

## Aamir Khan says he hasn't charged salary for his films in 20 years

Amid ever-constant debates over Bollywood star salaries and entourages in Indian cinema, the profit sharing model is gaining traction as a sustainable alternative, with actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan having adopted it years ago.

At an ABP live event, Aamir discussed the need to restructure star salaries for industry growth. Recalling *Taare Zameen Par*, he shared how he pursued it despite doubts and kept costs low by not charging upfront fees for his films.

Aamir believes that if audiences appreciate his work, he earns; if not, he doesn't. "I don't take a fixed salary," he revealed, adding that he has followed this model for over 20 years.



## SAG Awards: 'Conclave', Moore, Chalamet among big winners



'Conclave' cast members flaunt their awards.

The 31st annual Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards wrapped up its ceremony last Sunday, spotlighting the best in film and TV just ahead of the Oscars. *Conclave* notably took home the top prize, which is the Best Ensemble Cast.

Timothée Chalamet won Best Leading Actor for *A Complete Unknown*, while Demi Moore took Best Leading Actress for *The Substance*. Kieran Culkin and Zoe Saldana won Best Supporting Actor and Actress for *A Real Pain* and *Emilia Pérez*, respectively.

In TV, *Shogun* dominated, winning Best Drama Series Ensemble, with Anna Sawai and HiroYuki Sanada earning individual acting awards. *Only Murders in the Building* won Best Comedy Series Ensemble, with Martin Short and Jean Smart taking top comedy acting honours.

Jessica Gunning (*Baby Reindeer*) and Colin Farrell (*The Penguin*) won for TV Movie or Limited Series. Jane Fonda received the Life Achievement Award.

The complete ceremony is available on Netflix.

## 'HE STOLE MY HEART 12 YEARS AGO'

## Mehazabien shares wedding photos

Yesterday, Mehazabien Chowdhury and Adnan Al Rajeev finally shared enchanting photos from their wedding reception, capturing a truly magical moment.

Much to the anticipation of her fans, the *Priyo Maloti* actress posted the photos after leaked photos from their *gaye holud* (turmeric) ceremony made rounds online, earlier in the morning.

During their holud ceremony, held last Sunday at a resort near Dhaka, a strict no photography rule was enforced for the guests, resulting in attendees refraining from sharing any pictures. However, despite these stringent restrictions, a few images eventually made their way out.

In their wedding reception photos, Mehazabien radiated elegance in an off-white lehenga adorned with intricate embellishments, while the groom looked dashing in a brown Punjabi. Her joy was evident as she posed alongside her husband, glowing from within.

Sharing these cherished moments, Mehazabien took a nostalgic trip down memory lane, opening up about their love story with fans.

"On April 9, 2012, a boy with a crooked smile and warm eyes came to meet me. He waved from the road as I stood on the terrace of a shooting house. We spoke for just 15 minutes, shook hands, and as he walked away, I felt a part of my heart go with



PHOTOS: REMINISCENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

him. At that moment, I knew—this was it," she wrote.

She continued, "Thirteen years later, here we are, growing together, celebrating every joy and overcoming every challenge. They say seven years of friendship lasts a lifetime—we've

nearly doubled that. On February 14, 2025, we made it forever, vowing to walk this journey hand in hand. Adnan Al Rajeev, I choose you as my best friend for life."

"As we step into this new chapter, we ask for your love and blessings for a lifetime of happiness and togetherness," she concluded.

# NEWS

## Kiwis dash Tigers' hopes

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On Monday, Ravindra hit 112 off 105 balls, his fourth ODI ton, and found good support from Tom Latham (55 off 76) and Devon Conway (30 off 45) as the Black Caps chased down the 237-run target in 46.1 overs.

Pacers Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana put New Zealand under pressure up front with some early wickets but Ravindra dealt with the early jitters expertly and formed a 57-run partnership for the third wicket alongside Conway and then a 128-run stand with Latham to take them near

the finish line.

Ravindra's sparkling knock, which included 12 fours and a six, ended in the 39th over when he holed out to long on off Rishad Hossain and Latham also got run out in the 42nd over but that didn't affect the outcome as Glenn Phillips (21 off 28) and Michael Bracewell (eight off 13) remained unbeaten to safely take them into the semifinals.

Rachin was also favoured by the Bangladeshi fielders thrice. Tanzid Tamim missed an opportunity to run him out when he was on 25,

then Mehedi Hasan Miraz dropped him on 93 off Rana and then finally Mahmudullah dropped him on 105 off Mustafizur Rahman.

Earlier, sent to bat, Bangladesh's strategy to attack all-rounder Michael Bracewell backfired tremendously as the innocuous looking off-spinner claimed career-best ODI figures of 4-26 to restrict the Tigers to 236-9.

Tanzid (24 off 24), Towhid Hridoy (seven off 24), Mushfiquur Rahim (two off five) and Mahmudullah (four off 14) – all of them got caught off Bracewell while trying to take

him on, squandering any hopes of Bangladesh posting a fighting total.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto top scored with 77 off 110 balls while Jaker Ali (45 off 55) and Rishad Hossain (26 off 25) made handy contributions down the order, pushing the total beyond 200 but it was never enough. Bangladesh will end their Champions Trophy campaign with a dead rubber game against Pakistan on Thursday at the same venue while India and New Zealand will face off on March 2 in Dubai to decide who will top Group A.

## Bangladesh must adjust

FROM PAGE 12

countries and their trading partners but Bangladesh must enter into individual bilateral trading relationships, he said at the event organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at the BRAC Centre Inn.

"That is, in fact, what will truly determine the trading regime of a country like Bangladesh, and the government will need to address this," said Sobhan, also the chairman of CPD.

He suggested intensive discussions with existing foreign investors to understand their concerns and constraints and using their input to revisit strategies for attracting foreign direct investment.

FDI inflow into Bangladesh remains low even though the country is one of the better performing economies in the region.

"Why should we be receiving lower rates of FDI than a crisis-ridden country like Pakistan?" he said.

Commerce Adviser SK Bashir Uddin said every sector of the economy had been criminalised in previous years.

Unnecessary projects and money laundering have caused significant damage to the economy, he said, while emphasising scaling up productivity and diversification to boost export.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling, said diversification could occur within the garment sector as 75 percent of the exports are cotton-based whereas the global fabric demand is largely for

man-made fibres.

Bangladesh has the potential to diversify into man-made fibre-based products.

Diversification should extend beyond garment into labour-intensive sectors, complex products and skill-intensive goods production.

"There is no coordinated investment and industrial policy in the country. Moreover, policies are fragmented and do not align with each other. These should be coordinated," said Raihan, also a professor at Dhaka University's economics department.

Regulatory barriers need to be resolved, he said, while calling for implementing the recommendations made by a task force formed on September 10 last year to develop strategies for boosting the economy and mobilising resources for equitable and sustainable development. Raihan is a member of the 12-member task force committee that submitted its report on January 30.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development, said the government needs to focus on the export sector to revive the crisis-ridden economy.

However, the country's trade policy is distorted as it incentivises entrepreneurs to sell products locally instead of exporting.

He called for streamlining the trade policy and improving corporate compliance and standards, even for local sales.

Razzaque also recommended

strengthening domestic revenue mobilisation, attracting FDI, improving the investment climate and engaging proactively with the EU to secure enhanced GSP Plus benefits, including duty-free access to garment products from Bangladesh.

He stressed the need to establish a World Trade Organisation-compatible export support mechanism, implement a smooth transition strategy and secure a free trade agreement with Japan.

BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said his party supports deregulation and liberalisation.

"We will pursue serious deregulation and liberalisation while reducing the government's role."

Export growth will remain stagnant until import liberalisation occurs, he said, adding that back-to-back letters of credit and bonded warehouse facilities should be extended to industries beyond the garment sector.

"If 10 sectors receive these opportunities, they will also be able to grow."

The foreign ministry should focus on trade negotiations in foreign offices to expand exports, said Chowdhury, who is also a former commerce minister.

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the CPD, said Haiti and Singapore are among the most liberalised countries in the world but one is poor and the other is rich.

"So, I don't think import

## 1 killed in clash near air base in Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 1

Police sources and witnesses identified the motorcyclist as Jahedul Islam Jahed, an apprentice lawyer of Kutubdia Para.

They said the clash began around 11:00am after the argument over wearing a helmet.

At one stage, Jahed was taken inside the base camp. Hearing this, his associates, relatives and others arrived at the scene and started hurling brick chips at the under-construction base and its personnel.

The witnesses added that the clash lasted for about half an hour, during which gunshots were heard.

Nahid was taken to the emergency of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital around 12:30pm. Minutes later, doctors declared him dead.

Sabuktagin Mahmud Sohel, resident medical officer of the hospital, said Nahid's skull was severely damaged in the back. The body was sent for autopsy, and the cause of his death would be known later.

Motorcyclist Jahed was also taken to the hospital around 3:00pm for treatment, hospital sources said. He is involved in a movement to protect locals' land in the area.

As the news of Nahid's death spread, people wielding sticks began gathering near the air force base.

Former BNP lawmaker Lutfar Rahman Kajal came to the scene around 1:30pm and managed to calm things down, said witnesses.

Kajal said he had talked to the locals and air force personnel and hoped that the issue would be settled.

### ISPR STATEMENT

Detailing the incident in a statement, the ISPR said a local man had been brought to the air base for questioning from a checkpoint, as he did not have the necessary documents for his motorcycle.

Then, as some 200 people from Samitipara advanced towards the base, air force personnel blocked their path.

As the number of locals swelled, a clash ensued between the air force personnel and local miscreants near the checkpoint.

The statement said the miscreants, "instigated by some vested interests", threw brickbats at the air force personnel.

Several people, including four from the air force (one officer and three airmen), were injured, according to the statement.

Nahid died after he was taken to a

local hospital on an air force vehicle in a serious condition, it added.

The ISPR stressed that in accordance with the rules of engagement, the air force personnel had fired blank rounds, not live ammunition, at the locals.

The injured air force personnel were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The windows of an air force vehicle were damaged by brickbats. Besides, locals attempted to set fire to bushes, but it did not spread, said the ISPR.

It also said a malicious group aiming to tarnish the reputation of the air force began spreading rumours on social media, claiming that the young man had been killed by air force gunfire, which is not true.

Upon examining photos of spent cartridges that have been circulated, it is clear that these were from blanks, which are non-lethal and only produce sound, said the statement.

The Bangladesh Air Force expressed deep sorrow over the death of the man and extended condolences to his family, it added.

### WHAT FAMILY SAYS

Nahid's father Nasir Uddin is a retired superintendent of Primary Teachers Training Institute and his mother, Amena Khatun, is a former headteacher of Cox's Bazar Government High School.

Nasir alleged his son was shot when he was standing at the doorway of their home at Samitipara during the clash.

"A bullet hit his head, blowing off a part of his skull," he said.

Nahid was married and had a three-year-old son.

### AREA OF CLIMATE REFUGEES

Samitipara is under ward-1 of Cox's Bazar municipality. The ward, with an over 50,000 strong population, also covers Kutubdia Para and 17 other localities.

Most of the residents are climate refugees from Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, and other areas. They settled on government lands near the sea after displacement by the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 29, 1991.

The ongoing construction of the air force base has led to evictions. A special resettlement project with 137 live-storey buildings in Khurushkul was launched for the displaced people.

Two years ago, 600 families were relocated to 20 buildings, with 85 more buildings now ready.

On January 7, thousands of residents of ward-1 blocked the town's main road, demanding a halt to evictions.



## Salman Shah-Shabnur starrer 'Jibon Songsar' returns to theatres

Salman Shah, Dhallywood's iconic '90s star, remains a beloved figure nearly three decades after his tragic passing. With his magnetic presence, and natural acting, he left a lasting legacy despite his short career.

Now, fans have reason to celebrate as one of his most beloved films, *Jibon Songsar*, returns to theatres, bringing nostalgia for long time admirers and a rare big screen experience for the new generation.

Jakir Hossain Raju's directorial *Jibon Songsar*, a 1996 commercial hit, is now screening at Dhaka's BGB Cinema Hall, which recently re-released another Salman-Shabnur classic, *Chaowa Theke Paowa*.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## 'Moar-e Jabo' Comedy Night



Festive Rocks is all set to present tomorrow's open mic comedy show *Moar-e Jabo Comedy Night*. Open to aspiring comedians upon registration, the event promises an evening filled with laughter and fresh humor from both rising and new comedy talents. This lively gathering, with a Tk 50 entry fee, is sure to lift your spirits after long meetings, endless emails, and workplace stress.

Date: Wednesday | February 26

Time: 8pm onwards

Venue: Moar, Gulshan Link Road