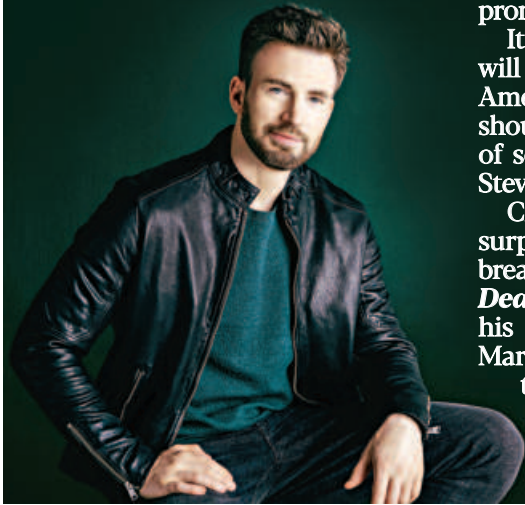


Chris Evans to join Robert Downey Jr for epic MCU reunion

Chris Evans is reportedly making a return to the MCU in the upcoming *Avengeers: Domsday*, directed by Joe and Anthony Russo.



While the exact nature of his role remains uncertain, insiders suggest that Anthony Mackie's portrayal of Sam Wilson as Captain America will also feature prominently in the film.

It appears unlikely that Evans will don the iconic Captain America suit again, but fans shouldn't rule out the possibility of seeing him reprise his role as Steve Rogers in some capacity.

Chris Evans recently made a surprise cameo in the record-breaking R-rated blockbuster, *Deadpool & Wolverine*, playing his role from the early Fox/Marvel era, Johnny Storm from the *Fantastic Four* films, predating his time as Captain America.

Pritom Hasan and Tanjin Tisha pair up for Chorki's 'Ghumpori'



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHORKI

Chorki's upcoming original film *Ghumpori* will star Tanjin Tisha and Pritom Hasan in their first on-screen collaboration. The romantic drama, which blends love with elements of mystery, has generated significant excitement. Tanjin Tisha expressed her enthusiasm for the compelling story, marking her debut on Chorki. Pritom Hasan, known for his recent success with *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*, is also eager for the project. Parsha Mahjabeen Purnee, who rose to fame during the July-August protests with her rendition of *Cholo Bhule Jai*, making her web film debut, joins the cast. Directed by Zahid Pritom, *Ghumpori* is set to begin filming soon.

AYUB BACHCHU'S Rupali Guitar restored by fans after years of neglect

Ayub Bachchu's iconic *Rupali Guitar* sculpture in Chattogram has been restored by fans after years of neglect. Erected in 2019 to honour the late music legend, the 18-foot monument had fallen into disrepair, prompting Mohammad Mohsin, a devoted fan, to lead a cleanup effort.

Mohsin rallied volunteers via a heartfelt Facebook post, and on December 8, they polished and restored the sculpture to its former glory.

Ayub Bachchu's wife, Ferdous Akhter Chandana, praised the initiative, calling it a tribute to his enduring legacy. For fans, the *Rupali Guitar* remains a cherished symbol of the beloved rock icon's impact.



PHOTO: STAR

Taylor Swift gifts \$197m in bonuses to 'Eras Tour' crew



Taylor Swift has made history with her Eras Tour, which grossed over US \$2 billion and became the highest-grossing tour of all time. To celebrate, she gifted \$197 million in bonuses to her crew, including truck drivers, dancers, technicians, and more.

The 149-date tour, attended by over 10 million fans, concluded in Vancouver, where Swift expressed heartfelt gratitude to her team. Her production company confirmed the record-breaking ticket sales, solidifying her legacy.

Additionally, Swift's *The Eras Tour Book* sold 814,000 copies in two days, with her 11th album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, becoming the year's top-streamed album.



Vicky Zahed, Afran Nisho reunite once again

Afran Nisho and Vicky Zahed, the dynamic duo behind hits like *Punorjonmo* and *Chirokal Aaj*, are set to reunite for a new web-series. Nisho, who transitioned to films with *Surongo* last year and earned acclaim for the web-series *Sharey Showlo*, has since taken a break from TV projects to focus on films.

On his birthday, December 8, he announced his upcoming movie *Dagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Following its shoot, he will begin working on the yet-to-be-titled series with Zahed. The director revealed they finalized the story after Nisho expressed interest in collaborating again.

NEWS

BNP proposes

FROM PAGE 1
"We believe that dissolving Rab at this moment would send a positive signal to the public."

The other recommendations include forming a Police Commission, establishing citizen committees at the upazila level, and introducing a proper documentation process before arrests to prevent abuse of power.

The police commission would serve as both a watchdog for the police and a body that provides recommendations.

The commission's chairman will be the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry if parliament is in session.

If parliament is not in session, a retired Supreme Court judge will serve as the interim chairman of the commission.

This eight-member commission will include a ruling party lawmaker, an opposition lawmaker, a university professor, a senior lawyer from the High Court, a prominent citizen, an additional secretary nominated by the home secretary and an additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) nominated by the IGP, who will act as the member secretary of the commission.

The government will determine the selection process for the commission's members, framework and tenure through regulations, Hafizuddin said.

The citizen committees at every upazila or thana level would help the police to prevent crime and improve relations between the police and the community.

The chairman will be a local figure, while the officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police station will serve as the member secretary.

The other members will include two Union Parishad members, one teacher, one businessperson, one imam, and local representatives from political parties with seats in parliament.

The party has proposed that the commission require police to create a formal document detailing arrest information before detaining anyone.

To prevent abuse of power, the proposed form should include details of the arrest and be signed by the arresting officer, the officer-in-charge and the unit head.

A copy of the form must also be provided to the arrested individual to ensure transparency and hold officers accountable, Hafizuddin said.

The party has called for better

training on human rights and discipline in police training institutions.

Police training institutions are often seen as "dumping grounds" for officers accused of misconduct, which undermines the quality of training, Hafizuddin said.

"To improve this, those working in training institutions should be given extra allowances and benefits."

The party has proposed two-tier recruitment for police.

The police force recruits through four entry points: constable, sergeant, sub-inspector and assistant superintendent of police (ASP).

The party suggested reforming this system by introducing a two-tier recruitment process.

Under the proposed system, the first tier would involve recruitment for the constables, while the second tier would be for ASP and that would be filled through the BCS examination.

To curb corruption within the police force, the BNP has proposed decentralising the powers.

"The procurement authority, currently controlled by the Police Headquarters, should be handed back to field-level officials," said Hafizuddin, adding that ensuring the rule requires police officers to submit an annual declaration of their assets.

The party also proposed strengthening medical facilities at the district level to ensure better treatment for family members of police.

"If the people entrust the BNP with governing the state, we will work to implement the recommendations we have made."

After August 5, at least 488 police officers sought protection from the military authorities in cantonments.

"Every one of these 488 individuals was either a criminal, corrupt or involved in enforced disappearances or killings. That is why they sought shelter. I do not think it was the right decision for the military to shelter them."

After the movement, there were no police for 3-4 days. There was no government either.

"It is difficult to pinpoint who was truly responsible. I believe that since they sought shelter inside the cantonment, military officials or senior officers from the cantonment might have had a role in their escape. But we cannot say this with certainty. Over time, this will surely come to light," Hafizuddin added.

Indian Coast

FROM PAGE 12
The two vessels are owned by C&A Agro Ltd. and SR Fishing Ltd. Both firms have submitted letters to the Marine Fisheries Office in Chattogram, requesting steps to ensure the release of the trawlers and their crew.

Md Abdus Sattar, director of the Marine Fisheries Office, Chattogram, confirmed receipt of the letters.

He said that a meeting involving relevant authorities will be held this afternoon to address the issue.

70 arrested

FROM PAGE 12
the country from August 4 to August 20, according to Bangladesh-Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad.

Citing a report by the Sweden-based Netra News on the findings of the Parishad, Shafiqul said, "It [the report] said almost every case took place due to political or personal reason, and attacks did not happen as he or she was a member of the minorities communities."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is planning to organise an international conference in the second half of next year with a view to resolving the Rohingya crisis.

All countries, including the US, the EU, China, and India, are expected to attend the international conference, Shafiqul said.

The UN and its agencies will also be invited to the conference.

"We will have a big task next year -- to organise a big international conference on the Rohingya crisis," he said, adding that the conference is expected to be held in September-October next year, and the venue and modalities will be fixed by March-April.

In September, while speaking at a high-level discussion on the Rohingya crisis held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus sought the international community's continuous focus on the crisis and warned that the whole region, not just Bangladesh, could be in trouble otherwise.

Prof Yunus proposed that the international community revisit its approach to the crisis.

Reduce VAT on newsprint

FROM PAGE 12
media during the July-August uprising.

The meeting was held at the office of Noab President AK Azad.

"We don't have the environment for independent media due to the existing legal framework for the media," said a press release of the commission, quoting Mahfuz Anam, The Daily Star editor and publisher, as saying.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman said the newspaper industry became sick in this digital era. Besides, circulation of newspapers and the income from advertisement dropped sharply due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mentioning that the previous governments tried to control the media, he said, "No governments in the past allowed media freedom

and journalists could not work independently."

However, the previous government considered newspapers as its enemy, he said.

New Age Publisher Shahidullah Khan questioned the necessity of the enlistment of media outlets. He said the Press Council should be modernised and kept free from any influence of the executive.

Urging the commission to be careful so that no vested quarters can misguide them, Bonik Barta Editor and Publisher Dewan Hanif Mahmud criticised filing of cases against editors and journalists and the revocation of accreditation cards of journalists.

AK Azad, also the publisher of daily Samakal, said they, as publishers, had to face threats and incur financial loss. Except for the newspaper industry, all

other industries got incentives during the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

He also hoped that the Media Reform Commission would place specific recommendations for the independence of editors.

During the meeting, Kamal said there is no way that the commission would be influenced by any vested quarters, and that they would submit recommendations based on the opinions of stakeholders.

He added that the commission would seek opinions from all stakeholders to prepare guidelines for the state-run Bangladesh Betar, BTV, and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

Daily Sangbad Editor Altamash Kabir and daily Financial Herald Publisher Masrur Reza also spoke at the meeting attended by other members of the commission.

Good start for mending ties

FROM PAGE 12
India and Bangladesh issued separate statements after the meetings, committing to take forward the relationship based on mutual interests.

Bangladesh's major points include asking India to tell Sheikh Hasina not to make statements, taking steps to stop false media propaganda against Bangladesh, putting an end to border killings, and resolving the unsettled issues in the bilateral relationship, including water sharing of Teesta and other rivers.

Dhaka also requested Delhi to ensure the safety of Bangladesh missions in India.

Meanwhile, India expressed concerns over the attacks on minorities and cultural and diplomatic properties.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in his statement highlighted India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

Prof Imtiaz, also executive director of Centre for Alternatives, said he thinks India has also spoken of elections in which all political parties of Bangladesh can take part and the views of people of all ethnicities and faiths are allowed.

Former ambassador to China Munshi Faiz Ahmad said it is good that India spoke about a democratic and inclusive Bangladesh. "In fact, that is why there was an uprising that ousted

the Awami League government."

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said he thinks India will continue to raise the minorities issue unless there is tangible progress.

"While we said most of the incidents are political or personal in nature and not communal, we need to ensure accountability of those responsible for any attacks on minorities. That will give us leverage."

Munshi Faiz said, "Minority repression is a human rights issue. So, anybody can speak about it. Bangladesh can also talk about the minority repression in India."

"The vital point here is that we must all ensure the protection of minorities."

As false propaganda was a major issue in the talks, Indian foreign policy analyst Prof Sreeradha Datta said the governments of both countries should issue strong statements on the misinformation being spread by media.

"Fake news and hatred through media have become real problems in our bilateral relationship. This must end," she told this correspondent from New Delhi yesterday.

She appreciated the way the FOC was held, saying that both sides spoke all of their issues including water sharing, connectivity, visa and consular services, trade and border killings.

Datta, who teaches international affairs at the OP Jindal Global

University, said the two countries should do their parts.

Prof Imtiaz said there is a perception that India gains more from the agreements or MoUs with Bangladesh.

"I think it's time the Bangladesh government seriously assesses the deals with India. This will also clear any confusion that may be there."

He said the signing of the Teesta deal is unlikely. "Therefore, Bangladesh needs to think pragmatically on how to manage the river and ensure it has water during the dry season."

Prof Imtiaz also suggested robust engagement between the people of the two countries to better understand the issues of minority repression, fake news or anti-India or anti-Bangladesh stances among them.

Munshi Faiz said the tension in the relationship only hurts the people.

"I would suggest the interim government takes steps to ensure that the political parties do not make any provocative statements that cause tension. The same also should be applied for Indian authorities."

The government can also brief the media from time to time on the developments of the bilateral relations to the media, he said.

Sreeradha Datta said diplomacy is back on track and any issues in the bilateral relations should be resolved amicably. "Both sides need to be sincere."