

Russo Brothers tease epic return with 'Avengers: Doomsday' and 'Avengers: Secret Wars'



During the global debut of Netflix's *The Electric State* at The Egyptian Theatre Hollywood in Los Angeles, its directors Joe and Anthony Russo spoke with Deadline about the highly anticipated Marvel films *Avengers: Doomsday* and *Avengers: Secret Wars*, which are set for release in 2026 and 2027, respectively.

Joe Russo confirmed, "We are currently shooting the movies in London—back-to-back. It's a lot of work, but exciting. The story will challenge both audiences and us, making it worth the effort."

Last year, MCU's Kevin Feige shocked fans by announcing Robert Downey Jr's dramatic return to the franchise to portray the infamous villain Doctor Doom.

Meanwhile, the Russo Brothers' *The Electric State*, starring Millie Bobby Brown, Pratt, and Ke Huy Quan, premieres on Netflix on March 14. It is based on Simon Stalenhag's sci-fi graphic novel.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Srijane Songrame 29-e Prachyanat'

Pioneering theatre troupe Prachyanat marks its 29th anniversary with a grand celebration, featuring children's workshops on drama, puppetry, and craft-making. The event will showcase performances by Bot Tola, Jolchhobi, Jol Putul Puppets, and traditional Lathi Khela.

Musical performances by the renowned band Joler Gaan and an all-day exhibition of artworks and theatre photography at BSA's Chitrapasha lobby will further enrich the festivities.

Date: Friday | February 28

Time: 3pm-8pm

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



Two action-adventure movies hit Star Cineplex

The latest instalment in the MCU, *Captain America: Brave New World* premiered internationally on February 14, generating immense buzz and dominating the box office. Now, Bangladeshi fans can catch it at Star Cineplex.

Captain America: Brave New World, the first superhero film of 2025, sees Sam Wilson fully embrace the mantle of Captain America. As the 35th MCU film, it delves into global tensions and the rising conflict over Tiamut Island.

The film introduces Red

Hulk to the MCU, with Harrison Ford taking over the role of Thunderbolt Ross from the late William Hurt. Directed by Julius Onah, it continues Sam Wilson's journey from *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* series.

On the other hand, the *My Hero Academia* anime franchise returns with its fourth film, *My Hero Academia: You're Next*. Directed by Tensai Okamura and based on Kohei Horikoshi's hit manga, it promises another thrilling adventure for fans.



My work will speak for itself DIGHI

Actress Prarthana Fardin Dighi was replaced by Puja Chery in the film *Tagar* due to alleged "unprofessional behaviour," according to director Aalok Hasan.

Refuting the claims Dighi told local media, "I completely disagree with the accusation of being unprofessional."

She referenced her work in the upcoming film *Jongli* as evidence of her professionalism and noted that actor replacements are common in the film industry.

Dighi maintained a calm stance, respecting Aalok's decision while adding, "My work will speak for itself."

Moreover, the actress acknowledged a possible communication gap during her time in the United States but did not argue when informed about her dismissal from the project.



Gazi Mazharul Anwar's book released posthumously

The fifth volume of Gazi Mazharul Anwar's *Olpo Kothar Golpo Gaan* was launched at the Ekushey Book Fair on February 24.



Published by Bhashachitra, the launch event took place at Pavilion 17, featuring the late lyricist's wife, Zohra Gazi, and their children, Sarfaraz Anwar Upal and Dithi Anwar, unveiling the cover.

This book edition includes stories behind 50 songs and 200 song lyrics.

Dithi Anwar shared emotional reflections, recalling the first volume's launch in 2021, with her father present.

Anwar, who penned over 20,000 songs in his career, has three compositions listed among the top 20 Bengali songs in a BBC survey. He passed away on September 4, 2022.

'Daagi' wraps up filming, set for Eid release



After two months of filming, the Shihab Shafeen directorial *Daagi* starring Afran Nisho, has wrapped up filming. The director announced the completion of the project through a social media video, expressing his excitement.

The film, co-produced by SVF, Alpha Entertainment, and Chorki, is poised to be one of the most anticipated releases this Eid ul-Fitr.

This marks Afran Nisho's second film, following his debut with *Surongo*. The film also features Tama Mirza along with Sunerah Binte Kamal and Rashed Mamun Apu.

Nisho shared his enthusiasm for the unconventional narrative of *Daagi* affirming, "I was intrigued by the script and I'm confident the audience will find it deeply engaging as well."

NEWS

Mahfuj Alam new info adviser

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday made the decision after Nahid resigned as adviser to posts, telecommunications, and information technology, as well as information and broadcasting.

Nahid stepped down from the advisory council on Tuesday, almost certainly to lead a new political party.

Following the portfolio redistribution, Prof Yunus will now oversee the posts, telecommunications, and ICT ministry, in addition to five other ministries.

Mahfuj, who graduated from

Ukraine can 'forget about' joining Nato

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His comments about the deal and US visit came just after Russian artillery killed at least five people in Ukraine's war-battered east and a drone barrage claimed two more lives near Kyiv, including a Ukrainian journalist.

Discussions were fraught on the minerals deal, which would grant the United States preferential access to Ukrainian natural resources in exchange for US support.

Officials late on Tuesday said they had come to an agreement following protracted negotiations but Zelensky told reporters in Kyiv that more difficult work lay ahead.

future roadmap will be shaped by the speeches and recommendations of the invited grassroots leaders.

WHAT GRASSROOTS SAY

Zakir Hossain Bablu, convener of Mymensingh district BNP (south), said that after August 5, the party's top leadership would assess the current state of BNP's local politics by engaging with leaders and activists.

"In the extended meeting, our acting chairman, Tarique Rahman, will give important directives. We will implement his instructions at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's organisational activities.

"We will discuss the challenges we face in managing the party at the local level and suggest ways to make the organisation stronger," he said.

Attendees will also include members of BNP national standing and national executive committees, chairperson's advisory council, and district BNP leaders such as presidents, general secretaries, conveners, and member secretaries.

Besides, presidents and general secretaries from BNP's 11 affiliated and associated organisations will be present. Around 3,500 leaders from across the country are expected to take part in the extended meeting, whose last fully-fledged edition, according to party insiders, was held in 1997.

After Tarique's opening address, the meeting will proceed to a closed-door session in the afternoon, where grassroots leaders will share their opinions. Tarique will then deliver the concluding speech outlining BNP's strategic direction.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, who leads the meeting's implementation committee, told reporters yesterday that the party's

Interim govt has UN's full support

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5, wrote, "I would like to reiterate the strong solidarity of the United Nations with Bangladesh and our support for the transition process under your leadership."

The letter, sent on February 25, was released by the chief adviser's press wing yesterday.

The UN chief said he gives his full support to the interim government, which is working to reform various sectors, including the judiciary, politics, administration, police, education, and health.

The letter came after Yunus wrote to him regarding the impact of the Rohingya crisis on Bangladesh and the region, as well as the worsening humanitarian situation in Rakhine.

The chief adviser's letter, which was sent on February 4, was handed over to Guterres by Khalilur Rahman, High Representative for the Rohingya Crisis and Priority Affairs, at a meeting in New York on February 7.

Earlier, on December 17, Bangladesh invited Guterres to visit and witness the country's ongoing transformation firsthand.

Meanwhile, the UN fact-finding mission on February 12 published its

Bangladesh scores better

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freedom declined around the world last year with authoritarians solidifying their grip, but South Asia led a series of bright spots.

According to the report, among 208 countries and territories, 60 experienced deteriorations in their political rights and civil liberties, and only 34 improved. El Salvador, Haiti, Kuwait, and Tunisia were the countries with the largest score declines for the year, while Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Syria recorded the largest gains.

Bangladesh's status is marked "Partly Free" this year. The status was the same last year with a score of 40.

The Freedoms House report also mentioned that this year Bangladesh could be a bright spot for democracy as new leaders took office after the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime following a student-led mass uprising. It added that political reform will be a daunting task.

It also said further improvement will depend on how the government

pursues reforms, and whether they ensure individual freedoms and the rule of law are protected and expanded in the process.

"The ouster of Hasina's Awami League government swiftly eased long-standing state pressure on other political parties, the media, labour unions, judges, university students, and faculty members, causing Bangladesh to tie with Bhutan for the year's largest score improvement."

"But much remains to be done. The new government's agenda includes ambitious political, economic, and legal reforms. It aims to amend or draft the constitution, ensure accountability for last year's violence as well as other human rights abuses, increase judicial independence, and reestablish anticorruption institutions," the report said.

The government is also facing demands to hold elections, reduce emerging religious tensions, stabilise the economy, and decide what to do about Hasina, who is now decrying the country's political situation from

neighboring India, the report stated further.

Yana Gorokhovskaia, the co-author of the report, told AFP that it was the 19th consecutive year that freedom fell on a global level, but that 2024 was especially volatile due to the high number of elections.

"The big picture is that this was another year of the same trajectory of a global decline in freedom but because of all the elections, it was more dynamic than previous years," she said.

She said that both Bangladesh and Syria saw immediate improvements in civil liberties—but that it would be a longer road to see gains in political representation.

Meanwhile, the report elevated two countries to the status of "free"—Senegal, where the opposition triumphed after the outgoing president's attempt to delay elections was defeated, and Bhutan, the Himalayan kingdom which consolidated a transition to democracy with competitive polls.