

## Hrithik Roshan teams with 'KGF' producer for Pan-India project

Hrithik Roshan has teamed up with Hombale Films, the production house behind hits like *KGF*, *Kantara*, and *Salaar*, for a major pan-India project. While details about the film remain under wraps, both parties have confirmed the collaboration, promising a cinematic experience that blends scale, imagination, and intensity.

Hombale Films founder Vijay Kiragandur expressed excitement over working with Hrithik Roshan, calling it a step toward telling boundary-breaking stories. Hrithik, too, shared his enthusiasm, stating that they are "dreaming big" for audiences nationwide.

The project adds to the actor's packed slate, including *War 2* and *Krrish 4*. For Hombale, the partnership marks continued expansion into mainstream Bollywood and pan-Indian storytelling.



## Gems of Nazrul to honour national poet's legacy with musical tribute

Gems of Nazrul, a cultural initiative led by Nazrul Sangeet exponent and Nazrul Award recipient Sadya Afreen Mallick, will host a commemorative event titled *Ontorey Tumi Acho Chirodin* to mark the 126th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Since its inception in 2016, the platform has been dedicated to preserving and promoting the musical and philosophical legacy of Bangladesh's national poet. To date, it has produced over 35 artistic music videos, presenting Nazrul's extensive repertoire of more than 3,500 songs—including 17 original ragas—through national television broadcasts and online platforms.



Gems of Nazrul's productions often coincide with major national observances, aiming to engage younger generations with Nazrul's revolutionary, romantic, and devotional compositions.

The upcoming event, organised in collaboration with The Daily Star, will be held on May 31 at 6pm and will feature select performances celebrating the enduring relevance of Nazrul's work.

## A win for 'Mastul' in Russia



Bangladeshi film *Mastul* has won the Best Artistic Contribution Award at the 18th Cheboksary International Film Festival in Russia, following its earlier Special Mention (Jury) at the Moscow International Film Festival.

Directed by Mohammad Nuruzzaman, the film was part of the main competition segment and is centred around the lives of sailors. Though both the director and lead actor Aminur Rahman Mukul were set to attend, they had to cancel their plans at the last minute.

The film stars Fazlur Rahman Babu, Deepak Suman, and others, with Tong Ghor Talkies handling distribution. *Mastul* has also been nominated in the Best Humanitarian Film category at Spain's upcoming ImagineIndia International Film Festival, and a local screening is being planned ahead of its international showing.

## LINKIN PARK breaks record with latest chart-topping single

Linkin Park has made chart history with their latest single, *Up From the Bottom*, from the upcoming deluxe edition of *From Zero*. The track has climbed to No 1 on Billboard's Alternative Airplay chart, surpassing Jonah Kagen's *God Needs the Devil*.

This marks the band's 14th No 1 on the chart, breaking their tie with Cage the Elephant and Green Day. Only Red Hot Chili Peppers have more No 1s, leading by one.

The song reached the top in just eight weeks and adds to a strong run that includes *The Emptiness Machine* and *Heavy Is the Crown*. With 22 top 10 entries, Linkin Park continues to dominate, building on iconic hits like *What I've Done* and *Numb*.



# NEWS

## They took my money

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When one travels abroad from Dhaka airport, they have to go to the immigration desk where officials review travel history and documents. A no objection certificate is required to get clearance.

But the deportees said they did not have to present such documents to obtain immigration clearance in Dhaka.

Asked about this, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general at the Police Headquarters, said, "We only let people go when they have all required documents, including return tickets. No one gets through without proper checks."

### CARTEL IN MALAYSIA

According to Malaysian news portal New Straits Times, the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (MCBA) found that the 40 Bangladeshis loitered in specific areas of the airport to avoid detection.

The syndicates would then guide them through a "safe route" past immigration, a tactic known as "counter setting".

The migrants violated the terms by overstaying in the airport. Some stayed up to two days, pretending to be tourists and lingering near seating areas, charging stations, and toilets,

read the report, citing the MCBA.

Investigators found many had return tickets, but had deliberately cancelled them.

MCBA Commander Ibrahim Mohd Yusof said, "These attempts to bring in foreigners without legal entry clearance continue. Syndicates exploit loopholes and even collude with corrupt officers."

"They gather in specific locations to avoid inspection and wait for agents to facilitate their illegal entry. Some come under the pretext of training, sports events, or tourist packages arranged by third parties."

From January to April this year, 8,796 individuals were denied entry at Kuala Lumpur airport — with Bangladeshis topping the list at 3,673, according to the news report.

A source said migrants from Bangladesh were often received by a man named Altaf Khan of Afia Overseas, who allegedly bribed Malaysian immigration officers to free detained workers. Altaf was arrested last year in Malaysia on human trafficking charges.

A senior leader of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, requesting anonymity, said, "Illegal migration is tarnishing Bangladesh's image in

Malaysia and beyond, jeopardising future access to labour markets."

BAIRA Secretary General Ali Haider Chowdhury said, "Migrant workers will find a way to go abroad, legal or not. If the government doesn't open legal channels, illegal migration will persist. Strict action must be taken against those sending workers on tourist visas."

### LABOUR MARKET

On May 14, a Bangladeshi delegation led by Asif Nazrul, adviser to the expatriates welfare ministry, met with Malaysia's home and human resources ministers in Putrajaya.

The delegation included Senior Secretary Neamat Ullah Bhuiyan, Deputy Secretary Sarwoor Alam, and Lutfey Siddiqi, special envoy of the chief adviser on international affairs.

In a Facebook video following the meeting, Prof Asif said Malaysia had plans to hire over 1 lakh foreign workers and that he urged Malaysian Human Resources Minister V Sivakumar to prioritise Bangladeshis.

According to data from Malaysia authorities, around 9 lakh Bangladeshis currently work in Malaysia, including nearly five lakh recruited through 101 agencies approved since late 2022.

A Long March-3B rocket carrying the Tianwen-2 probe blasted off from the Xichang launch site in southwestern Sichuan province at 1:31 am (1731 GMT).

About 18 minutes later, the Tianwen-2 probe was sent into a transfer orbit from Earth to the asteroid 2016HO3, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said, according to Xinhua.

"The spacecraft unfolded its solar panels smoothly, and the CNSA declared the launch a success," the news agency wrote.

Despite the mission's long duration and significant risks, Shan "expressed his expectation of yielding groundbreaking discoveries and expanding humanity's knowledge of the cosmos," according to Xinhua.

The move is seen as part of a broader currency redesign initiative following recent political shifts.

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The Tk 20 note has a green tint and features Kantaji Temple and the Paharpur Monastery. The Tk 50 note, in dark brown, highlights Ahsan Manzil and Zainul Abedin's Sangram. The Tk 1,000 note, coloured purple, showcases the National Memorial and the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Security upgrades include colour-shifting threads, microprinting, see-through patterns, and optically variable ink. The Tk 1,000 note alone contains 10 security features.

According to Bangladesh Bank, the redesign aims to curb counterfeiting while visually representing national heritage through prominent landmarks.

As in previous years, the demand for fresh currency typically surges ahead of Eid, when people traditionally exchange crisp notes as

gifts.

However, no new notes were released last Eid due to political controversy surrounding the use of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait on currency notes following the July Uprising.

In response, the central bank halted the release of the previous designs and barred commercial banks from circulating notes already in storage.

"This time, only the Tk 20, Tk 50, and Tk 1,000 notes will be introduced before Eid," said a senior Bangladesh Bank official.

He added that printing of the redesigned Tk 5, Tk 10, Tk 100, Tk 200, and Tk 500 notes is expected to begin after Eid.

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China launches

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into its space programme in recent years in an effort to achieve what President Xi Jinping describes as the country's "space dream".

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## No service at national eye hospital

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arrived and brought the situation under control. But the hospital staffers, including doctors and nurses, began a work stoppage citing security concerns.

All services remain halted as per instructions from higher authorities and a meeting was held to resolve the crisis, Acting Director Zane Alam also told The Daily Star at 1:45pm yesterday.

"The situation remains unchanged," Khair told The Daily Star at 6:30pm yesterday.

A conducive environment for providing healthcare has not returned, so no staffers, including doctors, have reported to duty.

As a result, all services remain suspended, said Khair, who is currently on a suspended day leave.

Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, said they are working to resolve the matter.

But doctors, nurses and other staffers have not joined their work citing security concerns, he added.

Currently, only the injured from the July uprising remain at the hospital, he said.

"We are trying to reach out to the July injured persons and hope the problem will be resolved from tomorrow [today] morning," he told The Daily Star at 7:30pm.

Around 70 injured persons in the July uprising are being treated at the hospital.

They alleged that the hospital

authorities are not providing them with proper treatment and indulging in many malpractices.

But doctors and staffers alleged that the injured person often behaved rudely with them and two untoward incidents at the hospital on Monday and Tuesday left them with security concerns.

However, Akther Hossain, a July victim, denied attacking hospital staff and said they were protesting irregularities at the hospital and the authorities' negligence in their treatment.

He said eight of their fellows were injured when police charged batons on them.

On Monday, four victims injured in the July uprising attempted suicide by consuming poison during a meeting at the hospital.

They were later treated at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital.

On Tuesday, the hospital director was confined to his office for about an hour and a half due to alleged infighting between two groups of July victims.

A police team has been deployed at the hospital to avoid any untoward incident, said Imaul Haque, the officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The hospital treated around 6,45 lakh outpatients and 10,647 emergency patients in 2023, according to the Health Bulletin 2023, published earlier this year by the Directorate General of Health Services.

Associate organisations have published posters about Ziaur Rahman, and special supplements will be published in newspapers to mark the day.

BNP leaders will distribute rice, lentils, and clothing among the destitute at different parts of the city under the arrangement of Dhaka north and south units of the party.

All the district, city and thana units of the BNP will also observe the day.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a statement marking the day said that an environment must be ensured where free and fair elections, accountability to the people, transparency, and the fearless exercise of all citizen rights can take place.

"In all crises, struggles, and nation-building efforts of national life, we must move forward by embracing the path and ideals shown by Shaheed Zia. And we must build an unbreakable national unity to protect national interests, pluralistic democracy, and the rights of the people."

The ideals, patriotism, honesty, and dedication of Zia continue to inspire the nationalist forces of today, Fakhrul added.

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### 'Shekor Utsab'

**Shekor**, a folk festival celebrating Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage with the traditional beats of the *dhak*, leading into a cockfighting demonstration. Attendees will experience *Puthi Path* (traditional storytelling), live folk music, and conclude the evening with a performance of *Palagaan* (folk theatre).

Date: Today | May 30, 2025

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: TSC Swimming Pool



## Jaya Ahsan raises concern over filming in wildlife habitats

Following a wild elephant attack on the set of *Shapla Shaluk* in Sherpur's forested border area, actress Jaya Ahsan has voiced concern over shooting in ecologically sensitive zones.

Sharing the news on Facebook, she questioned the Forest Department's oversight, writing, "Can one just start 'lights, camera, action' whenever they please?" Highlighting the disruption caused by loud noises, waste, and music in protected areas, she stressed that such activities could be harmful to wildlife.

Her post has sparked online debate, with netizens criticising the film crew for invading the animals' natural habitat. The incident has reignited discussions on ethical filming practices in environmentally vulnerable locations.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Bangladesh committed

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of personnel currently serving in missions across the world.

"As Bangladesh's senior most peacekeeper, I feel proud and honoured to be here today... Let me begin by solemnly remembering our 168 brave soldiers and police personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in various peacekeeping missions. Their sacrifice will forever be honoured by the nation."

General Walker highlighted Bangladesh's long-standing commitment to global peace, noting that the country has participated in UN peacekeeping operations since 1988.

At present, 5,018 Bangladeshi peacekeepers are deployed across nine UN missions, including 4,880 from the army, 343 from the navy, 396 from the air force, and 199 from the police.

"Our peacekeepers are always ready to face any challenge with advanced training, strong moral values, professionalism, and neutrality -- even at the risk of their own lives," he said.

## 44 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza

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strain on relations with the international community.

"This is a blatant defiance of the international will and a grave violation of international law and United Nations resolutions," Hamas said in a statement.

In the Gaza Strip, a United Nations warehouse was broken into by "hordes of hungry people" on Wednesday as aid trickles into the Palestinian enclave on the brink of famine and the United States readies new terms for a possible truce between Israel and Hamas