

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Exhibition: 'Journey of the Roots'

Gunoboti presents *Journey of the Roots*, an experiential installation exhibition celebrating traditional Bangladeshi craftsmanship through a modern lens. Showcasing *Rannagher Onushongo*, a curated bamboo kitchenware line, the event blends cultural heritage with contemporary design, offering visitors a sensory journey into artisanal innovation and functional artistry.

DATE: FRIDAY-SUNDAY | APRIL 11-13

TIME: 5:30PM ONWARDS

VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI



I chase characters that break the mould: Tama Mirza talks 'Daagi'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tama Mirza is currently basking in the success of her latest film, *Daagi*. Since its release during Eid, she has been visiting various theatres and receiving widespread acclaim from audiences. Reflecting on this positive reception, Tama shared with The Daily Star, "The audience has wholeheartedly embraced *Daagi*. Their love and appreciation mean the world to us."

She added that tickets were sold out till last Sunday, highlighting the film's popularity. "We've been experiencing full houses, and the enthusiasm from viewers is truly overwhelming," she added.

Tama, along with co-star Afran Nisho, has attended multiple screenings, directly engaging with fans. She recounted, "Every time I visited the theatres with Nisho *bhai*, we've been met with immense love. Hearing audiences praise *Daagi* repeatedly is incredibly gratifying."

In *Daagi*, Tama portrays the character Jarin, while Nisho plays Nishan. The chemistry between their characters has struck a chord with viewers. "Hearing the audience chant 'Nishan-Jarin' during screenings has been heartwarming. It indicates that our pairing has been well received, especially following our collaboration in *Surongo*," Tama expressed.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Addressing the film's suitability for family viewing, Tama emphasised, "*Daagi* is indeed a family-friendly movie. We've always maintained that from the beginning, and the audience's response has affirmed it. People of all ages, from youngsters to the elderly, are coming to watch and enjoy it."

The actress has seen *Daagi* multiple times in theatres while cherishing the live reactions. "Experiencing the audience's excitement firsthand is unparalleled. Personally, I hold *Daagi* in high regard," she remarked.

Moreover, Tama mentioned that director Shihab Shaheen and fellow actress Mithu have lauded her performance, considering it her best to date. Expressing gratitude, Tama said, "Hearing such praise from Shihab *bhai* and Mithu *apa* is humbling. I'm thankful for their support and belief in me."

She attributes the film's success to its compelling narrative, music, and meticulous direction. "The audience's acceptance of our story and execution validates our hard work. It's fulfilling to see our efforts resonate widely," Tama noted.

Looking ahead, Tama aspires to take on diverse roles that leave a lasting impression. She explained, "I aim to prioritise scripts that offer distinct, mould-breaking characters, to ensure my performances stand out. I hope to undertake more unconventional roles in the future."

Reflecting on her role as Jarin in *Daagi*, Tama considers it a fortunate opportunity. "Such roles are rare, and I'm grateful for the audience's appreciation. It's a significant milestone in my career," she concluded.

For now, Tama remains immersed in the world of *Daagi*, savouring the journey it has offered.

Amadou Bagayoko of Amadou & Mariam passes away at 70



Amadou Bagayoko, the celebrated Malian guitarist and one half of the Grammy-nominated musical duo Amadou & Mariam, has died at 70 due to an illness, his family confirmed.

Alongside his wife Mariam

Doumbia, Amadou gained global acclaim for fusing Malian music with rock and blues, selling millions of records.

The blind couple met in 1976 at a Bamako school for the visually impaired and began performing together in the 1980s.

Their 2004 album *Dimanche à Bamako* brought international fame. They composed the 2006 World Cup anthem and performed at the 2024 Paris Olympics closing ceremony.

Amadou & Mariam collaborated with artists like Damon Albarn and David Gilmour, and performed for Barack Obama.

He is survived by Mariam and their three children.

Ed Sheeran drops Persian-inspired single 'Azizam'



Ed Sheeran recently released *Azizam*, the first single from his upcoming eighth studio album, *Play*. Produced by Ilyah Salmanzadeh—renowned for his work with Ariana Grande and Charli XCX—the track draws on Persian musical influences, with the title meaning "my dear" in Persian.

The musician revealed the idea originated from Salmanzadeh's suggestion to explore his Persian roots. A video titled *Pink Heart*, featuring footage from Sheeran's US promotional tour, accompanied the song release, while an official music video is expected soon.

Speaking on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* in March, the four-time Grammy winner said *Play* is part of a 10-album concept he envisioned at 18.

'Shobar Agey Bangladesh' announces nationwide 'Swadhinata Concert'

Shobar Agey Bangladesh Foundation is set to host simultaneous *Swadhinata Concerts* on April 11 across four cities—Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, and Bogura. The concerts will take place from 3pm to 11pm at key locations, including Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka, MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram, and Khulna Stadium.

Artists performing at the Dhaka concert include James, Feedback, Shironamhin, Powersurge, Aftermath, Pritom, Xefar, Porshi, Ferdous Wahid,



Mila, Agun, Haider Hossain, Animesh Roy, Sohan Ali, Abrar Shahriar, Mahtim

Shakib, Selim Chowdhury, Aleya Begum, and Miltah Zaman, among others.

The Chattogram venue will feature performances by Miles, Souls, Ark, Lalon, Ashes, Subconscious, Bay of Bengal, Teerondaz, Metrical, Kiran Das, Natai, Emran, Konal, Chishti Baul, Tasnim Anika, Salma, Rayhan, Shubhro, Moushumi, Ethun Babu, Rituraj, and others.

In Bogura, the concert will include Artcell, AvoidRafa, Different Touch,

Mizan, MNB, Vikings, Baghdhara, Hridoy Khan, Baby Naznin, Khurshid Alam, Kanak Chapa, Alam Ara Minu, Kornia, Yamik, Luipa, KZ Rabbi, Muttaki Hasib, Rajib, and Mahin, among others.

The Khulna concert will see performances by Warfaze, Arbivirus, Shonar Bangla Circus, Carnival, Bangla Five, Kure Ghar, Biborton, Asif Akbar, Balam, Tahsan Khan, Monir Khan, Kona, Nasir, Joy Shahriar, Tuntun Babul, Rukhsar Rahman, Liza, and Palash.

NEWS

Beginning of new investment narrative

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bureaucratic and uncertain to modern, structured, and welcoming.

The BIDA chairman said, "We are not here to promise \$10 billion in investments overnight. What we are doing instead is laying the groundwork—building institutions, fixing fundamentals, and sending the right signals to serious investors."

He underscored the importance of continuous political support in maintaining investor confidence.

"Investors need to be assured that policies won't be reversed after elections. That's why we have engaged with all major political parties, including the BNP, NCP, and Jamaat e-Islami. They have assured us of their support for investment continuity."

The BIDA has formed dedicated committees with the parties to keep investment issues bipartisan and ensure long-term reform momentum.

Unlike traditional conferences, the Investment Summit will feature immersive field activities, including visits to the National Economic Zone in Mirsarai, Chattogram, and the Japanese Economic Zone in Araihaazar, Narayanganj, direct engagement with factory operators and sector-focused breakout sessions.

"This is not about sitting in air-conditioned rooms. Delegates will walk the sites, talk to real businesses and get a real sense of Bangladesh's capabilities."

More than 700 participants from more than 40 countries are expected, including institutional investors, international development partners, and non-resident Bangladeshis.

Among the attendees are Oscar Garcia Maceiras, the chief executive officer of Inditex; Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, group chairman and CEO of DP World; Kyeongsu Lee, vice-president of Samsung Construction and Trading Corporation; Jon Omund Revhaug, executive vice-president and head of Telenor Asia; and Han Jun-seok, CEO of Giordano Korea.

"Some companies attending have combined GDPs larger than Bangladesh's," said Ashik.

Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster, DBE, the UK's trade envoy to Bangladesh; Jarno Syrjalä, under-secretary of state for international trade at the ministry for foreign affairs of Finland; and Mike Orgill, senior director of public policy and government relations of Uber's APAC region are also expected.

The BIDA chairman acknowledged that Bangladesh still has work to do to improve the ease of doing business,

particularly in energy supply and policy coordination.

"Energy supply is stabilising. LNG payment delays have been addressed and long-term gas contracts will ease pressure from 2026 onwards. We must guarantee pipeline gas for industrial use—you can't run factories on stove pressure."

He also stressed the need to improve investor tracking.

"We need a pipeline of serious investors—30, 50, even 100 companies—and a follow-up mechanism. Right now, we don't have that basic foundation."

The BIDA plans to build a real-time investment tracking system post-summit to monitor interest, engagement, and progress.

In terms of data transparency, Ashik admitted that current FDI figures often include reinvested earnings and working capital loans.

"We are reviewing this. What matters is fresh, high-quality capital. Revised investment numbers will be published by mid-April."

The summit will end with a cultural showcase, highlighting Bangladesh through the lens of its artists, musicians, and creators.

"This is not just an event—it's the beginning of a new investment narrative for Bangladesh."

Shakib under investigation

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crab traders, corruption in cricket, and concealing assets in his election affidavit.

At the time of the political upheaval that led to the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, Shakib was playing in the Global Cricket League in Canada. He has not returned to Bangladesh since and is currently residing in the United States with his wife and children.

ACC ON TULIP

ACC Chairman Momen addressed recent media reports concerning a letter from the legal team of Tulip Siddiq, the former UK Anti-Corruption minister who recently resigned amid controversies over her links to her aunt, Sheikh Hasina, and the origins of a number of properties in London used by her.

Momen clarified that while legal representation is a common right, charges of corruption are non-compoundable and must be dealt with through the courts.

"Letters exchanged between legal teams cannot replace proper legal proceedings," he said.

Tulip had earlier told Sky News that she was unaware of any formal charges and had not been contacted by the ACC.

According to Momen, the ACC has gathered extensive documentary evidence and has already prepared a full charge sheet after detailed scrutiny.

"The case has been submitted to court. If she fails to appear after a warrant is issued, she will be treated as a fugitive."

"This is not only about Tulip Siddiq. The same legal process will apply to all absconders, including Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Rehana, Sajeb Wazed Joy, Saima Wazed Putul, Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and Azmina Siddiq."

HASAN, WIFE SUE
In a separate move, the ACC has filed separate cases against former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud and his wife, Nuran Fatema, for illegally amassing wealth.

Investigators revealed that Hasan was involved in suspicious transactions amounting to Tk 39.76 crore through nine bank accounts. His wife allegedly carried out transactions worth Tk 683.15 crore across 56 accounts.

60 lakh new voters added

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The revisions were carried out via door-to-door surveys in 2009-2010, 2012-2013, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020 and 2022-2023.

To register as a new voter, applicants must provide the data collectors with: the online birth certificate, the nationality/citizenship certificate and a photocopy of a family member's NID.

Applicants may also need to submit copies of their SSC/Dakhil/equivalent certificates or Class 8 certificates (if applicable), along with utility bills (such as electricity, gas, water bills, or holding tax receipts).

The EC has urged applicants to be careful during the registration

process. The names of the applicant and their parents must match with those on the birth or educational certificates and the date of birth must correspond to that on either the birth certificate or educational certificate.

The permanent address must be accurate and match the applicant's actual residence.

The EC emphasises that dual registration or being listed as a voter more than once is strictly prohibited.

Meanwhile, the Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said that all election-related activities, including updating of the NID and the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, were progressing well.

4-yr-old raped

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Brahmanbaria Chief Judicial Magistrate Court's Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Mejbah Uddin Bhuiyan passed the order after police produced Abdul Karim, 42, imam of a local mosque, said Court Inspector Md Habibullah Sarkar.

Bancharampur Model Police Station OC Morshedul Alam Chowdhury said Abdul was arrested around 9:30pm on Friday in Tatuakandi village under Dariyadaulot union.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said the girl used to go to a local mosque for Quran lessons. On the morning of April 1, after other students went home, Imam Abdul took her to a room and raped her and threatened her with murder so that she didn't tell anyone. However, when the girl went home, she informed her family.

The victim's mother filed a case with Bancharampur Model Police Station on Friday. Police arrested the accused the same night.

We hope India

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provisions of this law and found that it attempts to curtail the rights of India's minority Muslims and discriminate against them.

He expressed concern that the law, which goes against the traditions, rights, and interests of some 20 crore Muslims—about 14 percent of India's population—creates ample scope for misuse.

"It could lead to disastrous consequences in the management of Islamic religious institutions."

He said some 10 lakh acres of property are under Waqf Boards in India, and most of the lands are used for public welfare purposes such as mosques, madrasas, graveyards, and orphanages.

The inclusion of non-Muslim members in the governing boards

under the new law has sparked controversy and could infringe upon the constitutional rights of Muslim citizens, he added.

"We [BNP] believe that it is not appropriate to take any such step at the state level, as it may lead to the fear of destroying communal harmony due to interference in the religious rights of Muslims and discriminatory behaviour."

He also said giving non-Muslims the authority over the administration and management of these religious properties is tantamount to direct interference in the religious rights of Muslim citizens.

BNP Chairperson's advisory council member Ismail Zabihullah and its law affairs secretary Kaiser Kamal were also present at the press conference.

'Bombs were planted in Aynagar'

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"When we unknowingly entered one centre, we found bombs had been planted there—some fitted with timers. It appears there was an apparent attempt to assassinate those who were conducting the investigation," he said.

"As the prosecution has yet to bring these findings to light, many may assume that no real investigation has taken place. However, once formal charges are submitted, people will begin to understand the extent of what has been uncovered," he added.

When asked about the locations and whether suspects involved in the bomb planting had been identified, Tajul declined to comment further.

He also said they have received draft probe reports of three cases—killings in Chankharpool and Ashulia, and another involving command responsibility allegations against Sheikh Hasina—and hope to submit formal charges for two of them within this month.

Meanwhile, the tribunal yesterday approved petitions to interrogate Constable Nasirul Islam, accused of killing seven people in Chankharpool,

and Nayek Sohel Mia, accused of throwing Shaikh Ashabul Yamin from an APC in Savar. Interrogations will be held on April 10 and 13, respectively.

It also extended the deadlines for submitting investigation reports on crimes against humanity committed during the uprising in Jatrabari and Farmgate to June 6 and July 6, respectively.

The three-member bench, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, approved the extensions following prosecution requests. The previous deadline expired yesterday.

Explaining the need for more time in the Jatrabari case, Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said the crime scene spans over three kilometres, with hundreds killed.

Gazi highlighted the killing of Imam Hasan Taim, a college student and son of a sub-inspector, who was shot at point-blank range by police. Statements from witnesses, including Taim's friend who took wounded Taim away from the spot, have been recorded.

Tajul said that a three-month extension was sought for the investigation into the killing of Golam

Nafiz, a student of Banani Bidyaniketan School and College. Nafiz gained national attention through iconic images showing him draped in the national flag on a rickshaw after he was shot by police in the Farmgate area.

Nafiz was taken by rickshaw to three different hospitals, none of which provided him with treatment. Tajul added that at one point, there was an attempt to burn him alive and dispose of his body in a manhole.

The tribunal issued arrest warrants for three individuals in connection with the incident, but they remain at large, Tajul said.

He later told journalists that the tribunal received 38 formal complaints and gathered hundreds of video clips and over 150 witness statements over the incidents in Jatrabari. Due to the scale of the case, more time is needed.

The chief prosecutor also said disinformation campaigns, and efforts to derail or discredit the tribunal were ongoing. The investigation agency and prosecution identified many involved in these campaigns. "No scandal or smear campaign will obstruct justice," he said.