

Coldplay to curate musical lineup for 2026 World Cup final halftime show



For the first time in history, the 2026 FIFA World Cup final will feature a Super Bowl-style halftime show, with Coldplay curating a lineup of artists.

The tournament, co-hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico, will conclude on July 19, 2026, at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced the news, stating that Coldplay's Chris Martin and band manager Phil Harvey will help select performers for the 15-minute break.

While pre-match performances are common at major football events, a half-time show at a World Cup final is unprecedented.

Robert Downey Jr immersed in Doctor Doom role for 'Avengers: Doomsday'

Robert Downey Jr is deeply involved in his return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), taking on the role of iconic villain Doctor Doom in *Avengers: Doomsday*.

Directors Joe and Anthony Russo revealed Downey's commitment, stating the actor has been actively contributing to his character's backstory and costume ideas. They praised Downey's dedication, noting his passion for developing "three-dimensional characters."

The film, set for release in May 2026, will be followed by *Avengers: Secret Wars* in 2027.



THE SILVER-SCREEN QUEENS

Who will win theatres this Eid?

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations are never complete without the spectacle of captivating heroines gracing the silver screen. This year, audiences are in for a treat as a constellation of talented actresses—Tama Mirza, Sunerah Binte Kamal, Shobnom Yesmin Bubly, Nusraat Faria, and Prarthana Fardin Dighi—prepare to enthrall viewers with their performances. Let's delve into the films that will spotlight these leading ladies this Eid-ul-Fitr.

One of the most eagerly anticipated films releasing this Eid is *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. The film stars Tama Mirza and Sunerah Binte Kamal in pivotal roles.

Expressing her enthusiasm, Tama stated, "I will be on the silver screen as an Eid heroine. I believe the audience is about to experience a remarkable film. *Daagi* will leave a lasting impression on everyone's hearts." Sunerah Binte Kamal also plays a significant role in the film, promising a compelling performance.

Megastar Shakib Khan is set to make a grand appearance this Eid with *Borbaad*, directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy. The film features Indian actress Idhika Paul as the leading lady. This marks her second Dhallywood project, and audiences are eager to

see her paired with Shakib Khan again.

Bubly, who captivated audiences as an Eid heroine last year, is making a powerful return with *Jongli*. This film, which has been highly anticipated, is finally hitting theatres this Eid, promising a significant surprise.

Speaking about the project, she shared, "*Jongli* is an action-thriller. Audiences of all tastes will find it enjoyable."

Megastar Shakib Khan is set to make a grand appearance this Eid with 'Borbaad', directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy.

The supernatural thriller franchise *Jinn* is returning with its third instalment, *Jinn 3*, directed by Kamruzzaman Roman. The film marks Nusraat Faria's return to the big screen after a prolonged absence, further amplifying the excitement for the Eid movie lineup.

While these films are confirmed for an Eid release, there remains the possibility of additional titles joining the lineup, making this festive season even more thrilling for moviegoers.



DESIGN: DOWEL BISWAS

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



Late Night Comedy Show 2

Tonight's stand-up comedy show will feature Dhaka's emerging comedians—Antu, Zadi, Tuseef, Zubayer, and Naveed Mahbub—promising a captivating display of humour and wit.

You can enjoy a delightful showcase of talent and laughter, highlighting rising stars in Dhaka's vibrant comedy scene.

DATE: TODAY | MARCH 7, 2025

TIME: 11:59PM-1PM

VENUE: NAVEED'S COMEDY CLUB, GULSHAN 2

Emmys 2025 premiere date announced

With the Oscars now behind us, it's time to turn our attention to the next major awards event—the Emmys 2025.

The organisers have confirmed that the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards will take place on September 14 (September 15 in Bangladesh) and will be broadcast on CBS. The event will also be available for streaming on Paramount+.

The award ceremony is set to take place at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles and will be broadcast live by the Television Academy, spanning a duration of three hours.

Staying on schedule, the TV Academy will announce the official Emmy nominations on July 15. However, the host for the event is yet to be revealed.



NEWS

Man accused of harassment granted bail

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provision to withdraw it during the investigation process.

Meanwhile, the victim told the media that she had no legal representation in court.

Arnob was handed over to Shahbagh police by the DU authorities on Wednesday evening after he verbally harassed the student for not having her "scarf in the right place".

The student detailed the incident in a Facebook post, sharing a photo of Arnob.

The post read: "This man [Arnob] harassed me today [Wednesday] on my way from Shahbagh. He suddenly stopped me on the road and told me my clothing was 'inappropriate,' among other things ... When I said I would call the proctor, he ran away."

Later that day, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star, "Around 4:30pm, we received a complaint that one of our students had been harassed by our library's assistant bookbinder, Arnob. When some students brought him to my office, we questioned him and he admitted to the harassment. We then handed him over to the police."

POLICE STATION BESIEGED

Around 1:00am, a group of people calling themselves "Tawhidi Janata" began gathering outside the police station.

They later forced their way inside, questioned the arrest, and demanded Arnob's release. Some members of the group live-streamed the incident from inside the duty officer's room. At one point, they approached the lock-up and broadcast a live interview with Arnob.

On-duty policemen attempted to prevent the group from entering, but they ignored the officers' orders.

At one point, a sub-inspector was heard telling the crowd that he had no legal authority to release or arrest anyone. The officer repeatedly requested them not to create a "mob" situation, but the crowd insisted they were "not a mob".

The agitators then took a copy of the First Information Report, which contained the victim's name, address and identity details, and shared its image

on social media.

In a video clip from the police station that surfaced on Facebook, one person is heard suggesting that a theft case should be filed against the complainant, while another said, "It should be a defamation case!"

One agitator said they had learned about the arrest after Taraweeh prayers and arrived at the station around midnight. He claimed Arnob had been arrested "unjustly" and vowed to stay until his release.

Another man alleged that police had forcibly obtained Arnob's statement.

In the early hours yesterday, an agitator named Ataur Rahman Bikrompuri told reporters they had spoken with law enforcers, who assured them Arnob would be released.

"They mentioned three things: first, his job would remain intact; second, releasing him immediately from the police station might create a negative impression, so he would be formally taken to court and a proper investigation report would be filed; and third, he would eventually be released," he said.

The agitators left the area around 9:30am and proceeded to the court where Arnob was taken.

Later, photos of Arnob being greeted with garlands, a turban, and the Holy Quran went viral on social media.

On Facebook, many criticised the celebratory display for an accused harasser.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Jamuna TV, the victim said: "I have been receiving hateful comments, rape threats, and death threats ... I'm extremely concerned for my safety and my family's wellbeing. I worry whether the state will provide enough security for me. I saw the accused being greeted with flowers, while I feel I have to cover my face if I leave the house. I doubt I can even leave my house like I used to, wearing normal clothes, ever again. What would be the point in continuing this case?"

The Daily Star was not able to independently contact the victim, despite repeated attempts.

DU LAW STUDENTS' STATEMENT

In a press release issued last evening, Dhaka University law students said, "It has already come to our attention that the police and university administration have encouraged the victim to withdraw the case. The university administration has, firstly, failed to provide security to its female students; secondly, it is obstructing the victim from obtaining justice; and thirdly, despite the confessional statement of the accused and other supporting evidence, it is attempting to retain him in his job."

"Protesting such disgraceful efforts, we demand a fair investigation and the permanent expulsion of the accused following its conclusion."

The students also warned that if the accused is allowed to remain in his position, they would immediately boycott all classes and exams.

"They added, 'From this moment onwards, Mostafa Asif Arnob is declared 'persona non grata' on the Dhaka University campus.'"

The DU administration, in the meantime, has formed a three-member probe committee regarding the incident.

While the accused staffer will remain suspended during the investigation, the committee will take further decisions based on the probe report, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed told the media.

GNONATRIK CHHATRA SANGSAD

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Gonotatrik Chhatra Sangsad, the newly formed student organisation, last night suspended the membership of Kazi Mazharul Islam for spreading false information and inciting mob violence in connection with the incident, the student body said in a press release signed by its Member Secretary Zahid Ahsan.

The suspension follows a series of Facebook posts by Kazi Mazharul on Wednesday night opposing Arnob's arrest.

Gonotatrik Chhatra Sangsad has also asked him to submit a show-cause response within one working day to the convener, explaining why he should not be permanently expelled from the organisation.

Let EC keep NID services

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"We will inform the government in writing that it should stay under the EC. We will inform the government on an urgent basis."

The issue stems from a recent inter-ministerial meeting reviewing the draft of the 'Civil Registration (Commission) Ordinance, 2025'.

Previously, in 2023, the government had enacted legislation to move NID operations to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a law the EC now seeks to repeal.

The CEC said that NID services are intrinsically linked to voter registration,

developed through 17 years of dedicated effort by EC officials.

He expressed confidence that the government will consider the EC's perspective and address any informational gaps.

"However, we are a constitutional body. If the government makes a law, we have to obey the law. But we will urgently raise our opinion in the law-making process," Nasir Uddin stated.

Several other EC officials echoed the CEC's sentiments.

SM Asaduzzaman, director general of the Electoral Training Institute, said if the NID operation is removed

from EC jurisdiction, the elections would be under threat. "We have submitted a memorandum [to the CEC] expressing our concerns."

Monir Hossain, convener of the Bangladesh Election Commission Officers' Association, said, "We have informed the commission, given time, and expect visible progress by next Wednesday. Otherwise, officials and employees across the country, including the EC Secretariat, will go for human chains on March 13. Even then, if our demands are not met, we will go on more stringent programmes, including a work abstention."

Polls between December and next March

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"Better is a relative term," he said. "Compared to last year, it looks stable. But what is happening now is not vastly different from other times."

Yunus attributed many of Bangladesh's current problems to the previous government.

"I am not supporting that these things should happen. I'm saying

that, you have to consider, we are not an ideal country or an ideal city that suddenly we made. It's a continuum of the country that we inherited, a country that's been running for many, many years."

About the Trump administration's decision to cut foreign aid and effectively end almost all programmes funded by the US Agency for

International Development, he said, "It is their decision."

"It has been helpful. Because they are doing things that we wanted to get done, like fighting corruption and things like that, which we couldn't afford right away."

Asked how it will make up the shortfall, the chief adviser said, "When it happens, we will make do."

Parties asked to give opinions on reforms

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implementation through a constituent assembly, implementation through constitutional reform after election, or implementation through both a constituent assembly and a legislature. Additionally, a comment section has been provided next to each recommendation for the parties to express their views.

Monir Haider, special assistant (consensus) to the chief adviser, is coordinating this initiative.

Among the recommendations for which political parties' opinions have been sought are appointment of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners based on political consensus and transparency, enacting a law to clarify the responsibilities, powers, and accountability of the Election Commission, and establishing a permanent national constitutional council for appointing officials in all constitutional bodies, including the Election Commission.

Other proposals include putting a two-term limit on prime ministers, making a two-time elected prime minister ineligible for the presidency, and prohibiting the same person from simultaneously holding the positions of party chief, prime minister, and

leader of parliament. The creation of an upper house in parliament with 100 seats allocated proportionally, and offering the deputy speaker position to the opposition party have also been proposed.

Additionally, it has been suggested that a lower house of parliament be formed with 400 members, including 100 reserved seats for women who will be elected directly.

There is also a proposal to elect a nonpartisan, honest, competent, and reputable individual as president through a larger electoral college consisting of members of both houses of parliament and all local government representatives.

Other recommendations include holding local government polls before national elections, making the Election Commission accountable, and amending the International Crimes Tribunal Act and the Representation of the People Order to prevent individuals accused of crimes against humanity from contesting parliamentary elections.

After the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus formed six reform commissions in early October, covering key areas

such as the constitution, electoral system, public administration, police, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the judiciary.

These six commissions published their final reports in February. Subsequently, the government formed the National Consensus Commission, headed by Prof Yunus and comprising the heads of the six reform commissions.

The Consensus Commission will come up with a charter based on the reform proposals that will gain political consensus.

EU leaders pledge

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Zelensky thanked EU leaders for standing by Ukraine's side.

But decades of reliance on US protection, divergences on funding and on how France's nuclear deterrence could be used for Europe showed how difficult it would be for the EU to fill the void left by Washington after it froze military aid to Ukraine.

"We must ensure, with cool and wise heads, that US support is also guaranteed in the coming months and years, because Ukraine is also dependent on their support for its defence," Germany's outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

8 individuals likely to get Swadhinata Padak

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Fahad, a Buet student tortured to death by members of the now-banned Chhatra League in 2019.

Among them, only Badruddin Umar is alive.

Cabinet Division sources say the list of nominees has been approved by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, and the

official announcement will be made soon.

However, hours after the news broke that Badruddin Umar was among the awardees, he declined the award.

"Since 1973, I have been offered awards from various government and non-government organisations. However, I have never accepted any of them," Umar's party, Jatiya Mukti

Council, quoted him in statement.

"However, it is not possible for me to accept this award either. Through this press statement, I am making my decision clear," he stated.

He acknowledged the government's decision to confer the Swadhinata Padak on him and expressed his gratitude for the recognition.