

Bubly joins Eid lineup with film ‘Sardar Barir Khela’

Shobnom Bubly is set to join this Eid-ul-Azha's cinematic lineup with ***Sardar Barir Khela***, adding to the growing list of releases alongside ***Taandob***, ***Neelchokro***, ***Insaaf***, ***Esha Murder***, ***Tagar***, ***Utshob***, ***Nadan***, and ***Gowar***.

Bubly announced the film through a Facebook post, unveiling its poster and confirming her return to the big screen. Directed by Rakhal Sabuj and written by Onon Zaman, the film features Bubly opposite Ziaul Roshan.

The poster reveals Bubly in a gritty, unpolished look—portraying a weary, intense character far removed from her usual screen persona. The transformation has drawn praise from fans.

This marks her follow-up to ***Jongli***, which received critical acclaim during Eid-ul-Fitr and performed well at the box office alongside titles like ***Daagi*** and ***Borbaad***.



HBO’s ‘Harry Potter’ series finds its golden trio

HBO and Warner Bros have unveiled the leads for their upcoming ***Harry Potter*** series: Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter, Arabella Stanton as Hermione Granger, and Alastair Stout as Ron Weasley.

The announcement follows an extensive casting process involving thousands of young hopefuls. Executive producers Francesca Gardiner and Mark Mylod praised the trio's fresh talent and chemistry.

The series, announced in April 2023, will be a faithful adaptation of JK Rowling's seven books, each season covering one title. Notable cast members include John Lithgow as Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as McGonagall, and Paapa Essiedu as Snape.

Gardiner and Mylod, known for ***Succession***, will lead the project, with Rowling serving as a producer alongside key names from the original film series.



Jaya Ahsan and Churni Ganguly pair up for ‘Ardhangini’ sequel



Director Kaushik Ganguly has announced ***Ajo Ardhangini***, the sequel to his acclaimed film ***Ardhangini***. Starring Churni Ganguly, Jaya Ahsan, Kaushik Sen, and newcomer Indrashish Roy, the shoot is set to begin mid-June.

Jaya Ahsan confirmed the news via social media and recently visited Kolkata for a look test. Moreover, Anandabazar has already revealed her new look for this upcoming flick.

Speaking to Indian media, Jaya shared, “***Ardhangini*** had a very mature storyline. It's truly a joy to be part of its sequel. The audience embraced the previous film wholeheartedly. Now, our challenge is to give back something that exceeds their expectations.”

Jaya is currently promoting her Eid-ul-Azha releases ***Taandob*** and ***Utshob***. She recently dubbed for ***Taandob*** in Kolkata, while post-production continues on another upcoming film, ***Dear Maa***.

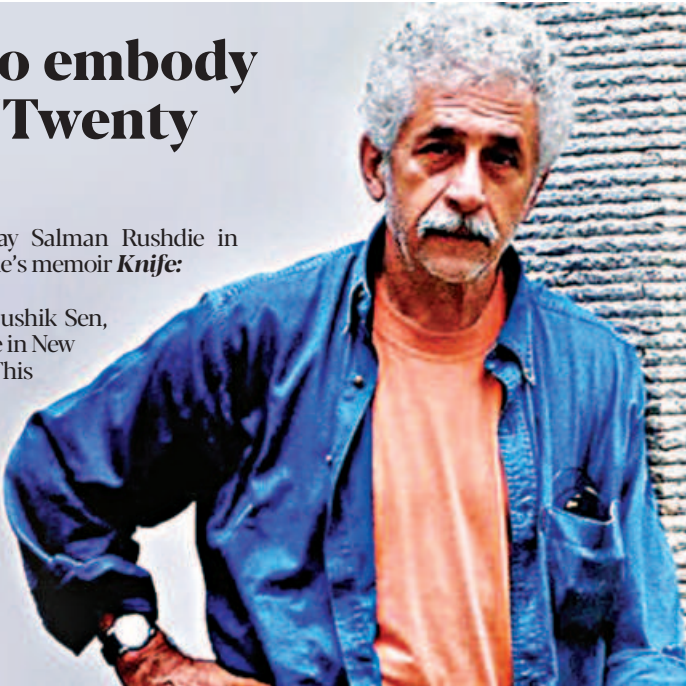
Naseeruddin Shah to embody Salman Rushdie in ‘Twenty Nine Seconds’

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah is set to portray Salman Rushdie in ***Twenty Nine Seconds***, a stage adaptation of Rushdie's memoir ***Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder***.

Directed by renowned Bengali theatre-maker Kaushik Sen, the play explores the 2022 onstage attack on Rushdie in New York and its aftermath—both personal and political. This marks Shah and Sen's first theatrical collaboration.

The cast also includes Hiba Shah, Riddhi Sen, Reshmi Sen, and Surangana Bandyopadhyay, with Riddhi playing Rushdie's assailant. Produced by KCC Productions and Swapnasandhani, the play is set to debut in Kolkata and Mumbai this November.

With music by Probhuddha Banerjee, ***Twenty Nine Seconds*** reflects on violence, survival, and the power—and peril—of storytelling.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Ontorongo Joler Gaan’

Joler Gaan returns with ***Ontorongo Joler Gaan***, an intimate solo performance following a brief hiatus. Organised by NOOR's EVENT and Jatra Biroti, the evening promises a heartfelt musical journey featuring fan-favourite tracks like ***Emon Jodi Hoto***, ***Patar Gaan***, and ***Dana Vanga Pakhi'r Gaan***. With each song carrying emotion and memory, the event aims to reconnect the band with their audience in a soulful setting.

Date: Thursday | May 30

Time: 6:30–9pm

Venue: Jatra Biroti Restaurant



Netflix secures Richard Linklater’s Cannes hit ‘Nouvelle Vague’



Netflix has acquired the global rights to Richard Linklater's Cannes sensation ***Nouvelle Vague***, outbidding competitors, confirmed Variety. The film, a tribute to Jean-Luc Godard's ***Breathless***, received a six-and-a-half-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival, with Quentin Tarantino among its admirers.

Nouvelle Vague reimagines the birth of the French New Wave, with Guillaume Marbeck portraying Godard alongside Zoey Deutch, Adrien Rouyard, and Aubry Dullin.

This marks Linklater's first feature shot entirely in French. While Netflix's acquisition secures the film's streaming future, a broader theatrical release remains uncertain.

NEWS

There’ll be no compromise

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Bangladesh Army – were commissioned after three years of rigorous military training. Four Palestinian cadets were also among the graduates, who will serve in their national forces.

Air Chief Hasan took the salute as the chief guest, distributed awards among top-performing cadets, reads the statement.

Battalion Senior Under Officer Samrat Zabir received the prestigious “Sword of Honour” as the best all-round cadet, while Company Senior Under Officer Abdul Wadud Masum was awarded the “Army Chief’s Gold Medal” for excellence in military subjects.

Among the foreign cadets, Palestinian Officer Cadet Sgt Mohammad Isbe received the “BMA Trophy of Excellence”.

In his speech, Air Chief Hasan reminded the newly commissioned officers that with their oath they had taken on the sacred responsibility of defending the country's independence and sovereignty.

He emphasised that the Bangladesh

Armed Forces must always be prepared to counter both traditional and non-traditional threats, adapting to rapidly evolving technologies and global challenges.

“To stay relevant in modern warfare, you must be intellectually sound, mentally resilient, physically fit, and of strong character. Only then can you develop the initiative and creativity needed in the field.”

Hasan Mahmood noted that future battlefields will be dynamic, where success will depend not on individual efforts but on joint training, inter-force cooperation, and optimal use of resources.

“Jointness among the three services is not just a strategy – it is a necessity. I firmly believe your courageous and committed journey will help uphold the development of the armed forces and the nation,” he said.

He called upon the cadets to remain honest, focused, and committed to their responsibilities as future defenders of the nation.

Bangladesh youth

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number of job seekers failed to secure employment, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), published recently.

The jobless rate stood at 3.95 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023, according to the BBS.

In the WESO report, the ILO revised its global employment forecast for 2025, projecting the creation of 53 million jobs instead of the previously estimated 60 million.

This translates into a reduction in global employment growth from 1.7 percent to 1.5 percent this year, the report said.

The drop—equivalent to around seven million fewer additional jobs—reflects a downgraded global economic outlook, with GDP growth expected at 2.8 percent, down from a previous projection of 3.2 percent.

The ILO's latest employment estimates are based on economic growth projections from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) April 2025 World Economic Outlook.

The curious case

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(general) on July 22, 2013, with the help of his uncle, Md Shahjahan Miah, who, before being suspended yesterday, had been serving as an additional director at the BB.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Shahjahan Miah, the then deputy director of recruitment, was the mastermind behind the scam, officials of the BB said.

Such an incident is embarrassing for Bangladesh Bank, said the BB spokesperson.

Yesterday, Bangladesh Bank suspended Md Shahjahan Miah through an office order due to his alleged involvement in the fraud.

“An investigation is currently underway against Md Shahjahan Miah. If found guilty, legal action will be taken against him,” Khan said.

Fake Ansary served at Bangladesh Bank until May 27, when he was fired.

The Daily Star tried to reach him for comments, but found his mobile phone switched off.

However, Md Shahjahan Miah answered a phone call and said before hanging up: “I didn't go to the office today. I don't know anything about the suspension.”

Couple, 2 others murdered in city

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extramarital affair.

Police are verifying his claim and investigating the murders.

In another incident, a woman was stabbed to death on the street by her husband in the Ashkona area of Dakkhinkhan around 11:00am.

The victim, Sima Akter, 39, was a domestic help. Police said her husband, Dolon Miya, attacked her on the street and later consumed poison.

Pedestrians took both of them to Kurmitola General Hospital, where doctors declared Sima dead around 1:15pm, said Sub-Inspector Nur Mohammad of Dakshinkhan Police Station.

Those pushed-in allege torture

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The statement said 111 people were pushed in through borders in Khagrachhari, 84 through Kurigram, 103 through Sylhet, 331 through Moulvibazar, 19 through Habiganj, 16 through Sunamganj, two through Dinajpur, 17 through Chapainawabganj, 19 through Thakurgaon, 32 through Panchagarh, 75 through Lalmonirhat, 19 through Chuadanga, 42 through Jhenaidah, 13 through Cumilla, 39 through Feni, 23 through Satkhira, and 30 through Meherpur.

As many as 78 individuals were reportedly pushed in through the remote Mandarbaria area of the Sundarbans.

Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, director general of BGB, told The Daily Star that despite repeated protests conveyed through flag meetings and diplomatic channels, incidents of push-ins by BSF and other Indian agencies have regrettably continued.

“BGB remains on high alert and has intensified surveillance and patrols in sensitive border areas. However, during recent engagements, the neighbouring authorities denied any such push-ins—denials that contradict facts and constitute both a violation of human rights and glaring falsehoods,” he said.

Siddiqui noted that many of those pushed back are Bangladeshi nationals who had lived in India for years.

Some of their children were born in India and held Indian documents, which were forcibly taken from them, he said.

“We have consistently stressed that such unilateral actions violate

Dolon, a vegetable vendor, is undergoing treatment under police custody.

He admitted to stabbing his wife over a family dispute, the SI said.

Meanwhile, in Kamalapur, police recovered the body of a woman from a hotel.

The victim was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, of Dinajpur district.

Motijheel Police Station OC Mesbah Uddin said Sumi had checked into the hotel with a man, identifying themselves as husband and wife.

In Kamalapur, police recovered the body of a woman from a hotel and suspected she was suffocated to death.

The deceased was identified as Sumi Rani Roy, 36, hailing from Dinajpur

district.

Mesbah Hasan, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station said Sumi had checked into the hotel with a man, identifying themselves as husband and wife.

Police suspect that the man she was with, Manik Chandra Roy, is the perpetrator, who fled the scene before hotel staff discovered the body in the room.

“The door was found unlocked. Primary investigation suggests she was suffocated,” the OC said.

Police are trying to apprehend the suspect.

The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Israel kills

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site. A Palestinian medical source reported at least one death.

Ajith Sunghay, head of the UN Human Rights Office in the Palestinian territories, said most had been hurt by Israeli gunfire.

The military rejected this, with spokesman Colonel Olivier Ralawicz saying Israeli soldiers “fired warning shots into the air, in the area outside” the Rafah distribution centre, and “in no case towards the people”.

GHF also denied that crowds were shot while waiting for aid.

Meanwhile, UN envoy for the Middle East Sigrid Kaag told the Security Council that Palestinians living in Gaza “deserve more than survival”.

“Since the resumption of hostilities in Gaza, the already horrific existence of civilians has only sunk further into the abyss,” she said.

“This is manmade ... Death is their companion. It's not life, it's not hope. The people of Gaza deserve more than survival. They deserve a future.”

Gazans said there was no reason to hope for a better future.

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes killed 16 people since dawn yesterday.

Israel imposed a full blockade on Gaza for more than two months, before allowing supplies in at a trickle last week.

Israel stepped up its military offensive in Gaza earlier this month, while mediators push for a still elusive ceasefire.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza yesterday said at least 3,924 people had been killed in the territory since Israel ended a ceasefire on March 18, taking the war's overall toll to 54,084, mostly civilians.