

Restored ‘Aranyer Din Ratri’ returns to Cannes with Wes Anderson, Sharmila and Simi

Satyajit Ray’s *Aranyer Din Ratri* returned to the global stage at the 78th Cannes Film Festival, screened under Cannes Classics in a 4K restoration.

The revival was led by Wes Anderson, a longtime admirer of Ray’s work, with support from The Film Foundation’s World Cinema Project, Film Heritage Foundation, Janus Films, Criterion Collection, and L’Imagine Ritrovata.

Sharmila Tagore and Simi Garewal, stars of the 1970 film, attended the screening. Adapted from Sunil Gangopadhyay’s novel, the film explores urban alienation, caste, and gender politics.

Anderson called it “a special gem”. Sharmila portrayed Aparna, while Simi played Duli, in a story still resonant for its portrayal of modern identity and human vulnerability.



Manu Mia declines Khairul Basar’s offer to buy him a horse

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Actor Khairul Basar has pledged to buy a horse for Manu Mia, a 70-year-old grave digger from Mithamain upazila in Kishoreganj, who has dug over 3,000 graves over the past five decades without ever demanding payment. The gesture follows a widely circulated video report published by The Daily Star, which highlighted Manu Mia’s lifelong service and recent personal loss.

Manu Mia is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital due to age-related complications. His health setback was compounded by the death of his horse, the only means by which he travelled across villages to dig graves. Out of concern for his emotional well-being, his family initially withheld

the news of the horse’s death.

In response to the report, popular actor Khairul Basar paid him a personal visit. During their conversation, Bashar offered to buy Manu Mia a new horse. To his surprise, Manu Mia firmly yet politely declined the offer. When Bashar tried to persuade him, Monu insisted that once he recovered, he would be able to afford not just one, but seven horses.

What truly struck Bashar was Manu Mia’s emotional strength. The death of his horse hadn’t broken him—in fact, he expressed no sorrow. Manu Mia viewed it with stoic acceptance, saying, “What we own can leave us. That’s just how life works.” Basar realised that Manu Mia is a man of principle, someone who prefers self-reliance over charity.

Sabina Yasmin to perform in ‘Anandamela’

Legendary singer Sabina Yasmin is set to perform on Bangladesh Television’s (BTV) Eid special magazine show *Anandamela*. The recording will take place on May 28 at BTV’s in-house auditorium.

Despite health challenges, Yasmin continues to perform, most recently at the *8th Bangladesh Festival* in Toronto, where she was honoured with a special tribute.

This year’s *Anandamela* will also feature performances by band Miles, alongside appearances from film stars Shakib Khan, Puja Chery, and Dighi. The show will include dance, skits, and musical segments, and will be hosted by Nusrat Inrose Tisha and Intekhab Dinar.

Produced by Shahriar Hasan, Hasan Riad, and Mamun Mahmud, the programme will air on Eid night. According to Mahmud, Yasmin’s participation will be one of the event’s major highlights.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?

‘Rehana Maryam Noor’

Filmmaker Abdullah Mohammad Saad’s internationally acclaimed film *Rehana Maryam Noor* will be screened this Friday as part of Drishyapat Film Society’s third open film screening. The film follows an assistant professor at a medical college who confronts a moral dilemma after witnessing a sexual assault.

DATE: FRIDAY | MAY 23
TIME: 5PM ONWARDS
VENUE: TSC, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

STOLEN JIM MORRISON GRAVE BUST found in paris after 37 years

A marble bust of Jim Morrison, stolen from his grave in Paris’s Père-Lachaise cemetery in 1988, has been recovered after 37 years, French police confirmed.

The statue, created by Croatian artiste Mladen Mikulin, was found during an unrelated financial investigation by Paris’s anti-corruption unit. It had been installed in 1981 to mark the 10th anniversary of The Doors frontman’s death.

A photo released by police shows the bust damaged, with its nose and mouth missing, as before its disappearance. No suspects have been named.

The cemetery curator said police have not contacted them about its return. A Morrison estate representative welcomed the news, calling the bust a “piece of history” and expressing hope it will be restored to the grave.

NEWS

3 detained by cops released

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A video of the incident went viral on Facebook.

Shah Mostafa Tariquzzaman, assistant commissioner (Dhanmondi) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, “The three individuals were released after Hannan Masud took their responsibility. He gave a bond. Since we received an undertaking and no cases have been filed, we released them in accordance with the law.”

Hannan told reporters at Dhanmondi Police Station that there was a misunderstanding that he “came to help resolve”.

He added, “Looks like certain groups are trying to use our people for their personal interests.... I received a message from our student coordinator and came to check. We will investigate [the men] internally

and take action.”

DMP STATEMENT
Someone called the national emergency helpline (999) around 12:30am on May 20, reporting that several individuals were trying to break into a house on road 4, Dhanmondi, said a DMP statement.

Police responded swiftly and found 15-20 people attempting to enter the premises by force. Officers tried to calm the situation, but the group became aggressive and insisted that police arrest one Golam Mostafa.

“As no complaint had been filed against the man, an arrest was not legally possible,” the statement read. “To prevent disorder, three individuals were taken into custody and released around 3:30pm [Tuesday].”

The DMP urges people not to take the law into their own hands, it added.

Starlink launches

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reports UNB.

At a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy, Taiyeb said Starlink would provide a reliable internet option in areas where fibre connectivity is unavailable. He said the service could particularly benefit NGOs, freelancers, and businesses in remote regions. While acknowledging the service is relatively expensive, he described it as a premium, stable, high-speed connection, UNB reports.

To address data sovereignty concerns, Taiyeb assured that all Starlink traffic will be routed through local gateways in compliance with national regulations. “All necessary approvals were granted after thorough review,” he said, adding that Starlink will pay the government \$1 per terminal under its licensing terms.

The initially proposed monthly fee was Tk 7,000, but the government negotiated a lower rate. Each terminal is expected to cover a radius of 20–30

Conspiracy afoot to delay national polls

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“...BNP leaders and activists must ensure that no one can undermine the country’s independence and sovereignty or suppress democracy through autocracy and fascism.”

The meeting was held at the BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office with the participation of top leaders from the party’s various associate bodies.

At the joint meeting, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced an eight-day programme to commemorate the 44th martyrdom anniversary of its founder and late president Ziaur

Rahman from May 26.

At another event, Rizvi alleged that the interim government, like ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, continues to make excuses over holding the next national polls.

“They [the government] are straying from their assigned responsibilities and engaging in other matters. If they were working honestly, they would have already announced the election date,” he said while talking to reporters after visiting BNP activist Rakibul Hasan in Khilkhet, who was injured during the July uprising.

Speaking at a discussion at the

Italy PM may visit

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162,641 Bangladeshis were legally residing in Italy -- 4.4 percent of the country’s immigrants.

The number of Bangladeshis in Italy, both documented and undocumented, is currently estimated at 300,000.

According to Italian government data last updated on May 6, over 6,500 Bangladeshi nationals have arrived in Italy this year, making them the largest group by nationality entering through North Africa.

“Italy wants to promote safe migration but is unwilling to accept more arrivals via the Mediterranean,” the source added, noting that Italy also plans to repatriate undocumented Bangladeshis.

Prof Yunus and Meloni briefly met in New York in September last year on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Nusraat Faria out on bail

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that Nusraat Faria was not present in the country during the time of the incident.

According to the report, she was in Canada from July 9 to August 14 last year.

Although the charges in the First Information Report (FIR) are non-bailable, the court observed that without the full police report, it was not possible to determine the precise allegations brought against the accused.

“Under these circumstances, considering all aspects, bail is granted to the accused on a bond of Tk 5,000, under the custody of her appointed lawyer and one local person, until the police report is submitted,” the judge noted.

The actress, who was sent to jail on Monday following her arrest, was released from Kashimpur Female Central Jail at 3:28pm, Kawalin Nahar, senior jail superintendent of the Kashimpur Female Central Jail, told the newspaper.

Faria was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on

Sunday just before boarding a flight.

She was then taken into custody and produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court on Monday morning amid tight security.

On March 27 this year, one Enamul Haque -- who suffered bullet injuries on July 19, 2023, during protests in Dhaka’s Bhatara area -- filed a case with the court against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 265 others, including Faria and 16 actors.

In line with the court’s directive, Bhatara Police Station’s officer-in-charge registered the complaint as an FIR on April 29.

After her release, the actor, on her official Facebook page, expressed gratitude to the people for the support.

She also opened up about her physical and emotional ordeal during her 2-day stay in jail.

“I’ve gone through the most critical time of my life over the past two days. I was mentally shattered. But during this period, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who stood by me. From my colleagues to everyone in the industry, and even the

countless ordinary people who spoke on my behalf, stood up for justice, and supported me -- I will remember this support and love for the rest of my life.”

“Had you not been there, perhaps I wouldn’t have been able to return to you all so soon. I especially want to thank our media professionals -- your support meant the world to me. I will always remember the love you’ve shown me,” the post added.

News of her arrest sparked a strong backlash on social media. Prominent cultural figures -- including directors Ashfaq Nipun and Shihab Shaheen, and actors Azmeri Haque Badhan and Khairul Basar -- condemned her arrest and expressed solidarity with her.

Actors Equity, the professional organisation of performers, also issued a public statement yesterday strongly denouncing the recent wave of arrests and lawsuits targeting artists.

The organisation called for the protection of creative freedom and demanded fair and lawful treatment of individuals working in the cultural sector.

1.5 lakh Rohingyas arrived in months

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day, despite increased surveillance by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to stop their arrivals as the Rohingya are using remote and hard-to-monitor routes.

They said brokers from Rohingya and Bangladeshi communities are helping them reach refugee camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya.

Rohingya who arrived in the Cox’s Bazar camps said the Rohingya in Rakhine State are facing different forms of oppression including forced labour and frequent raid in their houses by the Arakan Army, which now controls over 80 percent of Rakhine State.

UNDP in its November 2024 report said the Rakhine State was likely to face a famine-like situation this year.

RRRC Mizanur said over last couple of days nearly 70 Rohingya refugees, who have been pushed in by the Indian authorities, have also been sheltered in the Cox’s Bazar Rohingya

camps.

“I am worried over the continued pressure imposed on Bangladesh,” he said, noting that the funding has already been diminishing and how it fares in the days to come is unknown.

According to the Joint Response Plan 2025, the total need is \$934.5 million, but only \$140.6 million or 15 percent has so far been met.

In 2024, the total requirement for the Rohingya and host community was \$852 million, but only 68 percent of it was met.

As the sole provider of monthly food assistance for the Rohingya population, WFP requires US\$86 million to sustain full food rations for those already in the camps for at least a year, along with an additional US\$2.9 million per month to support the growing number of new arrivals.

“How is the funding going to be met is a serious question,” Mizanur said.

Pak, India agree to withdraw troops

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and to the general public today at the Attari-Wagah land border in the northern state of Punjab.

Pakistan said it never stopped the ceremony, with its troops marching on its side of the border alone.

The ceremony however is expected to be a low-key affair with diplomatic measures against Pakistan still in place, including the closure of the land border.

More than 70 people were killed in the four-day conflict, which was sparked by an attack on tourists by gunmen in Indian-administered Kashmir last month that New Delhi accused Islamabad of backing -- a charge it denies.

The military confrontation involving intense tit-for-tat drone, missile, aerial combat and artillery exchanges came to an abrupt end after US President Donald Trump announced a surprise ceasefire, which is still holding.