



Child Protection Unit sets sights on Coldplay ahead of India concert

Coldplay is gearing up to perform in India, as part of their *Music of the Spheres World Tour*. However, yesterday, just days ahead of their Ahmedabad concert, a legal notice was issued to lead singer Chris Martin and the event organisers.

The District Child Protection Unit in Ahmedabad has sent a notice to Chris Martin and the concert organisers, warning them against including children on stage in any capacity during the live show.

Additionally, the organisers have been directed to ensure that no children are allowed into the venue without earplugs or hearing protection, according to ANI.

The notice also emphasised that sound levels exceeding 120 decibels could pose serious health risks to children attending the concert.

MITHILA JOINS Bangla dub of ‘Descendants of the Sun’

The hit Korean drama *Descendants of the Sun*, famed for its record-breaking story and Song Joong-ki and Song Hye-kyo’s chemistry, is set for a Bangla dub production, with a voice actor announced.

Rafiath Rashid Mithila will be joining as the voice artiste for the second lead character, Dr Yoon Myung Joo, in the series.

Khalid Hossain Ovi announced the news on his Facebook account with the caption, “Mithila will voice the fierce and formidable Dr Yoon Myung Joo in the highly anticipated Bangla dub of *Descendants of The Sun*. The character has originally been portrayed by the internationally recognised South Korean actress Kim Ji Won.”



Golden Globes Awards crown its winners today

The Golden Globe Awards is always the first major event that commences the Hollywood award season. The 82nd edition of the ceremony is set to take place at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

The programme begins at 7:00am (BST) today, with Nikki Glaser making history as its first solo female host.

Filmmaker Jacques Audiard’s genre-defying *Emilia Pérez*, about a Mexican drug lord transitioning to life as a woman, earned 10 nominations, a record for a comedy/musical.

The Globes also honours the best in series, with comedy *The Bear* earning five nominations, and historical epic *Shogun* and comedy *Only Murders in the Building* tied at four.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

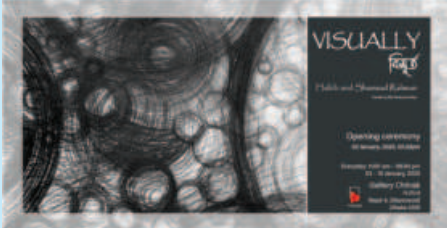
Visually Bimurto

Featuring the works of Habibur Rahman and Shamsad Rahman, the exhibition merges architectural principles with visual aesthetics, creating a world of intricate textures, shapes, and lines. Using both natural and digital mediums, the pieces encourage viewers to explore space and form interactively. Habibur Rahman and Shamsad Rahman, both award-winning designers, incorporate their architectural expertise into their artworks.

Date: January 3-15, 2025

Time: 11am - 8pm

Venue: Gallery Chitrag



Himesh Reshammiya revives ‘80s masala in ‘Badass Ravi Kumar’



Himesh Reshammiya is set to reprise his role as Ravi Kumar from *The Xpose* in the upcoming film *Badass Ravi Kumar*, a vibrant homage to 1980s Bollywood. Directed by Keith Gomes and produced by Himesh Reshammiya Melodies, the film features a screenplay by Kushal Bakshi and Reshammiya, with dialogues by Bunty Rathore.

The trailer teases high-octane action, showcasing Ravi Kumar wielding a chainsaw against foes. Prabhu Deva plays the magnetic antagonist Carlos Pedro Panther, while Kirti Kulhari stars as the bold Laila. The ensemble cast includes Sanjay Mishra, Johnny Lever, Sunny Leone, and debutant Simona as Madhubala, opposite Himesh.

Award-winning films spotlight indigenous voices at Hill Film Festival



The sixth Hill Film Festival concluded on Saturday at DrikPath Bhubon, Dhaka, celebrating outstanding cinematic achievements. This year’s festival, a vital celebration of indigenous cinema, showcased 62 films from 20 countries, spanning a range of genres from short fiction to experimental works, and representing 18 different languages.

Zayed Siddiki’s *Raven* won Best Short Fiction, while Chanho Lee’s *Water Lilies* earned Best Feature Fiction, with Lee dedicating the award to his passionate

cast and crew. *Wild Coast Warriors* by Nick Chevallier and team claimed Best Feature Documentary, and *Mama* by Nadia Nazar received Best Experimental Film. The Best Student Film Award went to *Sound of Silence* by Soumik Bakshi Dipto, Irfanul Haque, Sanjida Swarna, and Pail Sarkar. These accolades reflect the festival’s dedication to diverse voices and genres, amplifying indigenous stories and creative excellence across fiction, documentary, and experimental filmmaking.

COUNTRYWIDE

CHITAI PITHA

A beloved winter delicacy

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

As winter grips the rural areas of Bagerhat, the aroma of freshly prepared Chitai Pitha -- locally known as Kachi Khocha -- draws crowds to village markets. These traditional rice pancakes, served with either warm date molasses or a savoury mix of mustard and shrimp paste, have become a seasonal favourite, bringing joy to customers and livelihoods to vendors.

At the busy Signboard Bazar in Kachua upazila, 70-year-old pitha seller Md Monsur Ali Sheikh has become a familiar figure. For over

Similarly, Hasi Begum, another pitha vendor in the same market, runs her small business with a slightly different pricing strategy.

She sells two pieces of Chitai Pitha for Tk 15, earning around Tk 1,500 daily.

However, rising costs of raw materials have eaten into her profits. “I spend Tk 700 on ingredients daily, and although I sell enough to make a decent income, the increased prices of essentials leave me with little profit,” she said.

Customers also express their fondness for Chitai Pitha.

Khayar Shikdar, a regular patron,



a decade, he has served this winter delicacy with a smile, earning between Tk 1,500 and Tk 2,000 daily.

Monsur starts his sales at 4:00pm and continues until 10:00pm, ensuring customers enjoy the pitha fresh and warm. He said he specially sources the date molasses to enhance the pitha’s flavour.

“I serve the pitha in two ways -- soaked in hot, thin date molasses or paired with a savoury blend of mustard and shrimp paste. Both are equally popular,” Monsur said.

described the pitha as “incredibly delicious” and said he often travels from Kachua to enjoy it fresh at the market.

“The combination of the warm molasses and the pitha is perfect for the cold weather. I also pack some to take home for my family,” he said. With the season in full swing, demand for these pithas is expected to grow, ensuring the age-old tradition of pitha-making thrives in rural Bangladesh, said Rejaul Hossain Chanchal, president of Signboard Bazar cooperative.

Broadband tariffs set to drop 20pc

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“We have thoroughly analysed the entire internet market ecosystem and identified opportunities to reduce prices at various stages,” Bari said.

In Bangladesh, internet connectivity begins with international submarine cables and International Terrestrial Cables (ITCs) supplying bandwidth to International Internet Gateways (IIGs) and distributed to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) through Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Networks (NTTNs). ISPs deliver internet to consumers.

“So, we have decreased the prices for IIG and ISPs,” said Bari, previously the director general of the BTRC’s

systems and services department.

The commission found that the internet bandwidth consumption has tripled to 6,036 Gbps between September 2021 and September 2024, increasing the transmission costs charged by NTTNs. And it should be reduced.

With bandwidth prices falling in the international market, the costs for IIGs and ISPs can also be reduced, ultimately enabling end users to access more affordable internet services.

The commission also found that ITC operators, who are also licensed as IIG operators, sell internet to their subsidiaries at significantly lower

rates, creating uneven competition.

The BTRC has directed its Engineering and Operations Division to put an end to this malpractice and ensure the same price.

Subsequently, the BTRC has managed to lower the cost of bandwidth purchased by ISPs from IIGs, the wholesale providers of bandwidth, by 15 to 25 percent.

This has paved the way for lower internet prices at the consumer level.

“In our entire value chain, the BTRC will not be able to demonstrate any reduction in costs, including staff salaries, electricity expenses, or space rent, and there was no adequate consultation with stakeholders before

lowering the ISPs’ price,” said Aminul Hakim, chief executive officer of Amber IT, a top ISP.

Without lowering the NTTN price, there is no justification for reducing the price of IIG and ISPs, he added.

However, the BTRC officials said they have held multiple stakeholder consultations before arriving at the decision.

“It is a bit complicated now to bring down the prices of the NTTNs and the ITCs, but we will do it soon,” Bari said.

As of November last year, Bangladesh had 13.28 crore internet subscribers, of which 1.37 crore are broadband internet users.

Tulip lived in flat gifted by Hasina ally

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lived in her sister’s flat for a period, adding that such arrangements are common among family members and that the political affiliations of others have “nothing” to do with Tulip.

Tulip herself has also denied any wrongdoing and described allegations against her as politically motivated.

She remains a close ally of UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, who has expressed confidence in her integrity. **CALL FOR RESIGNATION GROWS** The disclosures have drawn fresh scrutiny on Tulip’s ties to Hasina’s government, which was ousted last year amid allegations of corruption, human rights abuses, and the deaths of hundreds of protesters.

The Hampstead flat is one of several properties related to Tulip’s family and Awami League members.

Meanwhile, a recent Financial Times report has triggered a new storm in the UK, with opposition Conservative MPs calling for Tulip to resign, reports The Daily Mail.

The report said the MP had lied about receiving a flat at King’s Cross, now worth £700,000, as a gift.

The Mail on Sunday repeatedly asked Tulip if she was given the two-bedroom apartment, previously owned by a property developer connected to Sheikh Hasina.

She has denied it was a gift, insisting that her parents had bought it for her. She also threatened the Mail on Sunday with legal action.

However, The Daily Mail on Saturday quoting Labour sources reported that the flat was indeed given to her by the

developer as an “act of gratitude”.

On Saturday, Tory MPs demanded she stands down as Treasury minister unless she explains herself.

Bob Blackman, the Tory MP for Harrow East, said: “Ms Siddiq needs to clarify the position in relation to her property dealings and explain what was stated originally and why. If she does not, her position as a minister is untenable.”

Matt Vickers MP, shadow home office minister, added: “Allegations of this nature against any member of government are unacceptable, but are even more questionable when the minister is Starmer’s anti-corruption minister.”

And Ben Obese-Jecty, the Tory MP for Huntingdon, said: “This new information about Tulip Siddiq is troubling.”

“Now that it has been shown the flat was gifted to her and not purchased by her as previously claimed, Tulip Siddiq has further questions to answer.”

The Financial reported that the flat was gifted to Tulip in 2004 by Abdul Motalif, an associate of senior Awami League members.

Abdul Motalif confirmed to the Financial Times in a phone call that he bought the King’s Cross property but declined to comment on what he did with it.

“Following financial support provided by Tulip’s parents to an acquaintance during a challenging time in his life, he subsequently transferred a property he then owned into Tulip’s ownership as an act of gratitude for her parents’ support,”

said a person familiar with the matter, reports Financial Times.

However, a spokesperson for the minister denied any wrongdoings.

“Any suggestion that Tulip Siddiq’s ownership of this property, or any other property is in any way linked to support for the Awami League, would be categorically wrong,” spokesperson said.

Tulip currently resides in a £2.1 million property in Finchley, north London, owned by Abdul Karim Nazim, a UK-based member of the Awami League’s executive committee. Nazim began renting the property to Tulip in 2022, reads The Sunday Times report.

Tulip’s spokesperson stated that she and her husband pay market rent for the property and that their housing arrangements are above board.

FURTHER FAMILY TIES

The Sunday Times further detailed that Tulip’s mother Sheikh Rehana lives in a £1.2 million property in Golders Green, reportedly owned through an offshore trust by Shayan Rahman, son of (Salman F Rahman) a billionaire Bangladeshi politician and former adviser to Hasina. Rahman’s family has faced legal troubles since Hasina’s ousting, with his father currently in custody in Bangladesh.

Another Hampstead property, where Tulip’s sister and mother once resided, was owned by Kazi Zafarullah, a senior Awami League member who was jailed in 2007 for extortion. The property was sold in 2012 for \$499,000. Zafarullah was later implicated in offshore financial dealings and remains in prison.

Rokeya univ

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disciplinary committee found evidence that these students were involved in the attacks on other students who took part in the student movement.

He also said show cause notices were sent to the teachers, officials, and staff members involved in the attack; however, they did not respond.

“The syndicate has endorsed taking action against them. A decision regarding their dismissal will be made in the upcoming syndicate meeting,” he added.

Abu Sayed, a 12th batch student of the English department at BRUR, was one of the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Students’ Movement and actively participated in the protests against the government’s decision to reinstate quotas in government jobs.

On July 16, last year, while protesting in front of his university campus, an unarmed Sayed, who posed no apparent threat, was shot dead by police from close range -- an incident that later became a symbol of the protest that eventually ousted the Awami League government.

An image of Sayed standing with his arms outstretched in the face of police firing, moments before he was shot, went viral and sparked widespread protests. His killing led to national mourning and a public outcry for justice.

On August 18, Ramzan Ali, Sayed’s elder brother, filed a case naming 17 people as responsible for the killing. The case is currently being investigated by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI). Among the 17 accused, 14—including the former DIG of Rangpur Range and the former Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner—were banned from leaving the country.