

Tom Cruise eyes musical career after 'Mission: Impossible'

Tom Cruise is eyeing a shift toward musicals following the release of *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*, set to premiere on May 21. Speaking at the BFI in London, Cruise shared his long-held passion for musicals and expressed interest in collaborating again with actor-director Ben Stiller, calling him “a good friend” and “incredibly talented.”



Cruise noted he has a wide range of dream projects spanning genres—musicals, dramas, action, and adventure. He also spoke about his habit of learning new skills on set, from underwater sequences in *Legend* to advanced stunts in later films. “I study music and then do a musical,” he said, explaining how he develops characters and finds scripts to match. Cruise’s comments suggest a creative evolution in the making.



BBC AND ITV dominate 2025 BAFTA TV Awards

The 2025 BAFTA TV Awards in London honoured a wide range of talents across drama, comedy, and limited series.

Marisa Abela won leading actress for *Industry*, while Jessica Gunning added best supporting actress for *Baby Reindeer* to her growing accolades. BBC’s *Mr Loverman* saw Lennie James win leading actor and Ariyon Bakare best supporting actor.

ITV’s *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*

took best limited drama, continuing its awards momentum. Danny Dyer secured his first BAFTA, winning male performance in a comedy for *Mr Bigstuff*.

Other major wins included *Blue Lights* for best drama, *Shogun* for best international series, and *Alma’s Not Normal* for scripted comedy. Hosted by Alan Cumming, the evening celebrated the creativity and depth of British television.



Chirkutt returns with new album 'Bhalobashashomogro'

After internal changes and member departures, popular band Chirkutt has made a strong comeback with their fourth studio album, *Bhalobashashomogro*.

Led by founder and vocalist Sharmin Sultana Sumi, the ten-track album reflects diverse shades of love, featuring songs like *Dami*, *Agun*, and *Bhalobashi Tomay*. The first track, *Dami*, was released on Sunday, May 11, with a music video on

Kevin Spacey joins cast of conspiracy thriller 'The Awakening'

Kevin Spacey is set to star in the upcoming conspiracy action-thriller *The Awakening*, continuing his return to the screen following his 2023 acquittal.

Directed by Matt Routledge, the film features a strong ensemble cast including Peter Stormare, Alice Eve, Steve Berkoff, Julian Glover, Matt Hookings, and former World’s Strongest Man Eddie Hall, with newcomer Justin Tinto in the lead. Tinto plays Jason, who, along with Rebecca (Eve), uncovers a dangerous global conspiracy.

Produced by Camelot Films, the movie was shot at Pinewood Studios and is currently in post-production. The screenplay is co-written by Tinto, Routledge, and Hookings.

The technical crew includes editor Chris Gill, cinematographer Laszlo Bille, and stunt coordinator Luke Tumber. The film is being brought to market by Cloud9 Studios.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Awakening of Sacred Peace: The Buddha of Bengal'



Alliance Française de Dhaka presents Awakening of Sacred Peace: The Buddha of Bengal at La Galerie from May 10 to 16. Organised by the Oriental Art Practice Association and Learning Design Studio, and curated by Mikhail Idris, the exhibition features over 100 works by 73 Bangladeshi artists, alongside seminars, performances, and cultural events.

DATE: FRIDAY-FRIDAY / MAY 9-16, 2025
TIME: 3PM-9PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA

'Insaaf' poster reveals Tasnia Farin's intense avatar

The much-anticipated character poster of Tasnia Farin from the upcoming Eid release *Insaaf* has been revealed.

Showcasing a bold and intense look, Farin is seen gripping a bouquet of flowers in one hand and a menacing axe in the other, with lifeless bodies lying beside her — hinting at the film’s dark and gritty tone.

Alongside the poster, the actress shared a chilling caption: “There is no place for roses in the justice of blood.”

Directed by Sanjoy Somadder, *Insaaf* has previously unveiled character posters

featuring Sariful Razz and Mosharraf Karim, each teasing the film’s intense narrative and high-stakes drama.

The action-thriller is scheduled for release this Eid-ul-Azha.



NEWS

US, China reach deal to slash tariffs

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senior US and Chinese economic officials since Trump returned to power and launched a global tariff blitz, imposing particularly hefty duties on China.

Bessent said the deal did not include sector-specific tariffs and that the US would continue strategic rebalancing in areas including medicines, semiconductors and steel where it had identified supply chain vulnerabilities.

Since taking office in January, Trump had hiked the tariffs paid by US importers for goods from China to 145 percent, in addition to those he imposed on many Chinese goods during his first term and the duties levied by the Biden administration.

China hit back by putting export curbs on some rare earth elements, vital for US manufacturers of weapons and electronic consumer goods, and raising tariffs on US goods to 125 percent.

Remittance crosses \$25b this fiscal year

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Since August 5 last year, remittance inflows have risen every month. In March, the country hit a single-month record of inflows: \$3.29 billion.

The spike in remittance inflow is helping the government stop the depletion of foreign currency reserves.

As of May 7, foreign currency reserves stood at \$20.3 billion.

The narrowing of the gap between official and unofficial exchange rates has driven this uptick, said a senior BB official.

Currently, the official exchange rate for the dollar ranges from Tk 121 to Tk 122.50, while rates in the informal market hover between Tk 123 and Tk 124.50, according to industry insiders.

The central bank official also said that they have informed banks that the BB will no longer provide direct dollar support, pushing them to source foreign currency on their own.

This has also contributed to the remittance collection through formal channels, the official said.

Last fiscal year, Bangladesh received \$23.91 billion in remittance.

We'll ask UN to see

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the Press” organised by Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday. DRU President Abu Saleh Akon presided over the event, which was conducted by General Secretary Mainul Hasan Sohel.

Shafiqul said the nation breathed a sigh of relief following the decision to ban the activities of the Awami League.

“The Awami League had trampled on all rights of the people. That’s why all the political parties involved in the July mass uprising supported the ban. The government consulted all parties before making this decision.”

He further claimed that the decision had widespread support across the country. “That’s why there were no protests anywhere,” he added.

In response to a question about why it took nine months after the formation of the interim government to make such a decision about the AL, Shafiqul said, “This decision required maturity. The people wanted to see at least some remorse from the Awami League. But after nine months and following the deaths of 2,000 people, we saw no remorse from the party. That’s why people feel relieved by the ban.”

Regarding the government’s stance on Jamaat-e-Islami, a party that opposed the Liberation War, the press secretary said, “The Awami League itself took action against the party in 2012. The party was banned after the Liberation War in 1971. The interim government’s current decisions are based on the misdeeds of the Awami League in the recent past. These decisions were made in the light of events leading up to the 2024 uprising.”

When asked whether the government was sidestepping the events of 1971, Shafiqul said, “We fully embrace 1971. We have issued many statements in favour of 1971. We have nothing new to add.”

Responding to the query about the fate of the 14-party alliance following the AL ban, the press secretary said, “The UN fact-finding report clearly names the Awami League and repeatedly mentions Sheikh Hasina’s role. The roles of other alliance members are not mentioned in the same way.”

Shafiqul also encouraged journalists to freely write about any shortcomings or failures of the government.

“We are not silencing anyone. If you find any failures, write about them. Criticise us where it’s due. You will not be silenced. Media houses won’t be shut down. But don’t publish

falsehoods,” he urged.

Regarding the blocking of seven Bangladeshi television channels’ YouTube channels in India, he said, “This is a disgraceful act. We are observing the situation. It shows that they cannot tolerate the truth. But we won’t do anything like they did as it would legitimise their actions. We know their media turns everything into a farce every day.”

The press secretary said the chief adviser supports reforms in the stock market. “But we don’t want to replace one group of robbers with another. The stock market must not become a den of looters.”

He added that the chief adviser supports bringing in foreign experts to reform the stock market but stressed that vested interest groups must not gain control of it.

“If the clean up process is done properly, the stock market will recover,” he said.

When asked about the chief adviser’s association with Grameen Bank, Grameen University, Grameen Employment, and Grameen Telecom, Shafiqul said, “You may investigate whether the government has any influence over these institutions. Does Dr Yunus receive any benefits from them? Does he own any shares? Are these his personal institutions? To my knowledge, he has no personal property.”

On July declaration, Shafiqul said, “It will be announced within 30 working days. We urge everyone to be patient until then.”

He said a high-powered committee has been formed to probe the departure of former president Abdul Hamid from the country. “Within 15 days, it will determine who played what role and where any failures occurred.”

About investigation into the murder of journalist couple Sagar and Runi, the press secretary said, “We have spoken to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI). They are examining who was arrested at the time and who was in jail. They are retracing the old trail. It is a very difficult task, but they are working with full force to find clues.”

He also addressed the issue of misinformation on digital platforms.

“Some people are spreading false news from morning till night on YouTube, Facebook reels, and TikTok. No one is fact-checking. We urge private groups to conduct fact-checking of their YouTube commentary. The government is also considering what can be done.”

India using remote areas to push people in

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holding UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) issued refugee cards from India — were among those forcibly pushed across the border.

He called the move a clear violation of international human rights norms.

“These five Rohingyas were not undocumented. They were officially registered with UNHCR in India. We have verified their IDs,” Siddiqui said. “This is unacceptable.”

BGB officials said they have raised the issue with the UNHCR in Bangladesh and notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) for the next step.

A formal complaint is also being filed.

According to the BGB’s database, on May 7 and 8, they intercepted 202 individuals.

Of them, 80 were pushed in through various borders in Khagrachhari, 76 from Moulvibazar, and 46 from Kurigram.

Among them were 39 Rohingyas, some of whom had previously

been registered in Bangladesh’s FDMN (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) camps but later crossed into India.

“They fled the camps, entered India, and have now been sent back. We have already re-registered and relocated them back to the camps through proper channels,” said Maj Gen Siddiqui.

The remaining 163 individuals were Bangladeshi nationals who had migrated to India over the past 20 to 25 years. “Some had Indian Aadhaar cards or other documents, which the BSF confiscated before forcing them back,” the BGB chief added.

After verification by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, those confirmed to be Bangladeshi are being returned to their home districts via the local administration, he said.

Meanwhile, steps have been taken to hand over 78 individuals to their families who were left behind by BSF on Mandarbaria island in the western Sundarbans of Satkhira’s Shyamnagar upazila last Friday.

Three of them, however, were found to be Indian nationals, said

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of the Shyamnagar Police Station.

“They have been charged with illegal entry,” he said, adding that the remaining 75 are Bangladeshi nationals and will be handed over to their families.

Mashiur Rahman, an officer from the Mongla West Zone of the Coast Guard, filed a case against the three Indian citizens, the OC said.

The BGB DG said they have raised the issue with the BSF. However, the BSF either denied involvement or claimed that the individuals returned voluntarily.

“We have strongly protested this through flag meetings and official letters. We expect all repatriations to happen through formal diplomatic channels, not under the cover of darkness,” he said.

“We have also learned that around 200 to 300 more such refugees are currently on the other side of the Khagrachhari border. The BSF has been trying to push them into Bangladesh,” said Siddiqui.

However, due to increased patrols and heightened vigilance, they have not succeeded, he added.

Kohli's Test reign ends

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one sees but that stay with you forever.

“I’ll always look back at my Test career with a smile,” wrote Kohli, who struck 30 hundreds and 31 fifties.

Kohli ends his 123-Test career with 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, securing his place as one of the modern greats since his debut in 2011. But his impact on the longest format goes far beyond numbers and captivating cover drives.

Having succeeded Mahendra Singh Dhoni as India’s Test captain, “King Kohli” reshaped India’s approach, turning them into a ruthless, pace-powered unit no longer reliant on designer dustbowls to win at home.

Between 2014 and 2022, Kohli led India in 68 Tests, winning 40 — the most by any Indian captain. His single-minded pursuit of excellence built a formidable pace attack and transformed India into a side that could win Tests anywhere in the world.

He also revolutionised the team’s fitness culture, replacing lax fielding standards with a squad of high-intensity, sharp movers. Kohli’s

commitment raised the bar, not just for teammates but for the broader cricketing system.

The silky-smooth batting, the wild celebrations, the confrontational swagger — Kohli often found himself at the heart of drama, injecting intensity into what can be a slow-burning format. For many, he made Test cricket compelling again.

“He’s made the Test format much more aggressive... On the field, he often seems aggressive, but that’s purely for the game. Off the field, he’s a genuinely good person,” Bangladesh T20I captain Liton Das told reporters in Mirpur yesterday.

Kohli’s final Test came in Sydney in January, when India lost the series 3-1 to Australia. Aside from an unbeaten century in the Perth opener, he managed just 90 runs in his other seven innings in the five-Test series.

Although he fell short of Sachin Tendulkar’s 15,921 Test runs, many believe Kohli leaves behind an equally powerful legacy.

“...perhaps Kohli even eclipses him (Tendulkar) in terms of cultural influence and psychological impact

on India’s cricketing identity,” wrote former Australia captain Greg Chappell on ESPNcricinfo.

Kohli, the incandescent heart of Indian cricket for over a decade, did not just score runs. He redefined expectations, challenged conventions, and symbolised the self-assured, unapologetic India of the 21st century.

“He was the most Australian non-Australian cricketer we’ve ever seen — a snarling warrior in whites, never giving an inch, always demanding more. Not just of his bowlers, his fielders or his opposition, but first and foremost, of himself.”

Anelotti to take over as Brazil coach

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as one of the club’s most successful managers, winning 15 trophies across two spells with Los Blancos, including a La Liga and Champions League double last season. Anelotti had a year remaining on his contract but Real’s underwhelming season and his desire to coach Brazil have led to a mutual agreement to part ways, sources have said.