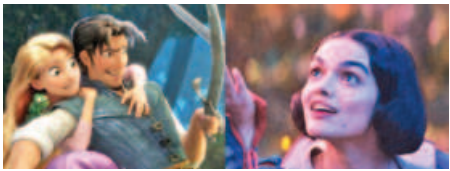


## Disney puts live-action ‘Tangled’ plans on hold after ‘Snow White’s’ box office performance



Disney has reportedly decided to pause development on its live-action adaptation of *Tangled*, the much-loved 2010 animated film. However, according to The Hollywood Reporter, insiders claim that the studio is now taking a step back—likely influenced by the underwhelming performance of its most recent live-action remake, *Snow White*.

Despite its \$270 million budget, *Snow White* underperformed with \$145 million worldwide.

*Tangled* had progressed with *The Greatest Showman* director Michael Gracey and a script penned by Jennifer Kaytin Robinson (*Thor: Love and Thunder* and *Do Revenge*).

The decision to shelve *Tangled* signals broader concerns over Disney’s hit-or-miss live-action remake formula and the future of the production is uncertain, as Disney appears to be reassessing its strategy amid viewer fatigue.

## South Indian industry shows interest in ‘Jongli’ remake

Siam Ahmed starrer Eid release *Jongli*, directed by M Raahim, has drawn attention not only from local audiences but also from the South Indian film industry. Known for its gritty storyline and visually striking presentation, the film features Siam in a rugged look with a long beard and a scarred lip—prompting comparisons with South Indian film stars.

The film features Bubly, Prarthana Fardin Dighi, Dilara Zaman, Shahiduzzaman Selim, and Rashed Mamun Apu in key roles.

Recently, during a promotional campaign, Zahid Hasan Abhi, producer and CEO of Tiger Media, revealed that Malayalam and Telugu filmmakers have expressed interest in acquiring the remake rights for *Jongli*.

Co-producer Mukhtar Ibn Rafique later confirmed ongoing discussions, noting that early conversations began during post-production in Kolkata, where the teaser and poster caught the



attention of regional filmmakers

“They were initially under the impression it was an Indian film, and after being introduced to the narrative, they showed keen interest,” Rafique told The Daily Star. While no official deal has been signed yet, financial terms have been discussed, and producers remain hopeful.

The *Jongli* team anticipates that a final decision regarding the remake will be reached within a week or two, marking a potential milestone for Bangladeshi cinema’s cross-border recognition.

## ‘Please stop this media trial’: Pori Moni responds to abuse allegations

Actress Pori Moni has responded to allegations of physically assaulting her domestic help, Pinky Akter, who filed a GD at Dhaka’s Vatara Police Station claiming abuse over a feeding issue involving the actress’ daughter.

Last Friday night, Pori came live on Facebook and expressed concern over being subjected to a “media trial” and urged the media to avoid one-sided reporting.

Referring to past false unlawful accusations against her, Pori stated that while she has evidence, she will respect the legal process.

The actress highlighted her long-standing relationships with other staff and questioned the credibility of the new helper Pinky’s claims. She pleaded for peace and accountability, stating that her staff are like family.



### WHAT’S THE HAP?

#### Open mic: Grilled Comedy Jam

Get ready for a night of laughter as Grilled kicks off this month’s comedy season in Dhanmondi with an open mic event. Tonight, both fresh faces and seasoned comics will take the stage to entertain a vibrant audience.

The entry tickets, priced at Tk 50, are exclusively available online.

DATE: SUNDAY | APRIL 6

TIME: 8PM ONWARDS

VENUE: GRILLED, HOUSE 21/A, DHANMONDI 27



## ‘Squid Game’ star O Yeong-su sentenced to one year in prison

South Korean actor O Yeong-su, known for his role as Player 001 in Netflix’s *Squid Game*, has been sentenced to one year in prison for indecent assault.

The 80-year-old was accused of molesting a woman on two occasions in 2017, which he has denied.

Initially given an eight-month sentence with probation, a recent ruling increased it to a year.

Prosecutors described him as abusing his seniority in the theatre scene, while his legal team claimed the evidence was inconsistent.

O Yeong-su expressed regret, calling the situation humiliating, and said he did not believe his actions amounted to assault. A final verdict is due June 3.



## SHAMIM HASAN SARKAR shares his wedding pictures

Last Friday night social media was abuzz with two celebrity couples announcing their marriages online. Among them was TV actor and content creator Shamim Hasan Sarkar.

Known for often sharing photos dressed as a groom, the *Double Pera* star initially left fans guessing whether his official wedding photos was another skit. However, he later confirmed that he got married on Friday in an intimate ceremony at his Mirpur residence.

Dressed in traditional beige and red coloured wedding wear with his

wife, Shamim captioned the photos with, “Alhamdulillah, I am married. Please keep us in your prayers.”

His bride, Afsana Akter Prity, is currently a university student. The couple met a few months ago.

Alongside acting, Shamim is recognised for his work as a content creator on the YouTube channel Mango Squad.

Three of his Eid special works, namely, *Varate Swami*, *Chorer Ghore Chumni* and *Titanicke Eid Jatra* are on YouTube.

# NEWS

### Bangladesh ready

FROM PAGE 12  
chairmanship of BIMSTEC.

He expressed hope that the regional bloc would witness renewed dynamism under Bangladesh’s leadership.

The chief adviser also met former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and sought support in strengthening bilateral relations and contributing to the resolution of the Rohingya crisis to help bring lasting peace to the region.

During a meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok, Yunus thanked Shinawatra for his efforts to expand Thai-Bangladesh trade and cooperation during his time as the prime minister of Thailand.

They also discussed the global trade issues and expansion of microcredit and social businesses in rural Thailand, said Chief Adviser’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

Yunus also enquired about the health of Thaksin, an old friend of his.

Soon after taking office in 2001, PM Thaksin visited Bangladesh and Grameen Bank with his colleagues and designed a microcredit programme for Thailand inspired by the success of the Grameen Bank microcredit programme.

Yunus had been invited by Thaksin as the chief guest in the national launching of the programme that year.

They also discussed the possible re-launch of the airline route between Chiang Mai and Chattogram, which had brought the flight time between Bangladesh and Thailand to one hour.

Prof Yunus sought Thaksin’s support for Bangladesh’s plan to become an ASEAN member.

### AL should be tried

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will accept it, Salahuddin added.

There has been no visible progress in the cases filed with the International Crimes Tribunal against those charged with genocide and crimes against humanity—including Sheikh Hasina, her cabinet members, lawmakers, and her cronies, he said.

The nation eagerly expects these cases to be resolved quickly, and therefore, the manpower of the tribunal should be increased. “If necessary, it can be assessed whether tribunals can be established at the divisional level,” he added.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir chaired the meeting with Hefajat that began around 8:30pm and ended around 9:50pm.

## Disaster risk funding

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Bangladesh’s current fiscal buffers, which is the fiscal space available to cover unexpected expenditure increases, are at the level that is sufficient to meet the needs of the annual average cost of immediate disaster response and relief.

Strengthening fiscal buffers will support closing the short-term financing gap for moderate disasters, while putting in place contingent lines of credit would help create fiscal space for more severe disasters, it said.

In addition, Bangladesh could consider insurance of public assets, including critical public infrastructure and large assets under public-private partnerships, to control fiscal risks associated with natural disasters.

The government could also integrate disaster risk financing need

considerations in its medium-term budget framework and conduct a public expenditure review of disaster-related expenditures to reveal the true fiscal cost of natural disasters in Bangladesh, the report said.

The roles and responsibilities regarding disaster risk management are clearly defined in the country’s 2019 Standing Order on Disasters.

However, the country would benefit from mainstreaming the national disaster risk financing strategy into the National Plan for Disaster Management and the five-year national development plan.

“The government could also develop a comprehensive implementation plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework and establish a timeline for mid-term review and update of the national disaster risk financing strategy,” it added.

## Bangladesh moves up

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### WORLD’S MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS

Ireland has topped the index this year, with a score of 109. Irish passport holders can travel to 176 countries either visa-free or with a visa on arrival.

Switzerland and Greece share the second position, both scoring 108.5. Citizens of these countries enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 175 destinations worldwide.

Portugal is placed fourth, while Malta and Italy jointly hold the fifth position in the global ranking of powerful passports.

### SOUTH ASIA: REGIONAL COMPARISON

Among South Asian nations, the Maldives holds the strongest passport, ranking 104th globally with a score of 65.5.

Maldivian passport holders enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 101 countries.

At the other end of the spectrum, Afghanistan has the weakest passport both globally and within South Asia. It ranks 199th with a score of 27.

Pakistan follows closely, ranking 195th with a score of 32, placing it among the five weakest passports in the Nomad Capitalist list.

Bangladesh ranks just ahead of Pakistan, with Nepal in 180th position, scoring 39.5.

## Petition filed before SC challenging amendment

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Khan, who is accused of alleged irregularities in the functioning of the Delhi Waqf Board between 2016 and 2021, had earlier claimed that the government brought the bill to capture 123 waqf properties located in prime locations.

“Union Home Minister Amit Shah said 123 Waqf properties are in prime location. They want to capture these properties. They will capture those land which are not under Waqf in revenue records... Do they plan to seize these properties, just as they did with the graveyard at Mata Sundri Road and the buildings behind Lal Masjid? If a property is not recorded as Waqf in the revenue records, the government will claim it as its own,” Khan had said.

The Waqf Amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha after a marathon debate that lasted over 29 hours combined. In both the houses, the opposition vehemently opposed the bill, alleging it was an attempt by the BJP-led government to keep the society in a state of permanent polarisation.

However, the government defended the bill, saying it was necessary as there were several anomalies in the 1995 Act.

Shah, while speaking in the Lok Sabha during the debate, also accused the opposition of spreading misinformation regarding the Waqf Amendment Bill among Muslims.

There are around two dozen Waqf boards across India, owning some 9,00,000 acres (365,00 hectares), a multi-billion dollar property empire that makes them one of the biggest landholders alongside the railways and the defence forces.

The government introduced the revised bill after incorporating the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which examined the legislation introduced in August last year. The bill seeks to amend the act of 1995 and improve the administration and management of waqf properties in India.

### ISLAMIST ORGS IN BANGLADESH PROTEST

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami

Andolan, and Hefajat-e-Islam in Bangladesh have strongly protested the passing of the controversial bill.

In separate statements, the three Islamist organisations said Narendra Modi-led Indian government has been taking one controversial step after another targeting minority Muslims. As part of this, the highly controversial Waqf Amendment Bill has paved the way for state takeover of Muslim-endowed religious institutions, including mosques, madrasas, and orphanages.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar in a statement said yesterday, “The anti-Muslim Waqf Amendment Bill and the BJP government’s ongoing anti-Muslim policies are a matter of serious concern. The controversial bill passed in the Indian Lok Sabha on April 3 is yet another heinous example of the Modi government’s calculated efforts to strip Muslims of their religious freedom, ownership, and rights.”

Through this law, government intervention and takeover of Muslim-endowed religious properties such as mosques, madrasas, graveyards, and shelters has been enabled, he added.

He further stated that under the amendment, inclusion of two non-Muslim members in both the Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council has been made mandatory, which significantly weakens the authority of the boards and poses serious concerns for Muslims.

“This move opens the door to blatant interference in Muslim religious institutions. We believe this bill was passed with a politically malicious intent.”

“We urge the BJP government of India to refrain from these anti-Muslim activities and take effective and comprehensive measures to ensure the safety, property, and all interests of Indian Muslims,” the Jamaat leader said.

Hefajat Ameer Muhibullah Babunagari and Secretary General Sajedur Rahman in a statement on Friday slammed the Modi government

for targeting minority Muslims and strongly condemned the passing of the controversial Waqf Amendment Bill.

Sheikh Fazle Bari Masud, joint secretary general of Islami Andolan Bangladesh, in a statement on Friday termed the recently passed Waqf Bill in India a gross violation of human rights.

“The BJP government passed this bill to directly interfere in Muslim property. It goes against the fundamental principles of the Indian constitution and is a clear injustice to Muslims, undermining the so-called secularism of the state.”

He said the Modi government wants to establish control over Muslim property under the pretext of reform.

“Despite widespread opposition, the BJP government has passed the bill to incite further communal unrest and facilitate the killing of Muslims. The bill must be repealed without delay.”

### July protester

FROM PAGE 2

in Dhaka. He joined street protests during the quota reform protests and was shot in the head by police on July 18 in Jatrabari.

Three bullets hit him, but due to fear of arrest under the then Sheikh Hasina-led government, he initially received treatment in secret.

After the government was overthrown on August 5, Hridoy was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors managed to remove two bullets from his head.

However, one remained lodged, and he never fully recovered. Family members said he would often suffer from intense headaches and fevers. He fell seriously ill again last Wednesday.

“I couldn’t afford better treatment for my son. I sold my rickshaw and a cow to bear the medical expenses,” said Ansar.

“If we had support to send him abroad, maybe he would still be alive.” Hridoy’s elder brother Md Sohag Islam Anis said, “The bullet inside his head caused him unbearable pain and fever. No one came forward with help for his advanced treatment.”