

Shahbaz Sunny NO MORE

Young actor Shahbaz Sunny has passed away. The news was confirmed by actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba through a Facebook post this morning.

Apurba wrote, "Actor Shahbaz Sunny is no longer with us. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un." The cause of his death was not mentioned in the post.

Shahbaz Sunny began his journey in the entertainment industry with director Imraul Rafat's drama *Kache Ashar Pore*. In a short span of time, he won the hearts of audiences with his acting skills and gained the trust of directors as well.

In 2018, the drama *Abdullah*, directed by Golam Kibria Farooki, earned him widespread appreciation from the audience. Some of his other notable dramas that earned audience acclaim include *Chorer Master*, *Bifole Mullo Ferot*, *Travel Show*, and *Mohabbat*, among others.



Mehazabien Chowdhury will marry Adnan Al Rajeev this month



There have been numerous rumours about actress Mehazabien Chowdhury's relationship and marriage with director Adnan Al Rajeev. However, both have consistently avoided discussing their wedding plans. This time, it has been revealed that an official announcement regarding their marriage is forthcoming.

Their *gaye holud* (turmeric ceremony) is set to take place on 23rd February at a resort near Dhaka, followed by the wedding ceremony on 24th February. Multiple close sources have confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

However, when approached for a comment, actress Mehazabien Chowdhury did not answer her phone.

Meanwhile, the actress confirmed the news of her marriage to Prothom Alo, however, refused to disclose the date and venue.

Mehazabien Chowdhury entered the media industry in 2009 through a reality show. Moving beyond television dramas, she has now become a regular presence on OTT platforms and in films. Last month, her film *Priyo Maloti* was released. Additionally, to mark Valentine's Day, her new web film *Neel Shukh* is set to premiere tomorrow.

On the other hand, Adnan Al Rajeev is a well-known director and ad-filmmaker.

BTS' RM named best hip-hop artiste at Hanteo Music Awards



The 32nd Hanteo Music Awards concluded its second day on February 16, recognising the outstanding achievements of K-pop artistes over the past year. SEVENTEEN and (G) I-DLE took home the highest honours at the event, which was livestreamed globally via the BIGC website.

Among the notable winners, BTS' RM was awarded Best Hip-Hop Artiste, with his latest album, *Right Place, Wrong Person*, described as "a masterpiece that transcends cultural and genre boundaries."

The special announcement also hailed RM as "a storyteller of this era, proving himself through music infused with artistic sensibilities."



Lux star Shanu confirms marriage to Mahub Jamil

Actress and former Lux Channel 1 superstar Shanarei Devi Shanu recently revealed that she married last year. While the wedding took place in 2024, the actress shared the joyful news with the public on February 16.

Her husband, Mahub Jamil, is an engineer with a passion for writing. Their love story blossomed through a shared interest in literature, eventually leading to their decision to marry.

Shanu confirmed that they officially wed on February 14, 2024, in an intimate family ceremony. She shared this news during an interview with Prothom Alo. The couple first crossed paths two years ago at the Aajob Prokash office in Moghbazar, Dhaka, sparking a friendship that later turned into romance.

At this year's Amar Ekushey Book Fair, Shanu released her latest book, *Bagh Manush*.

BAFTA 2025: 'Conclave' takes home Best Film award

Edward Berger's Vatican thriller *Conclave* took home the Best Film award at this year's BAFTA Awards, leading with 11 nominations. The film secured four wins, tying with Brady Corbet's *The Brutalist*, which also claimed four awards, including Best Director for Corbet and Leading Actor for Adrien Brody.

In a surprising turn, Mikey Madison won Leading Actress for *Anora*, surpassing Demi Moore, who was widely considered the frontrunner for her role in *The Substance*. The latter film managed only one win for Makeup and Hairstyling.

Among other notable winners, Zoe Saldana earned Best Supporting Actress for *Emilia Pérez*, while Kieran Culkin won Best Supporting Actor for *A Real Pain*. Jesse Eisenberg secured a BAFTA for Original Screenplay for the same film. *Dune: Part Two* was recognised for Sound



Team "Conclave" at BAFTA 2025

PHOTO: REUTERS

and Special Visual Effects.

Several films, including *Emilia Pérez*, *Wicked*, *A Real Pain*, *Dune: Part Two*, and *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*, each won two awards. However, James Mangold's *Bob Dylan* biopic *A*

Complete Unknown failed to secure a win despite six nominations.

With *Conclave* and *The Brutalist* emerging as major winners, the BAFTAs once again reinforce their role as a key indicator for the Oscars.

NEWS

Sylhet dailies lead call for Bangla

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fostered a distinct identity, and so it was inevitable that the powerful wave of the Language Movement would sweep through this northeastern district.

According to the book "Bhasha Andolon Teknaf theke Tentulia" by Ahmed Rafiq, the mouthpiece of the Muslim Literary Society of Sylhet was the newspaper Al-Islah.

In an editorial in the August 1947 issue of the daily, it was stated: "We can never support any language other than Bangla as the state language."

On November 9 and 30 and on December 28 of that year, three separate discussions on the state language were held in Sylhet.

During the November 30 discussion at an Aleya Madrasa, writer Syed Mujtaba Ali presented arguments in favour of Bangla as the state language.

He said, "Imposing Urdu as the state language instead of Bangla would be sheer foolishness." This

statement was later published in 1949 in a book titled "Purbo Pakistan er Rashtabhasha" (The State Language of East Pakistan).

On January 11, 1948, when the Minister of Communications Sardar Abdur Rab visited Sylhet, the local Muslim Chhatra Federation submitted a proposal to him, demanding Bangla as the state language.

On February 22, prominent women leaders sent a memorandum to Chief Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin, requesting the same. Among the signatories of the memorandum were Zobeda Khatun Chowdhurani, Sahera Banu, and Syeda Luthfunnisa.

Later, a campaign was launched throughout the district in preparation for March 11 as the main day of the movement.

According to the book "Purba Banglar Bhasha Andolon o Tatkalin Rajniti" by Badruddin Umar, a public meeting, presided over by Mahmud Ali, was held at Gobindacharan Park

on March 8.

It was disrupted by radical members of the Muslim League, who severely assaulted student leader Maksud Ahmed. Several others, including the editor of Nawbelal newspaper, Dewan Mohammad Azhar; Abdus Samad, and Dewan Wahidur Reza were also injured.

On March 10, District Magistrate M Islam banned all state language-related gatherings across Sylhet for two months, citing the highly volatile situation. Consequently, no activities were conducted the following day.

On January 27, 1952, students and locals took to the streets, protesting Khawaja Nazimuddin's statement that Urdu would be the state language. A Bhasha Sangram Parishad (Language Struggle Committee) was formed, with Pir Habibur Rahman as its convener and Mahmud Ali, Nurur Rahman, Monir Uddin Ahmad, and Hajera Mahmud, among others, as members.

After it was decided that February

21 would be the main day of the movement that year, a district-wide campaign was launched.

On February 21, a full-scale hartal and shutdown were observed across the city. In the morning, students brought out processions from their respective schools and colleges.

The book "Bhasha Andolon er Anchoik Itihash" by Dr Abu Mohammad Delowar Hossain states that the news of student killings in Dhaka caused an uproar in Sylhet. In protest, several leaders and workers of the Muslim League resigned from their positions, while enraged locals took to the streets.

On February 21, another daylong hartal was observed.

In the morning, a women's meeting, presided over by Zobeda Khatun, was held at Gobindacharan Park. There, Begum Hajera Mahmud, in a fiery speech, strongly protested against the killing of students and demanded Bangla as the state language.

Army working for stability and safety

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Cantonment yesterday.
The briefing focused on 50 days' activities of the army from December 28 to February 16.

"In the current situation of the country, the army is working tirelessly to protect the nation's sovereignty, ensure the people's safety, and their properties, safeguard important state assets and installations, and maintain overall stability," Col Shafiqul said.

Pointing to an improvement in law and order, he said that incidents of mob justice, extortion, mugging, theft, and murder have significantly reduced.

Comparing the average data from the last two months with the previous two months, the army official said cases of extortion decreased from 250 to 110, that of theft from 850 to 600, and incidents of murder from 350 to 120. However, he did not provide any data on mob justice.

"Our operations are ongoing. We have identified certain hotspots and are keeping the areas under surveillance 24/7. The situation will

further improve in the near future."

In joint drives over the last 50 days, 334 drug dealers or those involved in drug-related activities have been arrested, and a significant number of illegal drugs, including yaba pills and Phensedyl, have been seized, the army official said.

Overall, 2,142 individuals involved in various criminal activities have been arrested across the country during this period, Col Shafiqul said.

He added that 172 illegal weapons and 527 bullets were recovered during the period.

The army played an active role in controlling 88 incidents of unrest, including 30 road blockades, in various industrial zones like Gazipur, Ashulia, and Savar.

Col Shafiqul said that as a result, 2,097 garment factories in the country, except a few such as Beximco Group, Southern Designers Ltd, Shadhin Garments (Pvt) Ltd, and Self Innovative Fashion Ltd, are in operation.

Besides industrial areas, army personnel brought under control

42 different types of chaotic situations, of which, 14 were related to educational institutions, three to government agencies or offices, nine to political conflicts and 16 to other types of incidents.

In addition to maintaining law and order, the army has also arranged treatment for 3,859 individuals injured during movement by Students Against Discrimination. Of them, 41 are undergoing treatment in different CMHs.

When asked about the involvement of current and former army personnel in two robberies in Mohammadpur and Banani, Col Shafiqul described them as isolated and regrettable incidents. He assured that high-level investigation committees have been formed, and that active members of the army would be tried under military law, while former members would be tried under civilian law.

Asked about derogatory and negative comments about the army on social media by a few vloggers living abroad, Col Shafiqul said, "Everyone has the right to express

their opinions on social media. We are not obstructing anyone from doing so. However, we leave it to you [people] to judge the opinions based on who is expressing it, why, and how much objectively they are expressing it."

Regarding the abduction of rubber plantation workers in Bandarban, Col Shafiqul said that 20 workers have been abducted by a criminal group that is demanding ransom. Efforts are going on to rescue them.

Col Shafiqul further said, "We have managed to curb the influence of Kuki-Chin and have destroyed several of their camps, including two on Sunday."

He mentioned that 11 Bawm families, who had fled due to Kuki-Chin atrocities, have returned to their areas with the army's assistance.

About the syndicates' activities ahead of Ramadan, Col Shafiqul said there is a ministry that is responsible for controlling markets, and the army will cooperate with the government if it seeks assistance.

Bangla Academy blames it on the event manager

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Although the academy denied directly receiving any complaint, Dreamer Donkey CEO Raqeeb Hasan backed the firm's claim that there were "concerns about mob reaction". He, however, acknowledged their "mistake".

The controversy arose on Sunday when PRAN-RFL Group's sanitary pad brand Stay Safe shut its booths set up through Dreamer Donkey.

Meanwhile, a Dreamer Donkey letter requesting PRAN-RFL to shut the booths went viral on social media.

In the letter dated February 14, Dreamer Donkey CEO Raqeeb claimed some Islamist groups started demanding the sale and display of these products in public be stopped on February 11. The academy, police, Ansar and volunteers of Dreamer Donkey had to calm the situation when many people came up with the same demand the next day.

The letter further claimed some groups complained directly to the academy about the stalls after their reopening on February 13.

"Mobs are being created in different parts of the country over such issues. So, it is essential to close the two stalls to avoid any such unwanted issues," read the letter.

A handwritten note from Bangla Academy Director General Mohammad Azam on the letter reads: "I am aware of this situation; this step needs to be taken very swiftly."

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director of marketing at PRAN-RFL Group, said in a press release, "Honoring religious sentiments, we have decided to close the services of the Stay Safe brand at the book fair."

The academy came up with its apology in a statement on Sunday night after facing intense criticism on social media "for giving in to mob demand".

The academy said the stalls were shut because they were selling unauthorised products like sanitary pads, toothpaste and baby diapers.

"The event management firm

said it was in trouble because it had already signed deals with [sponsor] companies... It said it would send a letter to the sponsor company and tell them that there would be problems if they continued to sell sanitary napkins.

"The Bangla Academy director general signed the letter with consent just to make their task easier.

"...No one told the academy to stop the sale of sanitary napkins. ...We want to make it clear that there is no question of Bangla Academy having any reservations about the use of sanitary napkins.

"We've asked the event manager to distribute sanitary napkins as per [users'] need... In this situation, we express regrets and are making sure that sanitary napkins will be available for free beside the washrooms."

Contacted, academy DG Azam said, "I did not give yesterday's statement under any pressure from any group, and there were no complaints about displaying sanitary napkins from any religious groups."

About the Dreamer Donkey letter, Azam said, "What I meant is that the event management company informed me that they had received such complaints and I'm aware of that. This can be considered a slip of information or a technical mistake."

Dreamer Donkey's Raqeeb told The Daily Star the academy had informed the firm that the sale of sanitary napkins is not authorised at the fair, but there was a "miscommunication" regarding the entire issue.

"Meanwhile, after the attack on Sabyasachi Prokashoni's stall around February 10, some people started questioning why sanitary napkins were being sold openly. So, we also had concerns about the mob's reaction," he said.

"This wasn't just one issue—there were multiple complications. We were worried that if this turned into a bigger issue, it could escalate further.... We simply wanted to avoid any trouble."