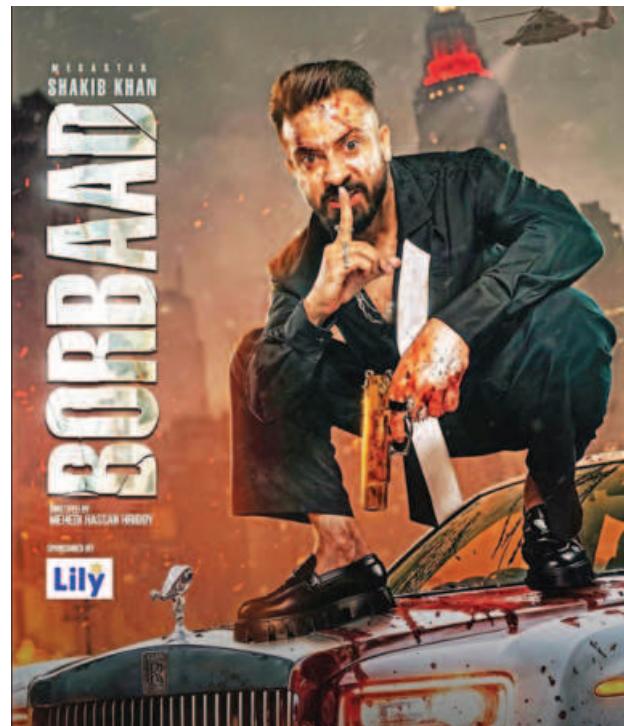


Cate Blanchett plans on retiring from acting soon

Cate Blanchett, the two-time Academy Award winner, has revealed to British media that she plans to step away from acting in the near future.

In a recent interview with Radio Times, the acclaimed actor and producer questioned whether the term "actress" still applied to her, saying, "It's because I'm quitting... My family always rolls their eyes when I bring it up, but I really mean it. I'm serious about leaving acting behind. There are so many other things I want to pursue in life."

The Australian performer shared this news ahead of the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of *The Fever by Wallace Shawn* — her debut in radio drama. The play follows a wealthy woman who, after falling ill in a poor country, undergoes a personal reckoning and reflects on her life.



SOULS to celebrate 50 years with unplugged concert



Marking 50 years of their illustrious journey, legendary Bangladeshi rock band SOULS is set to host an exclusive unplugged concert titled "Mastercard Presents SOULS Unplugged: 50 Years of Timeless Music" on May 2 at Radisson Blu Chattogram reception.

Organised by M&M Business Communications, the event will present a rare acoustic rendition of the band's iconic discography, promising fans an evening steeped in nostalgia and musical intimacy.

Tickets for the concert will go on sale from April 17 through the official ticketing site. Early bird access will be available exclusively for Mastercard cardholders from April 17 to 19, along with a 20% flat

discount on all Mastercard Debit, Credit, and Prepaid card purchases.

Physical tickets can also be collected from the Radisson Blu Chattogram reception.

The press conference announcing the event was held on April 16 at Radisson Blu Chattogram. Although lead guitarist and vocalist Partha Barua could not attend due to traffic congestion, fellow SOULS members Meer Masum and Maruf Hasan Rea were present.

With this milestone concert, SOULS not only celebrates their own legacy, but also pays tribute to the generations of fans who have supported them throughout their five-decade journey.

Shakib Khan's 'BORBAAD' now on IMDb's list of popular movies

The Mehedi Hassan Hridoy directorial *Borbaad* has been screening for 17 days since its release during Eid and continues to draw full houses, with reports of ticket shortages in some locations.

Amid strong audience response, the film has secured a spot on IMDb's (Internet Movie Database) list of popular movies.

IMDb compiled its recent list of the top 100 popular films based on user interest and activity. *Borbaad* secured the 44th position.

Topping the list is the Hollywood title *A Minecraft Movie*, with other notable entries including *Snow White, Anora, Superman, Mission: Impossible - Final Reckoning, Sikandar*, and *Captain America: Brave New World*.

Tasnia Farin starrer 'Fatima' releases in Bongo

Actress Tasnia Farin's debut feature film *Fatima* premiered on the OTT platform Bongo yesterday.

The emotional and thought-provoking film was previously released in theatres on May 24 last year.

Prior to its theatrical release, *Fatima* had its first official premiere at the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Iran, where Farin received the Best Actress Award for her performance.

The story of *Fatima* unfolds as a deeply moving and personal narrative, intricately woven around a woman's past and present, where dreams and reality gently intertwine.

The film features a talented cast, including Farin in the lead, with notable performances by Yash Rohan, Tariq Anam Khan, Pantha Kanai, Manas Bandyopadhyay, and others.



Nate Bargatze to host 77th Emmy Awards



American stand-up comedian Nate Bargatze is set to host the 77th Emmy Awards, scheduled to take place on September 14, 2025, at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles, according to CBS.

Widely recognised for his observational comedy and multi-generational appeal, Bargatze has become one of today's most sought-after comics, with three Netflix specials—most recently *Your Friend, Nate Bargatze*—and a guest-hosting stint on *Saturday Night Live*.

In 2024, Bargatze sold over 1.2 million tickets worldwide, earning the title of top-grossing comedian, according to Pollstar.

This marks his first time emceeing a major awards show. Last year's Emmys, hosted by Eugene Levy and Dan Levy, drew 6.87 million viewers. Television Academy chair Cris Abrego praised Bargatze's ability to connect with global audiences.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Exhibition: 'KROMOSHO'

The Bengal Arts Programme presents *Kromosho*, a solo visual art exhibition by photographer Munem Wasif, opening today at 6pm.

The collection delves into the shifting soul of Old Dhaka, with opening remarks by Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and Shahidul Alam scheduled for the day.

For over two decades, Munem Wasif has explored the evolving pulse of Old Dhaka, consistently drawn back to its timeless and unshakable soul.

Date: Friday April 18

Time: 6pm onwards

Venue: Bengal Shilpalay (Level 1), Bengal Boi, Dhanmondi



NEWS

Govt decides to amend civil procedure code

FROM PAGE 12

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, environment, forest and climate change adviser, at a press conference after the advisory council meeting.

"In Bangladesh, there's a saying that if you have enmity with someone, file a land case against them, and it won't be resolved even in three generations. To ensure it doesn't take three generations but rather one, amendments to the CPC were approved."

The amendment would reduce the time and cost of litigation, she said.

Previously, after a case verdict, a separate execution petition had to be filed to implement the verdict.

Now, the execution petition will be included with the verdict itself.

Additionally, limits will be set on the number of times extensions can

Govt stake to fall to 10% from 25%

FROM PAGE 12

"But the Nobel laureate Prof Yunus was politically targeted during the tenure of the previous government. And a lot of government control was imposed on the bank."

Established under the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983, the microcredit institution was brought under the Grameen Bank Act, 2013, by the previous Awami League government.

The interim government has now taken the initiative to roll back many of the changes made in the Grameen Bank Act, 2013, which had effectively authorised the government to enforce regulations governing all aspects of the bank's operations.

As part of that, in early October last year, the interim government reinstated a tax exemption for Grameen Bank until December 2029.

Grameen Bank enjoyed the tax exemption from its inception in 1983, as its activities are primarily focused on poverty alleviation. The benefit was renewed every five years and was last extended until December 2020. The previous government did not extend the exemption after that period.

FOUR OTHER ORDINANCES
At yesterday's meeting, the Advisory Council also approved in principle four other draft ordinances. These are: Public Audit Ordinance, Bank

Resolution Ordinance, and Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance.

Rizwana said the Bank Resolution Ordinance is framed to protect the interests of depositors, bring discipline and accountability to the banking sector, and plug the loopholes.

"You know that a business group siphoned off money from this country by taking control of some banks. We have approved the law so that such things do not take place in the future."

"We are prioritising the interests of savers," she said, adding that the new law brings clarity about how the central bank will intervene to protect the interests of depositors.

As part of the reform of the revenue system, the Advisory Council also approved the draft ordinance on revenue policy and revenue management, which will separate tax policy making from tax administration.

The draft ordinance was framed in line with the recommendation of an advisory committee formed by the finance ministry in October to bring about reforms in the NBR.

Rizwana said to start the trial of groups that were engaged in financial crime, a committee has been formed to probe into the allegations.

Investors not confident

FROM PAGE 12

term, target-oriented policy framework.

Now everyone in the private sector is saying that they are uncertain about making investment decisions," said Debapriya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

He was speaking at the 6th

Bangladesh Economic Summit at DU.

Debapriya said the panel on the white paper and the task force on re-strategising the economy analysed various aspects of the economy and set benchmarks, but no target has been set for six months or a year, he said.

The interim government is working on the budget given by the previous government, he said.

We have not seen anything based on which we can evaluate the performance of the interim government, he said.

During the meeting, the chief adviser underlined the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and reaffirmed the commitment of the interim government to work closely with the Trump administration on the entire range of bilateral relations.

He also thanked Trump for resuming aid for the Rohingyas and pausing the tariffs.

"We are continuing our work to support his trade agenda," Prof Yunus said.

On Wednesday, the US delegation, in its first official visit to Bangladesh after Donald Trump assumed power in the US, interacted with the political parties -- BNP, National Citizen Party and Jamaat-e-Islam -- in Dhaka.

University Prof Masuda Yasmeen, and Prof Selim Raihan of economics at Dhaka University also spoke.

40 Palestinians killed

FROM PAGE 12

Two Hamas officials told AFP yesterday that the group's discussions on an Israeli truce proposal were nearly complete, with a response expected soon.

"These talks are almost complete, and the group will send its response to the mediators once they finish. It's expected the talks will wrap up soon -- possibly even today," an official said, with another member of the group confirming his account.

US pledges support

FROM PAGE 12

State Guest House Jamuna.

The US officials expressed deep appreciation for the generosity of Bangladesh in hosting 1.2 million Rohingyas and thanked the leadership of Prof Yunus for making progress over the issue of their rehabilitation.

The chief adviser termed the recent identification of 180,000 Rohingyas by the Myanmar government as fit for return to Rakhine as an important progress in resolving the crisis.

"We appreciate your vision of looking at the Rohingya issue not in isolation but in the context of Myanmar as a whole," said Chiflik.

The US officials also appreciated Prof Yunus's approach to enhance regional cooperation, connectivity, and people-to-people contacts, according to the press release.

The visit comes amid a significant policy shift in the US under Trump, particularly in foreign aid and trade. The Trump administration had imposed a 37 percent tariff on Bangladeshi exports to the US, but later paused those for ninety days for countries, barring China.

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