

# PARVEEN haunted me for days: TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After delivering outstanding projects like *Khachar Bhit* and *Ochin Pakhi* and *Surongo*, director Raihan Rafi and actress Tama Mirza are teaming up once again for *Amalnama*, an upcoming Chorki original web-film based on a true story.

Expressing her excitement about the project, Tama Mirza shared, "*Amalnama* has a powerful narrative, and every actor involved has performed with great dedication. Raihan Rafi has created an exceptional film, and I truly believe it is one of his best works."

Speaking about the film's emotional depth, she added, "Viewers always appreciate good storytelling, and I am confident that *Amalnama* will touch their hearts and stay with them for years."

In the web-film, Tama takes on the role of Parveen, a character that she found deeply immersive. "It took me quite some time to detach myself from Parveen, even after filming ended. For days, I struggled to move on. This character is one of my personal favorites," she revealed.

Tama also praised the strong collaboration behind *Amalnama*, emphasising the importance of teamwork. "A skilled director and talented actors are essential to creating something remarkable, but just as important is teamwork. *Amalnama* had outstanding teamwork that stood out in every aspect."

Encouraging audiences to watch the film, she said, "I believe our project will resonate with everyone, and I encourage them to watch it on Chorki and share their thoughts. The story is deeply relevant to contemporary times."

Noted actor Zahid Hasan plays an important role in *Amalnama*, joined by an ensemble cast of talented artistes like Kamruzzaman Kamu and Sarika Subrin, amongst others.

Meanwhile, Tama Mirza is also gearing up for the release of her new film, *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Set to premiere during Eid-ul-Fitr, the film will showcase her reuniting once again with Afran Nisho.



## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### 'CARTOON O MEME-ER RAJNITI'

The Cartoon and Meme Exhibition is set to feature a display of influential cartoons from the July Revolution alongside recently curated memes from the *earki* platform, offering a fun and engaging experience.

Moreover, a workshop for selected meme creators and cartoonists from Jahangirnagar University will be held. The free of cost event is open to all.

Date: Sunday | March 6  
Time: 11am-3pm

Venue: Zahir Raihan Auditorium, Jahangirnagar University



## Forbes names Dwayne Johnson the highest-paid actor of 2024



After four years, Dwayne Johnson has returned to the top of Forbes' list of the world's richest actors.

He earned a staggering \$88 million last year, surpassing Ryan Reynolds (\$85 million), Kevin Hart (\$81 million), and Jerry Seinfeld (\$60 million).

His substantial income was driven by profitable agreements for *Red One*, *Moana 2*, and royalties from previous projects. An agent referred to the total as "an ungodly amount of money."

Only three female actors made the top 20: Nicole Kidman (*Babygirl*, *A Family Affair*), Mariska Hargitay, and Scarlett Johansson, the youngest at 40.

Streaming became a major income source, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney earning \$32 million each for *Wolfs*.

Forbes' report highlights that most of the highest-paid actors accumulated wealth through ventures beyond live-action films. In 2024, six of the top ten movies were animated, a genre where actors typically don't receive huge paychecks.

## Theatre activists demand autonomy for Shilpakala, rally for Syed Jamil Ahmed's reinstatement

DOWEL BISWAS

A procession calling for the prompt reinstatement of eminent theatre personality Syed Jamil Ahmed as Shilpakala Director General, led by theatre activists and cultural figures under the banner of "Bikkhubdo Shikharthee-Shilpi-Nagarik Somaj", took place yesterday at around 3pm at the gates of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

This rally, which brought together theatre artistes, writers, directors, designers, and cultural activists, came in the wake of the controversial resignation of Syed Jamil Ahmed. The procession aims to voice a clear and urgent demand for not only the reinstatement of Ahmed but also for the autonomy of Shilpakala Academy, free from bureaucratic interference.

Their rallying cry, with the slogan

**Syed Jamil Ahmed's resignation, announced on February 28, has become the focal point of this growing movement.**

"Gonoobhutaner Gono Akangkha, Amlatotrer Satho Aposh Na" (People's aspirations for a mass uprising; No compromise with bureaucracy), resonates across the cultural landscape, reflecting the widespread frustration with the governance of cultural institutions.

Speakers at the procession, comprised mainly of theatre artistes and university students, voiced their strong discontent over Cultural Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's critical remarks regarding Syed Jamil Ahmed's "failure" in fulfilling his duties as the director general of



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Shilpakala Academy. They vehemently opposed Farooki's allegations, views on budget allocation for the cultural sector, and his remarks on bureaucratic challenges and censorship.

Ragib Naem, central president of a section of the Chhatra Union, stated, "If this government fails to deliver on the promises it made to the people, it threatens to undermine the spirit of the mass uprisings. One doesn't have to be a cultural adviser or bureaucrat to realise the importance of a proper cultural budget."

Theatre activists Mohiuddin Roni and Riasat Salekin emphasised, "Syed Jamil Ahmed is a figure who has stood firm against fascism and oppressive regimes through his work and principles. For his career and contributions to be disparaged in such a disgraceful manner is an affront to our entire cultural community."

Theatre activists argue that the current bureaucratic structure stifles

creativity and limits the growth of the arts in Bangladesh, and they believe that an independent, self-governed Shilpakala Academy is crucial for nurturing the country's vibrant cultural scene.

Syed Jamil Ahmed's resignation, announced on February 28, has become the focal point of this growing movement. During the closing ceremony of the "Munier Chowdhury First National Theatre Festival," the eminent cultural personality cited "bureaucratic challenges" and restrictions on artistic expression as reasons for his departure. His comments ignited a wave of support from theatre professionals, who view his resignation as a sign of larger systemic issues within the institution.

However, the response from the cultural adviser, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, has been critical. Through multiple Facebook posts, he defended the bureaucratic environment at Shilpakala and suggested that Ahmed's

frustrations may stem from his inability to reconcile his passion for theatre with the demands of the institutional system. Farooki questioned the accuracy of some of Ahmed's statements, noting that a balance between artistic vision and bureaucratic management is essential.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, in a press release, officially denied all the allegations made by Syed Jamil Ahmed during his impromptu resignation. One of the former DG's foremost points was, the demand of funds without any proper documentation. However, the press release clarifies that it was to create a video surrounding the Bangladesh contingent of UNESCO's International Mother Language Day, and multiple official attempts were made to inform Syed Jamil Ahmed, to which the latter 'reacted poorly to'.

The PR further clarifies that the ministry, in no way, has tried to interfere with the inner workings of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



## Ashes to donate all new album income to hospitals

Bangladeshi rock band Ashes is set to release its new album, *Manusher Jonno*, with all proceeds going to humanitarian aid.

The band will forgo fees and royalties, donating the entire amount to hospital funds for cancer, kidney disease, paralysis, and eye treatment patients. The 10-song album is slated for release later this year.

This isn't the first time Ashes has made headlines for its humanitarian work. The band previously helped fund treatment for cancer and kidney patients. According to Ashes, they've supported more than 100 patients over the last decade.

Zunayed Evan previously told the media, "Rather than asking for donations, we started donating a portion of our concert earnings, hosting charity events where I gave my entire fee and our staff reduced their pay willingly."

The current lineup of Ashes includes Zunayed Evan (vocals), Sultan Rafsan Khan (guitar), Wahid Uz Zaman Turjo (bass guitar), Adnan Bin Zaman (keyboards), and Tawfiq Ahmed Bijoy (drums).