I strongly believe that the commission should be formed without delay," he added.

Three pro-BNP bodies march towards

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the memorandum, Jubo Dal President Munna said, "There is no compromise when it comes to Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty... We want friendly and harmonious neighbours, not ones with an aggressive mindset."

Earlier in the day, thousands of activists from the three organisations began their protest march at 11:30am from the BNP's Nayapaltan central office. The march, which was jointly organised by Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, and Swechchhasebak Dal, was halted near Rampura Bridge at 12:35pm, where police set up barricades and urged cooperation.

The march was organised in protest of the attack on the Assistant High Commission, desecration of the Bangladesh's national flag in Kolkata, and an alleged conspiracy to incite communal unrest.

The two-page memorandum, addressed to Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, expressed concerns about recent events that could strain relations between Bangladesh and India.

Referring to the attack on the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh and the desecration of the national flag of Bangladesh, the document stated, "This is a serious

breach of diplomatic norms and international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, which mandates the inviolability of diplomatic missions."

Calling for immediate action against those responsible, the memorandum also criticised the Indian government's reaction to the recent arrest of an expelled ISKCON leader.

It added that unreasonable and unnecessary tensions have been fuelled by misinformation, which misrepresents facts and is contrary to the spirit of friendship between our nations.

The pro-BNP bodies expressed "dismay" over the role of Indian media, accusing outlets of "sensationalising events and spreading aggressive misinformation" about minority issues in Bangladesh.

"Such disinformation depicts a clear erosion of journalistic integrity," the memorandum read, adding, "Honest reporting and constructive engagement are vital for fostering trust between the two nations."

The memorandum affirmed BNP's commitment to safeguarding minority rights in Bangladesh.

"Any attacks on any minority are driven by personal disputes or land conflicts rather than deep seated

communal animosities.

"In Bangladesh, Muslim volunteers actively protect Hindu communities and their religious establishments from opportunistic violence."

The three pro-BNP bodies also urged the Indian authorities to ensure the safety and security of minorities, including Muslims, and their religious establishments in India.

Highlighting the importance of a stable and mutually respectful partnership between Bangladesh and India, the memorandum said, "The BNP remains committed to fostering strong and friendly relations based on the UN Charter principle of the sovereign equality of all its members."

Meanwhile, speaking at a brief rally before the march, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that the Indian ruling party is trying to send back Sheikh Hasina, which is nothing but direct aggression.

"What the ruling party of India is doing to bring Sheikh Hasina back is nothing but direct aggression in the language of political science."

He also accused Indian politicians and media of fabricating false narratives about minority oppression in Bangladesh.

India to install

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Amit said fencing has been completed along 591km of the border with Bangladesh. Floodlights have been installed along 1,159km of the border and 573 border outposts, along with 579 observation posts, have been constructed. Additionally, 685 locations have been provided with electricity connections, 575 places with water connections and 570 solar plants installed to ensure power supply.

He emphasised that the Modi government had undertaken the construction of border roads across approximately 1,812km of difficult terrain, enhancing connectivity to villages in these areas.

He also highlighted that efforts have been made to strengthen border fencing, construct roads on the Indian side of the border, and undertake several other infrastructure projects.

Chinmoy, 163 others sued

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Enamul also said he lodged the case after recovering from serious injuries to his head and hands.

Chinmoy, also the spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, and 18 others were sued by a BNP leader on October 31 for allegedly disrespecting Bangladesh's national flag during a Hindu community rally in Chattogram's New Market area on October 25.

Chinmoy was arrested by the Detective Branch of police near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25.

The following day, he was produced before a Chattogram court that denied him bail and sent him to jail.

His supporters demanded his release, blocking the prison van carrying him for hours at the court building.

The standoff led to clashes between

personnel of law enforcement agencies, Chinmoy's supporters, and lawyers. Police used batons and stun grenades to disperse the crowd.

Lawyer Saiful Islam Alif was beaten up and hacked to death during the violence.

Police filed three cases in connection with the clashes, naming 79 individuals and 1,400 unidentified people. Alif's father filed a case against 31 people over the murder and his brother lodged another accusing 115 individuals.

Another individual, Mohammad Ullah Chowdhury, lodged a case accusing 69 people of assault during the incident.

Police have arrested 40 people for their alleged involvement in the violence. Of them, 10 murder suspects were held after scrutinising CCTV footage.