



## Tawsif-Bubly will perform together in ‘Ityadi’

The magazine show *Ityadi* highlights various social irregularities and inconsistencies. This time, the theme of the group song revolves around the concept of seeing through one's eyes and conscience. Our culture is our roots, yet many things are now being distorted and accepted as the norm. This group song has been created to address such issues.

This episode features popular television actor Tawsif Mahbub and well-known film actress Shobnom Bubly. They will be accompanied by *Ityadi's* regular dance troupe. The song's lyrics were penned by renowned lyricist Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, with musical arrangement by Mehedi. It is performed by vocalists Tanzina Ruma, Rajib, and Kheya. The dance is performed by *Ityadi's* regular dance group and choreographed by its dance director Mamun.

The special *Ityadi* episode for Eid will be aired on Bangladesh Television on the night following Eid day, right after the 8pm Bengali news. *Ityadi* is written, directed, and hosted by Hanif Sanket and produced by Fagun Audio Vision.

## Runa Laila to return for Eid Anondomela

Legendary singer Runa Laila will be performing on Bangladesh Television's (BTV) magazine programme *Eid Anondomela* for the second consecutive year.

Last year, Runa Laila made her debut on the show and was accompanied by four contemporary singers—Dilshad Nahar Kona, Imran Mahmudul, Zanita Ahmed Zhilik, and Sabbir Zaman.

However, this time, she will perform solo, singing the popular song *Shilpi Ami Tomader Gaan Shonabo*.

According to a source, the recording for *Anondomela* will take place today (March 24) at BTV's own auditorium. It has been reported that this year's programme will be hosted by Masuma Rahman Nabila and Mamnun Emon. *Eid Anondomela* will be aired on Eid day.

## Taylor Swift breaks Instagram silence to praise Selena Gomez's new album

After a 100-day break from Instagram, Taylor Swift returned online to show support for her friend Selena Gomez's new album *I Said I Love You First*.

Swift shared her excitement on Instagram Stories, praising Gomez and fiancé Benny Blanco for their work on the project.

"I love this album so much oh my God," Swift wrote, linking to the album.

This marked Swift's first post since December when she celebrated the conclusion of her record-breaking *Eras Tour*.

*I Said I Love You First* features collaborations with GloRilla, J Balvin, Tainy, and others, and marks Gomez's first major release since *Rare* in 2020.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## 'A Place of Stories: Designing The Stall'

The exhibition *A Place of Stories: Designing The Stall* is all set to showcase reimaginings of the traditional tea stall, transforming it into a dynamic community hub and cultural icon.

The selected 30 designs for this event were shortlisted from over 400 entries submitted worldwide, with participation from more than 1,000 individuals.

Visit to explore this creative evolution of a cherished space.

**Date:** Monday-Thursday | March 24-27, 2025  
**Time:** 12pm-9pm  
**Venue:** Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

## Pakistani singer Aima Baig to perform in Bangladesh for the first time

Renowned Pakistani singer Aima Baig is set to perform in Bangladesh for the first time at the *One True Sound Grand* concert, scheduled for April 12 at Sena Malancha, Dhaka.

The concert, organised by Yamaha Music Bangladesh, was officially announced on their Facebook page yesterday.

According to Al Shahrar, senior executive at the organisation, the event will feature Aima Baig alongside prominent Bangladeshi musicians.

Baig, known for her hit songs in films like *Lahore Se Aagey* and *Baaz i*, has also gained fame for her performances on Coke Studio Pakistan.

Further event details, including ticket information, will be released soon.

## CBI closes investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput's death

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has officially closed its investigation into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, confirming no foul play was involved.

Rajput was found dead in his Mumbai apartment on June 14, 2020, sparking widespread speculation. After four years of forensic analysis and expert consultations, the CBI ruled the actor died by suicide.

The probe also cleared actress Rhea Chakraborty and her family of accusations made by Rajput's father, including embezzlement and abetment to suicide.

The investigation, which involved technical data and consultations with a medical board, found no evidence to support conspiracy claims. Rajput's family has yet to comment on the closure.

# NEWS

## WHO's 2025 targets remain a far cry

FROM PAGE 14

case notifications has risen over the years.

"But still, we need to intensify efforts to detect the missing cases, and to do so, the government must invest more. Unless the missing cases are detected, they will continue to spread the disease among others," he added.

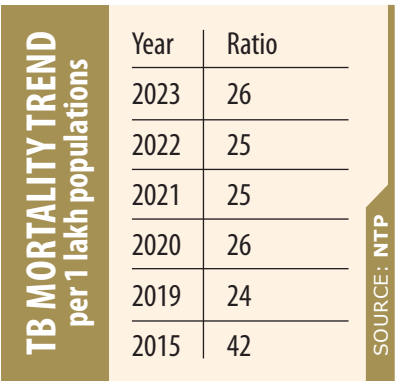
The expert said the estimation process of WHO also should be reviewed to get the actual picture.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration's abrupt suspension of the USAID programme in January has dealt a blow to Bangladesh's efforts to stave off tuberculosis.

For instance, the icddr.b's Alliance for Combating Tuberculosis, aimed at improving tuberculosis case detection by strengthening the health system, has ground to a halt after USAID stopped funding the programme.

Initiated in March 2020 with a \$30 million grant, the project received a three-year extension to March 2027 with a total of \$74.9 million, shows icddr.b's annual report for 2023.

The project's focus was to increase



tuberculosis detection among children, drug-resistant tuberculosis patients and high-risk groups.

In 2023, ultra-portable X-ray machines with AI were introduced in remote areas under the programme with the view to enhancing tuberculosis diagnosis. A total of 47,845 individuals were screened, of which 226 were detected with tuberculosis.

The USAID funding was used for accelerating the work of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme

(NTP), so the abrupt suspension is posing a major challenge, said two of its officials.

However, Nasreen begged to differ. "It would pose a little bit of challenge for them, but the impact won't be that much," she said.

Currently, the NTP operates under the health ministry and is primarily funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

A network of 17 non-governmental organisations led by BRAC also collaborates on the programme with the Global Fund.

While the tuberculosis mortality rate has decreased, socio-economic conditions such as malnutrition, poverty, climate change and population density have seen little improvement, leaving room for the further spread of the disease, said Akramul Islam, senior director of Brac Health Programme.

Improving these socio-economic indicators remains a major challenge, he said.

"Therefore, the number of tests and the coverage of preventive measures must be expanded," he added.

## Tarique urges parties to prioritise public issues

FROM PAGE 14

said, if people have the scope and power to determine who should run the country then political parties must focus on the hopes and expectations of the public.

He said Bangladesh gained independence through the sacrifices of millions, but the country's democracy has been hindered on different occasions, including the introduction of the one-party Baksal rule and the establishment of autocratic rule over the past 15 years.

The BNP leader said the July-August mass uprising succeeded because the people stood by the

political parties with their support.

"A mafia-like autocrat [Sheikh Hasina] could be driven out of the country, as people from all walks of life took to the streets and stood by the political parties with an expectation for change. People must have had an expectation for seeking change... I think people's desire for the political parties is to start working for them and address their issues," he observed.

"But what are our thoughts on the people, who are our main capital in politics? Shouldn't we talk about and think about their issues? Of course, we should, because it's

our politics, and the people are our greatest capital," Tarique said.

"Why did we present the 31-point proposal? The reason was simple. We saw how the fleeing autocrat destroyed every institution in the country. Whether it's the education system, healthcare, employment, judiciary, civil administration, police administration, or the power sector, they destroyed every institution," he said.

The BNP leader said the first institution the previous autocratic regime destroyed was Bangladesh's electoral system, which they made controversial and destroyed.

## ICT investigators submit report

FROM PAGE 2

"This was one of the most heinous crimes in history," he remarked.

In connection to the incident, two separate complaints were filed with the ICT on September 11, 2024. One case was filed over the two complaints since they were identical.

An arrest warrant was issued against former local MP Saiful Islam and several others in this case on December 24, 2024. Saiful remains absconding in the case.

However, Abdullalil Kafi, former

additional superintendent of police (crime and ops) of Dhaka district, Shahidul Islam, former additional superintendent of police, Dhaka district (Savar circle), AFM Sayed, then officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, Arafat Hossain, an inspector in the detective branch of police, SI Malek, and Constable Mukul were arrested in the case, reports BSS.

Tajul denied claims that their investigations were moving at a slow pace, claiming that they finished their work in a tenth of the time

typically needed to look into a crime against humanity case.

"Six months is, by no means, a sufficient time to investigate such cases. However, as part of our commitment to the nation, our investigation agency has been working tirelessly to complete the probes."

He acknowledged the lack of expert investigators, noting that police officials had no prior experience conducting such inquiries.

"They needed time to gain the necessary expertise."

## Ecuador ministry says new Amazon fuel leak an 'attack'

AFP, Quito

Ecuador found a new leak in a fuel pipeline in the Amazon region on Saturday and dubbed it an "attack," days after another spill affected hundreds of thousands of people.

The energy ministry did not report the size of the new spill nor say whether it extended to the Coca River, where the country's main hydroelectric plant is located.

In a statement, the ministry said "a leak of oil derivatives" had happened in the eastern province of Napo. It attributed the leak to sabotage.

On Tuesday, he country's state-owned oil company declared an

emergency over the earlier spill in the northwest, which polluted several rivers and left hundreds of thousands without clean drinking water.

Authorities also denounced that spill as being an act of sabotage.

The energy ministry said a decision would be made whether or not to take the nearby Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric power plant -- which provides 1,100 MW to the national grid -- offline to protect its machinery.

The ministry said a plant shutdown would not lead to power cuts, as supplies would be "guaranteed" to the entire country.

## We will always stand by you

FROM PAGE 2

assistance would continue in the future.

"Today's iftar arrangement and financial support will not be a one-time initiative. Business entrepreneurs, bankers, and other contributors have come together to make this happen. The Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Special Security Force (SSF), and

banks have also provided financial contributions. The army has already spent significant funds on treatment, and to date, we have provided medical care to over 4,200 injured individuals," he said.

Waker reaffirmed efforts toward the rehabilitation of the injured.

"You are the nation's pride. You have sacrificed a lot for the country and the people. I congratulate you

and assure you that we will always be there for you," he said.

Senior army officials, distinguished civilians, and directors of various government hospitals attended the event.

After the programme, Eid gifts were distributed to injured students on behalf of the army, according to a release from Inter-Services Public Relations.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza

FROM PAGE 14

several targets in those areas in what witnesses said was an escalation of the attack that began on Tuesday.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee issued an evacuation warning on X for residents in the Tel Al-Sultan neighbourhood in western Rafah in the south of the strip, saying the military was launching an onslaught there to eradicate "terrorist organizations".

In a statement, Hamas accused Israel of assassinating Bardaweil,

who it said was praying along with his wife when an Israeli missile struck their tent shelter in Khan Younis.

"His blood, that of his wife and martyrs, will remain fuelling the battle of liberation and independence. The criminal enemy will not break our determination and will," said the group.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said the main aim of the war is to destroy Hamas as a military and governing entity. He has said the aim of the new

campaign is to force the group to give up remaining hostages.

Israel's security cabinet approved a plan to separate 13 Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank from their neighbouring communities, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said yesterday.

The settlements will ultimately be recognised as independent, he posted on X about the move, which follows the approval of tens of thousands of housing units across the West Bank.

## Iran unveils missile systems

FROM PAGE 14

described Trump's letter as "more of a threat" but said it appeared to offer opportunities and noted that Tehran would respond "in the coming days".

In remarks broadcast on Friday, US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff said Trump was trying to head off armed conflict with Iran by building trust with Tehran.

He said the president's letter was not intended as a threat.

Iran has controlled the three Gulf islands since 1971, despite their sovereignty being disputed with the United Arab Emirates for decades.

In September, Tangsir said Iran was "expanding" its defence capabilities on the islands.