



Tanim Noor's 'Utshob' unites 11 acclaimed actors for Eid release

Tanim Noor's upcoming Eid-ul-Azha film *Utshob* brings together 11 acclaimed actors including Zahid Hasan, Jaya Ahsan, Aupee Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Tariq Anam Khan, Azad Abul Kalam, Intekhab Dinar, Sunerah Binte Kamal, Soumya Jyoti, and Sadia Ayman.

Officially announced on May 13 at Dhaka's Gulshan Shooting Club, the film is produced by Dope Productions and co-produced by Choraki and Laughing Elephant.

Director Tanim Noor shared, "I wanted to create something everyone could enjoy together during Eid." Afsana Mimi said, "The tagline, 'Do not watch without your family,' truly moved me." Aupee Karim added, "This generation hasn't seen us all together, so let *Utshob* be their first."

The event was also attended by Quazi Nawshaba, FS Nayeem, Syed Ahmed Shawki, Saleh Sobhan Aunem, and Oyshee, among others.

Mosharraf Karim's 'Mirza' to premiere on Bongo this month

Mosharraf Karim stars as an eccentric detective in *Mirza*, set to premiere on Bongo on May 23. Directed by Sumon Anwar, the web-film offers a fresh take on the detective genre, featuring a laid-back, older sleuth who relies on sharp intellect rather than action.



The film aims to establish a homegrown detective franchise, distinct from global icons like Sherlock Holmes or Feluda.

The cast also includes Parsa Evana, Arfan Mredha Shibli, Tamanna Haque Borna, Shoumi, and Dilruba Doyel. "Mosharraf Karim was brilliant in the role," said Anwar, adding that the team is excited to gauge audience reaction.

CANNES DAY 1 Robert De Niro receives honorary Palme d'Or



Leonardo DiCaprio presents Robert De Niro with the honorary Palme d'Or for Lifetime Achievement.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The opening ceremony of the 78th Cannes Film Festival was filled with surprises and unforgettable moments. One of the evening's highlights was Leonardo DiCaprio presenting the prestigious honorary Palme d'Or for Lifetime Achievement to legendary actor Robert De Niro.

After expressing his gratitude for the festival, De Niro quickly shifted his focus to address former President Trump, who recently proposed imposing a 100% tariff on foreign-made films.

De Niro—celebrated for his iconic roles in classics like *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*—used the platform to speak out against US President Donald Trump's tariffs on foreign-made films. His powerful words were met with a standing ovation from the audience and jury members, who paid tribute to his extraordinary contributions to global cinema.

"Art represents truth and celebrates diversity, which is exactly why it poses a threat to autocrats and fascists," De Niro said. "America's cultureless president has placed himself at the helm of one of the country's leading cultural institutions, slashed funding for the arts, humanities, and education, and now wants to tax international films. But the power of human connection through art is priceless—you can't put a tariff on that."

Apart from that major award, acclaimed filmmaker Quentin Tarantino unexpectedly appeared on stage to officially open the festival. As the guest of honour in this year's Cannes Classics section, which highlights restored and historic films, Tarantino also presented a tribute to the late American director George Sherman. True to his flamboyant style, he capped off his speech by dramatically tossing the microphone to the floor.

A historic moment came with the premiere of Amélie Bonnin's *Leave One Day (Partir un Jour)*, which became the first debut feature film ever to open the Cannes Film Festival. The romantic dramedy received an enthusiastic response, earning a standing ovation that lasted over five minutes. The film, based on Bonnin's César-winning 2023 short of the same name, follows aspiring chef Cécile (played by Juliette Armanet) as she pursues her dream of opening a gourmet restaurant in Paris.

The 2025 Cannes opening night was a star-studded spectacle, with Leonardo DiCaprio, Quentin Tarantino, honoree Robert De Niro, Laurent Lafitte, Mylène Farmer, and Jury President Juliette Binoche all sharing the stage.

Their powerful presence and camaraderie have already become one of the festival's most talked-about moments online.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Ekti Loukik Athoba Aloukik Steamer'

Dhaka Theatre's 49th production, *Ekti Loukik Athoba Aloukik Steamer*, written by Anon Zaman and directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, explores a city gripped by a pandemic.

Set at a ferry terminal where a steamer never arrives, the play symbolically unveils fear, corruption, and social decay in a collapsing society.

Date: Saturday | May 17

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Jessica Jones to appear in 'Daredevil: Born Again' Season 2



Krysten Ritter's Jessica Jones will officially join the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) in Season 2 of *Daredevil: Born Again*, as confirmed by *Daredevil* actor Charlie Cox during a recent press conference.

Ritter, who previously portrayed the character in Netflix's *Jessica Jones* and *The Defenders*, appeared alongside Cox to announce her return.

Jessica Jones is a former superhero-turned-private investigator with super strength and limited flight. Her MCU entry raises hopes for future appearances by other Defenders, including Luke Cage and Iron Fist.

Cox teased a major arc for Jones, as *Daredevil's* team now faces Mayor Kingpin, who is targeting vigilantes under the law.

NEWS

Ministry, Cabinet Division

FROM PAGE 12

Seeking anonymity, one of the panel experts said, "This kind of change will surely drag the government into a major controversy. And it will be challenged in court."

Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council Act was enacted in 2002 and last amended in 2022. The amendment expanded the definition of freedom fighter to include both armed combatants and those who contributed politically, administratively, financially, or intellectually within or outside the country.

MINISTRY'S MOVE TO CHANGE LAW

At a meeting on March 23, the expert panel apprised the Liberation War affairs ministry of potential complications if the definition in the law is changed.

"In the draft ordinance, a separate definition of 'associates of the Liberation War' has been introduced. These individuals are currently recognised as 'Bir Muktiyoddha.' Redefining them simply as 'associates of the Liberation War' could lead to legal complications and discrepancies in status and privileges," the committee said in its observation.

Defending the move to change the definition, Faruk-E-Azam, adviser to the Liberation War affairs ministry, said, "Various organisations of freedom fighters have raised the demand, objecting to putting the battlefield veterans and others in the same category."

"I fought on battlefields... I believe their demand is justified," said Faruk, who was awarded the Bir Pratik title for his role in the Liberation War.

India, Pak expel diplomats

FROM PAGE 12

from behind bars, has applauded the people and the armed forces for their response to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "cowardice," reports Dawn.

"By targeting innocent civilians such as children, women, the elderly, and civilian infrastructure in Pakistan, Modi displayed cowardice," Imran was quoted as saying on his X account, to which he does not have direct access.

India and Pakistan also exchanged

DEFINITION OF 'BIR MUKTIYODDHA'

According to the draft amendment, those civilians who actively took part in the war against the Pakistan occupation forces and their collaborators—Razakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezam-e-Islam, and members of Peace Committees—between March 26 and December 16, 1971 will be recognised as "Bir Muktiyoddha." They must have met the minimum age requirement set by the government at that time.

The revised definition outlines three categories of civilians: individuals who crossed the border to India, got enlisted at training camps and actively participated in the war; "Biranganas" who were victims of atrocities by the Pakistani forces and their collaborators; and doctors, nurses, and their assistants who treated injured freedom fighters at field hospitals during the war.

Besides, members of the armed forces, Mukti Bahini, East Pakistan Regiment (EPR), police, Ansar, Bangladesh Liberation Forces (BLE) and other recognised forces, and naval commandos will be recognised as "Bir Muktiyoddha."

'ASSOCIATES OF LIBERATION WAR' The ministry proposed recognising those individuals as "associates of the Liberation War" who—both at home and abroad—inspired freedom fighters, played the role of organisers, helped accelerate war efforts, contributed to shaping global opinion or securing diplomatic support, and strengthened the resilience of Bangladeshis between

March 26 and December 16, 1971.

There are five categories of associates: the first category includes Bangladeshi professionals who made significant contributions to the Liberation War while staying abroad.

Individuals who served under Bangladesh's first government—officials, employees, envoys, doctors, nurses, and support staff appointed by the Mujibnagar government—fall under the second category.

The third category includes the members of the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembly, who were later incorporated into the Constituent Assembly.

All artistes and staff of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, and Bangladeshi journalists who worked at home and abroad in favour of the Liberation War are in the fourth category.

Members of Swadhin Bangla Football Team are in the fifth category.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Liberation War researcher Afsan Chowdhury described the ministry's move as "a reflection of narrow-minded thinking." "Categorisation of freedom fighters is problematic," he told The Daily Star.

"If only those who fired weapons are considered true freedom fighters, then what about those who inspired them, procured arms or raised funds? Would they be considered half-freedom fighters? This will only create confusion."

"The Liberation War was a people's war. People from every walk of life participated in it in various ways... Creation of such categories will dent the broader spirit of the war."

one prisoner each—both security personnel—at the Wagah-Attari border yesterday, in a fresh sign of detente after a ceasefire ended four days of conflict between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Muhammadullah of the Pakistan Rangers was handed over to Pakistani officials, the PTI news report quoted security sources as saying.

On the other hand, Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw, a member of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), who was detained after

crossing the border in Kasur district in late April, was returned to Indian officials.

Shaw had been in the custody of Pakistan Rangers since April 23, according to a statement from the Indian army. Several media outlets also reported on the BSF man's return.

The Indian Express quoted the BSF as saying: "The handover was conducted peacefully and in accordance with established protocols."

'Contact me if you face any trouble'

FROM PAGE 12

"We want the amount in one instalment. We have been in debt for more than two years. Unless we are repaid the recruitment fees, we will be in trouble," the worker said, requesting anonymity.

Addressing the workers, Nazrul said he knew that the migrants were facing various problems, including delay in payments, while they were worried over a delay in work visa extension.

"Some of you also face trouble in getting work. Unfortunately, some die here, and it is difficult to send the body back home. You also remain in fear of raids," he said.

The adviser said he spoke to the employer, who was trying to resolve the problems and repay the recruitment fees.

"You have to do certain things. Always resolve problems through discussions. Don't do anything

harmful to you and the employer," he said.

Referring to the political changeover and the corruption during the Awami League regime, Nazrul said, "You know what happened in Bangladesh in the past. The situation was unimaginable. Expatriates' money was kept in thieves' bank."

"There were thieves in the ministry as well. We are trying to retrieve Tk 1,200 crore. From now on, no money of the expatriates will be kept in the private bank," he said, adding that the interim government is trying to improve the services for the migrants.

He recognised the contribution of the migrants, saying the remittance they send is of utmost importance for the economy of Bangladesh.

Md Sumon, a migrant working for Mediceram, in his speech described the troubles they faced over the last two years.

"Now, we are all united. Initially, we went to the high commission but got no response. Today, we are happy that you've pledged to be by our side. We have strong faith in you," he said.

There are some 9 lakh Bangladeshis working in the Southeast Asian country, according to the Malaysian authorities. Rights groups say a substantial number of migrants there are undocumented and are jobless, underpaid or unpaid.

The Malaysian labour market has remained closed for Bangladeshis since May 31 last year after serious allegations of irregularities relating to a syndicate of 101 recruiting agencies surfaced.

"We will try to have the labour market reopened and request the Malaysian authorities to regularise the undocumented migrants," said an official of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

BTRC asked to block AL websites

FROM PAGE 12

Commission of Bangladesh has suspended the Awami League's registration as a political party, the NCSA letter said.

Citing the Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025, the NCSA letter said that any digital or electronic content that may threaten national security, integrity, religious harmony, or public order can be ordered to be removed or blocked by law enforcement agencies.

ACC 'working'

FROM PAGE 12

herself by not showing up," said Momen. "Everyone is given a chance to respond under the rules. If someone fails to appear, we will proceed according to applicable international protocols."

He said, "If we cannot reach her through regular means, or if she is a foreign national or is found to be absconding, then she will be officially considered as such."

"In that case, a red notice will be issued through Interpol and the relevant government will be informed. We will then initiate formal procedures to bring her back," he added.

Earlier, the ACC filed a case against Tulip Siddiq over allegations of acquiring a plot in Purbachal and unlawfully occupying a flat in Gulshan.

In this context, the agency has compiled a list of URLs and social media links connected to the AL and its front organisations, which must be urgently removed or blocked.

The letter concludes by emphasising the need for swift implementation, by global social media companies, in compliance with existing Bangladeshi laws and recent government notifications.

A BTRC officials said the list of

URLs and social media links had already been sent to the global social media platforms on Tuesday night.

The Bangladesh government can only block websites. It cannot directly remove content or take action against pages or accounts on social media platforms like Facebook or YouTube. Like many other countries, Bangladesh regularly submits requests to tech giants Meta and Google.

BSF pushes back

FROM PAGE 1

Kanaighat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Alam said the detainees hail from Bagerhat and Kurigram districts. They are currently in BGB custody and will be handed over to the police following formal procedure.

In Moulvibazar, a total of 44 people, including women and children, were pushed back into Bangladesh through the North Shahbazpur border area of the district's Barlekha upazila early yesterday.

Among the detainees, there are 13 men, 18 women and 13 children.

52-BGB Commander Lt Col Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that the BSF pushed back 44 Bangladeshis this morning. The identities of the detainees have been confirmed. They are Bangladeshis,

and will be handed over to the police station tonight.

The commanding officer also said the detainees told BGB that they went to India illegally for work. Police in India detained them recently and pushed them into Bangladesh at dawn today.

Speaking on May 12, Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, director general of the BGB, said BSF has pushed in 280 individuals, including Rohingya people, between May 7 and May 9.

Of these 280 people, 80 were pushed in through various borders in Khagrachhari, 76 from Moulvibazar, and 46 from Kurigram, while 78 were left behind by BSF on Mandarbaria island in the western Sundarbans of Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila.