

### ‘I am doing fine’: Babita

Social media was abuzz with rumours about legendary actress Babita's health last Monday, sparked by a Facebook account using her name. To confirm the news, The Daily Star contacted the actress later that night.

"I am well and healthy. By the grace of Almighty, I am doing fine," Babita assured during the conversation.

Expressing disappointment, she added, "I don't know who is spreading the word about me being unwell. It's not true. With everyone's prayers and love, I am doing just fine."

When informed that the post originated from a Facebook account named Babita clarified, "I don't use Facebook



so I don't have any account there. That's a fake ID. I don't know who is behind it."

She further said, "I've been receiving constant phone calls since the rumour started circulating. People shouldn't spread such news without confirming it."

Babita, a celebrated actress of Bangladeshi cinema's golden era, has starred in numerous films. She gained international acclaim for her role in Satyajit Ray's *Ashani Sanket*.

### Bangladeshi film ‘Mastul’ makes global debut at Moscow Film Festival

Yesterday, Bangladeshi film *Mastul* debuted internationally at the 47th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF), competing in the festival's main section. The film, directed by Mohammad Nuruzzaman and produced by Cinemaker, Lotus Films, and Gulmohor, will again be screened on April 24, standing as Bangladesh's only entry among over 200 films from 50 countries.

*Mastul* follows the story of Maqbool, a kind cook played by Fazlur Rahman Babu, who befriends Noora, a young stowaway aboard a river oil tanker. Their bond unsettles the ship's power dynamics, raising tensions with a suspicious helmsman. It also features Deepak Suman, and Arif Hasan, among others.

Director Nuruzzaman, along with key cast members, attended the festival to present the film.

### Arbovirus releases first single from fourth album

Arbovirus has returned with *Purono Thikana*, the first single from their fourth studio album *Nikhoj Shongbad*, released under Infected Records via their official YouTube channel.

The track signals a nostalgic comeback, reviving the band's signature sound and reuniting its original lineup: Asif Asgar (Ranjan), Ahmed Aldnane Alam, Nafeez Al Amin, and Sufi Maverick.

The visualiser, designed by Alex Unai, pairs seamlessly with the song's moody tone, while Khalid Ahsan and Asif Asgar led the artwork and concept direction.

Iqbal Asif Jewel handled audio mixing and mastering. The release has sparked excitement among fans, especially following Sufi's 2022 exit and the members' move abroad, which had raised doubts about the band's future.



### Chandni set for television comeback under Azizul Hakim’s direction

Actress and dancer Mehbooba Mahnoor Chandni is set to make her television comeback in the Eid-ul-Azha special drama *Tumi Ami O Shey*, directed by veteran actor-director Azizul Hakim.

The script, penned by his wife, actress-director Zeenat Hakim, marks Azizul Hakim's return to direction after a break.

The drama centres on a man who returns from the US and falls in love with a girl in Bangladesh, only to face pressure from his family to marry someone from abroad.

Abdun Noor Sajal takes on the lead role opposite Chandni, bringing the pair back together on screen after a significant hiatus.

Praising the script, Chandni noted, "I now prefer to only accept roles that resonate deeply, and working under Azizul bhai's direction is always rewarding."



### Theatre Factory to honour Jibanananda Das’ life story on stage

Theatre Factory is set to debut *Komola Rong er Bodh*, a tribute to poet Jibanananda Das, on May 9 at Mohila Samity, with additional shows on May 10 and 11. The production has been written and directed by Alok Basu.

The play opens on October 14, 1954, the day Jibanananda Das was hit by a tram, leading to his death nine days later. It traces his final reflections and struggles for today's world.

Director Basu notes that while Das is respected, he's rarely explored on the Bangladeshi stage. "We aim to uncover the lesser-known sides of his life and make him resonate with today's youth," he stated.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### Play: ‘Neel Mayurer Joubon’

The play *Neel Mayurer Joubon*, adapted from Selina Hossain's novel, explores Bengal's timeless bond with nature and the human struggle against imposed boundaries.

**DATE:** THURSDAY | APRIL 24  
**TIME:** 7PM ONWARDS  
**VENUE:** EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE HALL, BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY

## NEWS

### Cops get

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**RANK INSIGNIA, ACCESSORIES**

Insignia include combinations of Shapla, stars, and crossed swords or batons made from silver metal or thread embroidery. Police on tactical duty or UN missions may wear embroidered badges on detachable epaulettes, reads the gazette.

Gorget patches, belts, lanyards, boots, nameplates, and ribbons have also been standardised. Black leather or Velcro belts will be used based on rank, and nameplates must follow a dark-blue plastic or Velcro system depending on dress type.

All personnel from the superintendent of police down to a constable will wear shoulder titles reading "Police" in Bangla, according to the gazette.

**CEREMONIAL, MESS, SPECIAL UNIT UNIFORMS**

The ceremonial uniform includes a tunic, aiguillettes, Oxford shoes, and rank-appropriate insignia. A white mess jacket with golden epaulettes, blue-silver trims, and miniature medals will be required for formal events.

Distinct uniforms have also been specified for women officers, traffic police, APBn, Rab, immigration police, and special action teams. These include accommodations for maternity, seasonal variation, and operational requirements, reads the government gadget.

### Yunus to attend

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work closely with him to foster peace, human dignity and environmental stewardship," he said.

"The people of Bangladesh, who were deeply honoured by His Holiness' historic visit to our country in 2017, join the global community

### Invisible foes

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"However, to achieve this, we still have a long way to go. We must continue the hard work," he added.

Reiterating the need for unity at all costs, Tarique said, "We must preserve internal cohesion. If there are any harmful or disruptive elements, we must identify and remove them, and then move forward together."

"Because the people trust you and your beloved party -- the Bangladesh Nationalist Party -- we cannot allow that trust to be broken. We can only maintain this trust by firmly holding on to our unity," he said.

Each unit must also update its insignia to incorporate the new national monogram. Officers on UN duty will wear a patch with the national flag and the words "Bangladesh Police" in English.

**OLD RULES REPEALED**

The new rules officially repeal the Police Dress Rules, 2004, though previous actions taken under the old rules remain valid under corresponding provisions of the 2025 update.

The police monogram was previously revised through a gazette notification issued on February 10, 2004. Later in 2009, a new logo was introduced featuring a sailboat flanked by garlands of wheat and rice stalks. The emblem also included a shapla (water lily) above the sail and the word "Police" written in Bangla beneath the boat.

Calls for changing the police uniform and logo resurfaced after the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5 last year.

On August 11, a decision was made to revise the police uniform and logo during a meeting with then-home adviser M Sakawat Hossain.

The next day, the PHQ formed a 10-member committee led by Additional DIG (Logistics) Mohammad Ataul Kibria to oversee the proposed changes.

in mourning this great loss," said the chief adviser.

"During this time of sorrow, we stand in solidarity with the Catholic Church and people of faith around the globe, remembering the profound impact of his teachings and the kindness he extended to all," he said.

### 27th death anniversary

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Shahnaz Rahman, current chairman of the group. Shazneen was the youngest among four siblings. Her elder sister Simeen Rahman is the chief executive officer of Transcom.

More than 19 years after the shocking incident, the convict in the Shazneen rape and murder case, Shahidul Islam, alias Shahid, was hanged at Kashimpur High Security Prison in Gazipur in 2017.

A Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression delivered the verdict in September 2003, sentencing six accused to death for the rape and murder.

They are domestic help Shahidul; contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin, who was tasked with renovating the house, and his assistant Badal; housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and her sister Parvin; and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

After the lower court verdict, the death reference reached the High Court for confirmation of the sentence. At the same time, the accused appealed to the High Court against their convictions and sentences. The HC acquitted Shaniram.

Later on, Hasan, Badal, Minu and Parvin appealed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC verdict. Shahidul filed a jail appeal.

On August 2 in 2016, the Appellate Division granted the appeals of Hasan, Badal, Minu and Parvin and dismissed Shahidul's appeal.

On March 5, 2017, the apex court rejected Shahidul's petition for review of the verdict. He sought presidential mercy, which was turned down by the president. He was executed on November 29 that year.

### Gunmen kill 24 tourists

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civilians in recent years", with the death toll "still being ascertained".

"This attack on our visitors is an abomination," he said in a statement. "The perpetrators of this attack are animals, inhuman and worthy of contempt."

India's interior minister Amit Shah said he was flying to the site of attack.

"Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared, and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences," Shah said in a statement.

### WFP forced to halt food aid in Ethiopia

AFP, Addis Ababa

The World Food Programme said yesterday that it was suspending aid for 650,000 malnourished women and children in Ethiopia because of a lack of funding.

The UN agency warned they were among 3.6 million people in Ethiopia who would no longer have access to food aid in the coming weeks without urgent new funding.

"WFP is being forced to halt treatment for 650,000 malnourished women and children in May due to insufficient funding," it said in a statement.

"WFP had planned to reach two

### Rab files 2 cases

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"gunfight" in Agailjhara's Mollapara area.

Speaking to The Daily Star after the incident, OC Oliul Islam said Rab members in plainclothes were on an anti-drug operation in the area when they came under attack from some drug dealers. At that, Rab personnel opened fire, injuring the two. Siam later died of his injuries.

As of last night, no complaints had been filed by the families of the victims, said the OC.

### Gaza a ‘land of desperation’

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wounded when an air strike hit a house in the centre of the southern city of Khan Yunis, he said.

Six more remained trapped under the rubble, he said.

Another nine were killed in separate strikes on Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, Mughayyir said, including five when a tent housing displaced people was hit.

Five others were killed in a strike on a home belonging to the Bakr family in the Al-Shati refugee camp of Gaza City, he said, while two died in a similar attack in the southern city of Rafah.

More than 10 houses were also destroyed in the strikes, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal earlier

### Mob justice can no longer be allowed

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public prosecutors in the courts must remain vigilant."

Addressing public officials, he said, "We are a non-political government. You can benefit more from us. We try to avoid requests or lobbying, especially regarding job postings. Though we may not have been able to avoid it entirely, we have tried our best to resist such pressure. You must ensure that officers-in-charge of police stations do not take bribes."

### ACC moves to bring back Hasina, family members

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the commissioner said, "We have registered a case against Tulip Siddiq as a Bangladeshi citizen. All the notices have been sent to her Bangladesh address. The government will also take necessary steps to bring her back."

Regarding the possibility of issuing red notices through Interpol for the seven, Farid said, "I have no information in this connection."

The other Hasina family members that the ACC is seeking to bring back are Hasina's children Sajeb Wazed Joy and Saima Wazed; Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana, and Rehana's children Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby and Azmina Siddiq. They all face corruption allegations in Bangladesh.

**EX-RAJSHAHI MAYOR SUED**

The anti-graft body has filed three cases against former Rajshahi City Corporation mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, his wife Shahin Akhter Reni, and daughter Anika Raiha Zaman for allegedly amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 28.56 crore, ACC Director General (prevention) Akhtar Hossain told journalists at the ACC headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

Liton has been named in all three cases. He is accused of illegally acquiring wealth worth Tk 10.35 crore. His wife was charged with acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 11.41 crore. Their daughter is accused of accumulating illegal wealth worth Tk 6.80 crore.