



Mosharraf Karim and Sariful Razz to lead Sanjoy Somadder's next film

After making his directorial debut in Tollywood with *Manush* (2023), Bangladeshi filmmaker Sanjoy Somadder is returning home to direct his next film, with Mosharraf Karim and Sariful Razz.

The film's title is still under consideration, with two options on the table: *Inqilab* and *Insaf*. Sanjay explained that both titles fit the film's narrative, but a final decision will come after further deliberation.

This film will showcase Sariful Razz in a dynamic action role, while Mosharraf Karim is set to play a dark, villainous character. The project marks the return of production house Titas Kathachitra, which has been absent from filmmaking for several years.

Shooting is expected to begin in early February, with Sanjay taking a methodical approach to ensure the film's quality. "I want to give my absolute best to make this a great movie. I'm not rushing towards a release date," he said.

My honesty empowers me: PORI MONI

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Pori Moni is known for being rebellious and always speaking out whatever comes to her mind. On Sunday, following the issuance of an arrest warrant against her, she told The Daily Star that if speaking out meant going to jail, she was prepared to face the consequences.

Upon surrendering to the Dhaka Court yesterday, she was granted bail in a case filed by Nasir U Mahmud, former president of Uttara Club Limited. The charges against her include assault, vandalism, attempted murder, and issuing threats.

Following her release, Pori Moni expressed heartfelt gratitude to her supporters, saying, "I am forever grateful to everyone. Thank you for standing by me."

Several celebrities, including Ashfaq Nipun and Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, voiced their unwavering support for the actress on social media. Reflecting on the overwhelming support she received, Pori Moni shared, "After the arrest warrant was issued on Sunday, the outpouring of love and support was beyond words. So many people prayed for me and gave me strength—I will cherish their kindness forever."

When asked about the source of her courage, she explained, "Every person in Bangladesh carries courage within them—some can express it, while others struggle to. But I have the strength to stand tall and speak the truth. I have done nothing wrong, and my commitment to honesty empowers me to remain fearless."



What mystery will 'Feu' reveal?

"Under this vast sky of God, why wasn't there any place for us?" asks Sunita Devi. Palash asks in response, "Do refugees even have a country or a nation? The lines above are dialogues from characters of *Feu*. The intriguing trailer of the project was released on January 26, focuses on the issues such as refugee and oppression which hints that the narrative might revolve around a story of persecution.

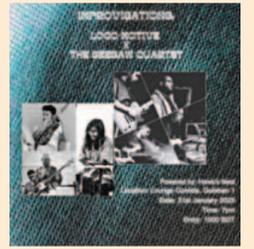
The series, which will release on January 30, derives heavily from the Morichjhapi Massacre.

It features Tariq Anam Khan as Kazi, Chanchal Chowdhury as Sunil, Mostafizur Noor Imran as Marshal, Tahmina Othoi as Sunita Devi, and Rizvi Riju as Palash. According to the director, Sukarno Shahed Dhiman, all the characters in the series are political. He aimed to narrate the political stories of the Khulna-Sundarbans region. *Feu* is a manifestation of that vision.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

IMPROVISATIONS:
Loco Motive X
Seesaw Quartet



Begin the year with an evening of exceptional improvisational music, featuring two of Dhaka's most distinguished bands. Loco Motive, celebrated for their captivating rhythm and funk, will perform alongside the contemporary fusion ensemble, The Seesaw Quartet, offering a memorable musical experience.

DATE: FRIDAY | JANUARY 31

TIME: 7PM ONWARDS

VENUE: ROAD 23, GULSHAN 1



Kangana and Madhavan to reunite for new film

Kangana Ranaut and R Madhavan, the stars of *Tanu Weds Manu*, are set to reunite for an upcoming film. The news was shared by Kangana on social media on Monday, along with a picture of a clapperboard from the film's set. Expressing her excitement, she wrote on Instagram, "Nothing is more delightful than being on a film set."

The duo previously worked together in Aanand L. Rai's hit romantic comedies

Tanu Weds Manu (2011) and its sequel *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* (2015), both of which were box office successes.

This announcement follows the release of Kangana's latest film, *Emergency*, which has entered its second week in theatres. The movie features Anupam Kher as Jayaprakash Narayan, Shreyas Talpade as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Satish Kaushik as Jagjivan Ram, and Milind Soman as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw.

NEWS

Classroom size of 30 for better learning

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introduced in 2009, might be abolished after class 5. The exam was stopped following the introduction of the new curriculum in 2022.

"The exam didn't yield much benefit; rather, it created various problems," said a committee member. Students' dependence on private tuition and notebooks increased significantly due to the PECE.

"We will say that evaluation is necessary, but that should take place in school. We are also considering holding assessments like the NSA (National Student Assessment) that will evaluate competencies."

Teachers must be held accountable for their work, he said.

"School teachers need to show results, and schools should be categorised into several groups like good, average, or weak. And weaker schools will need to improve," the member added.

The committee will recommend a permanent education commission and midday meals for all students.

"We will make a wide range of recommendations to improve the quality of education at the primary schools," said Manzoor Ahmed, chief of the committee.

Educationists often say a lack of proper teaching, crowded classrooms, poor student-teacher interaction, and inadequate infrastructure are affecting the quality of primary education.

As much as 61 percent of class 3 students and 70 percent of class 5 students lack the math proficiency appropriate for their grades, according to the latest national student assessment report of the Directorate of Primary Education.

Besides, 51 percent of the class 3 students and 50 percent of the class 5 students lack competency in Bangla.

Against the backdrop, the committee was formed to make recommendations for improving education quality at the primary level after reviewing the existing teaching and learning activities, training and skill development activities, research, and overall management structure.

The committee will submit its report in a day or two, said Ahmed, also an emeritus professor of BRAC University.

There should be short-term and long-term goals to improve the quality of education at the primary level, said another committee member.

As a long-term plan, the committee is likely to recommend considering a separate salary structure and a distinct recruitment process for teachers.

They emphasise the need for a clear career progression path for teachers. At present, many teachers spend their entire careers as assistant teachers and retire without any promotion.

The committee will propose

increasing teachers' salaries and status and grading schools into three categories based on learning outcomes.

It will recommend making the teacher training system more practical and filling vacant positions as soon as possible.

The committee is in favour of "true decentralisation" of primary education and forming a "District Education Authority".

It is also in favour of limiting the transfer of primary teachers to the upazila level and cancelling the attachment system.

Additionally, the committee may recommend gradually making education universal up to class 12. At present, primary education is defined as education up to class 5.

Currently, there are 114,630 government and non-government primary schools across the country, with approximately 2 crore students. Among these, 65,567 are government primary schools with about 400,000 teachers.

The committee will also propose increasing the education budget, Ahmed said.

"The first reflection of this should be seen in the FY2025-26 budget. We will also recommend including all our proposals in the targets and activities of the Primary Education Development Programme that will be implemented over the next five years."

ministry.

The lawyer emphasised the need for patience due to the complexity of such cases. "These cases cannot be rushed and must be handled properly. I am confident in the team assembled by the Chief Prosecutor," Cadman added.

In response to concerns over propaganda campaigns by supporters of the accused, Cadman said, "These are legal processes, not political ones. Only those with evidence of criminal conduct will face charges."

Addressing concerns about his impartiality, given his previous appointment by Jamat-e-Islami to defend its leader faced war crime charges at the same tribunal, Cadman said, "I'm a barrister. I'm a member of the Bar of England and Wales. I

prosecute, and I defend. The fact that I prosecute in one court and defend in another does not mean that I am lacking impartiality."

"My job is to do the job professionally, independently, and impartially."

The prosecution moved four separate petitions to the tribunal seeking arrest warrants after the ICT investigation agency found prima facie evidence of involvement against the eight in murders in the capital during the July uprising.

The prosecution told the court that the persons are influential and if they are not arrested, they may intimidate family members and near ones of the victims and temper and destroy evidence documents of their crime against humanity during the mass uprising.

Gaza residents

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no more displacement."

Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement, residents of northern Gaza were due to return at the weekend but Israel said that Hamas had broken the deal by failing to release civilian hostage Yehud and kept the crossings closed.

Late on Sunday, Qatari mediators said Hamas had agreed to release Yehud and two other hostages before Friday and that Israel would in return allow displaced Palestinians to return to northern Gaza.

Tarique Siddique, 18 others sued

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was misappropriated during the construction of a radar under the "Installation of RADAR with CNS-ATM (Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance-Air Traffic Management)" project at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Another Tk 250 crore was embezzled from the third terminal expansion project at the same airport.

In addition, Tk 212 crore was allegedly embezzled from the expansion project of Osmani

International Airport in Sylhet, and Tk 150 crore from the terminal construction and runway development project at Cox's Bazar International Airport.

The accused also include Janendranath Sarkar, former joint secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism; Abdul Malek, former chief engineer of CAAB; Habibur Rahman, former superintending engineer of CAAB; project directors of the respective projects; and heads of the contracting firms involved.

He said Israel had received

the list from the mediators of the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

In the occupied West Bank, an Israeli air strike killed two Palestinians in the city of Tulkarm yesterday, Hamas said, underscoring Israel's renewed focus on armed groups.

In Jenin, further north, a major operation with hundreds of Israeli troops backed by armoured vehicles, drones and helicopters, looked set to go into a second week, with smoke rising above the refugee camp adjacent to the city, a longtime centre of armed groups.

Kutubbagh Urs fence vandalised

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authorities. The looting of cattle and the vandalism are unacceptable," said a Kutubbagh follower.

Attacks on several Sufi establishments have taken place in recent months.

On January 23, a Bangladeshi organisation, "Global Sufi Organisation", held a press conference and said that over 80 mazars (shrines) and darbar sharifs (Sufi centres) were attacked by "extremist groups" across the country over the last six months.

On January 18, the government said at least 40 mazars and darbar sharifs have been targeted in 44 attacks since August 4 last year.

India should return Hasina

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with crimes against humanity during the July mass uprising.

Their names were not disclosed by the tribunal or the prosecution on the ground that the persons may flee if their names came to light.

Coming out of the court, ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam and Cadman briefed journalists when Cadman said, "The government cannot force India to respond positively, but there is every reason to remain hopeful that she will be returned to face trial here."

"We can demonstrate that the trial will be fair and that she (Sheikh Hasina) will be given every opportunity to defend herself."

He mentioned that requests for extradition had been extended to India through Interpol and the foreign

Colombia bows down to Trump's tariff threats

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limitation or delay."

"Today's events make clear to the world that America is respected again," it said.

"President Trump will continue to fiercely protect our nation's sovereignty, and he expects all other nations of the world to fully cooperate in accepting the deportation of their citizens illegally present in the United States."

Trump said he would suspend implementation of the tariffs.

It had been unclear even earlier how quickly Trump could impose tariffs on Colombia, historically one

of Washington's closest allies in Latin America, which enjoys a free-trade agreement with the United States.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, whose wife is Colombian-American, suspended issuance of visas at the US embassy in Bogota and said visas would be revoked to Colombian government officials and their immediate family members.

The White House said the visa measures would stay in place until the first planeload of deportees returns.

Trump also vowed to subject Colombians to greater scrutiny at US airports.

EU ready to support reform process in Bangladesh

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her full commitment to ensuring the smooth implementation of EU-Bangladesh cooperation.

EU stands ready to establish regular coordination meetings to ensure a strategic dialogue to provide timely updates on EU programmes, thorough reviews of their support, and address new requests to reinforce their shared priorities and strengthen the partnership.

She also thanked Yunus for his invitation to visit Bangladesh.