


## Sequel to ‘The Devil Wears Prada’ set for July production

Nearly two decades after the release of the original, actress Emily Blunt has confirmed that a sequel to the iconic fashion drama *The Devil Wears Prada* is set to begin filming in July.

In an interview with Entertainment Tonight, the actress shared her excitement, admitting she has yet to read the script and is unsure about her character's current storyline. Blunt also commented on her recurring on-screen tension with co-star Meryl Streep, joking about their frequent portrayals of conflict.

While tight-lipped about the plot, she noted that her daughters are eager to see the fashion-forward film.

The sequel is scheduled for release on May 1, 2026—just ahead of the Met Gala.



## Star Cineplex boosts ‘UTSHOB’ SCREENINGS



The family drama *Utshob* continues to draw packed audiences at Star Cineplex, prompting an increase in screenings. Director Tanim Noor confirmed via a press release that the film had nine shows daily during its first week across Cineplex branches in Dhaka and beyond.

From today, it will be screened 13 times daily. The film will also run at Blockbuster Cinemas and Lion Cinemas in its second week. Discussions are underway to bring *Utshob* to single-screen theatres outside Dhaka.

Featuring Jaya Ahsan, Chanchal Chowdhury, Zahid Hasan, and Aupee Karim, the film blends family-friendly storytelling with nostalgic nods to 1990s Bangladeshi pop culture. Its tagline reads: “Statutory Warning: Not to be watched without family.”

## Restored version of ‘Aranyer Din Ratri’ to screen in Italy

The 4K restored version of Satyajit Ray’s revered classic film *Aranyer Din Ratri* will be screened at Il Cinema Ritrovato in Bologna, Italy, from June 21 to 29.

The restored film premiered at the 78th Cannes Film Festival last month. Announced by the Film Heritage Foundation, the screening celebrates Ray’s 1970 classic, based on Sunil Gangopadhyay’s novel.

The film follows four Calcutta men on a forest retreat, featuring Soumitra Chatterjee, Sharmila Tagore, and Simi Garewal. Tagore and Garewal, the only surviving cast members, attended the Cannes premiere with filmmaker Wes Anderson and producer Purnima Dutta.



## ‘Taandob’ and ‘Insaaf’ to get sequels

Following strong Eid-ul-Azha box office performances, sequels to *Taandob* and *Insaaf* have been officially confirmed.

*Taandob*, starring Shahid Khan and featuring surprise cameos by Afran Nisho and Siam Ahmed, ended with a teaser for a sequel of the film.

Director Raihan Rafi confirmed plans for a shared cinematic universe. Similarly, *Insaaf* introduced Mosharraf Karim and Chanchal Chowdhury in pivotal final scenes. Director Sanjoy Somadder revealed both actors will return in central roles for *Insaaf 2*, currently in development.

With these announcements, Bangladeshi cinema signals a shift toward interconnected storytelling, inspired by global film universes. The move marks a new chapter for the industry, promising recurring characters, crossovers, and extended narratives that go beyond single-film experiences.

## Netflix unveils animated spinoff ‘Stranger Things’



Netflix has announced an animated spinoff titled *Stranger Things: Tales From '85*, revealed at the Annecy Film Festival. Set between Seasons 2 and 3 of the original series, the show follows the Hawkins gang and a new character, Nikki—a mohawked rebel—as they confront eerie monsters in a new paranormal mystery.

Inspired by classic cartoons like *Scooby-Doo* and *The Real Ghostbusters*, the series combines retro vibes with modern animation styles seen in *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* and *Arcane*.

Character design is by Meybis Ruiz Cruz, with monsters created by Carlos Huante. Produced by the Duffer Brothers and Flying Bark Productions, the series premieres in 2026. *Stranger Things Season 5* returns November 26, ending on December 31.

## WHAT’S THE HAPS? ‘Bhashajog’

*Bhashajog*, a travelling printmaking festival and workshop supported by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will highlight the intersection of language, identity, and self-expression. Drawing on local proverbs, folktales, and protest slogans, the initiative will give visual form to linguistic diversity and amplify marginalised voices through the art of printmaking.

**Date:** Friday-Saturday | June 13-21, 2025  
**Time:** 10am-6pm  
**Venue:** National Art Gallery, BSA



NEWS

## 84 pushed in thru’ Sylhet, Lalmonirhat

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children -- were detained by BGB personnel at Sreepur BOP (Border Outpost).

They are originally from Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

At Minatila BOP under the same upazila, 23 people -- nine men, seven women, and seven children -- of four families were held.

They are all from Kurigram.

In Sylhet’s Companiganj upazila’s Kalairag BOP area, BGB personnel detained 13 people -- four men, three women, and six children who are also from Kurigram.

In Sunamganj’s Chhatak upazila, 17 more people -- five men, four women, and eight children -- were pushed back through the Chanbari border near Noakot BOP.

They are from Lalmonirhat.

In Lalmonirhat, at least 14 people were pushed in through the Jalangi border in Patgram upazila and the Dighaltari border in Aditmari upazila.

Locals first spotted the groups near the border pillars no. 847 at Jalangi and no. 926 at Dighaltari early yesterday.

BGB personnel later detained them and took them to the respective BOP camp.

Seven of the returnees, who were pushed in through the Jalangi border, are from Kodalthata village in Moghalhat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

One of the returnees, Anarul told this newspaper that his family

crossed into India illegally in January 2016 via the Phulbari border in Kurigram. They had been working at a brick kiln in Haryana, India, where his two youngest children were born.

“The BSF brought us to the border at night and pushed us into Bangladesh.”

The other seven, who entered through the Dighaltari border, are from Dhaniram village in Baravita union of Kurigram’s Phulbari upazila.

Another returnee, Obaidur, said his family entered Siliguri, West Bengal, in March 2020 and lived there as undocumented workers. “We worked as day labourers. On Wednesday night, the BSF picked us up and pushed us across the border early today [yesterday],” he said.

He also said their youngest child was born during their stay in India.

Meanwhile, BSF tried to push five more Bangladeshis through pillar no. 889 at Dolapara border of Hatiabandha upazila. However, BGB foiled the attempt. The five remain on the Indian side of the border, the BGB said.

Lt Col Mehedi Imam, commanding officer of BGB-15 Battalion in Lalmonirhat, said, “We are verifying the identities of those who were pushed in. After the necessary procedures, they [returnees] will be handed over to their families through the police.”

“The way BSF is pushing people back is illegal and beyond established

border protocols. We have strongly protested such actions at previous flag meetings with BSF,” he added.

**26 ILLEGALS DEPORTED**

The BSF handed over 26 Bangladeshi nationals to BGB through a flag meeting at the no-man’s land near the Benipur border under Jibannagar upazila in Chuadanga on Wednesday evening.

The returnees included 13 children, six women, and seven men, said Lt Col Abu Hanif Md Sihanuk, additional director of BGB-58 Battalion in Chuadanga.

The individuals were taken into BGB custody and later handed over to Jibannagar Police Station following the flag meeting.

A general diary was filed before the handover.

They are from different areas of Kurigram and Joypurhat districts, Lt Col Sihanuk added.

The 26 individuals had been detained earlier by Indian police in Haryana for illegally residing in the country. After their arrest, they were transferred to BSF custody.

The BSF then initiated the repatriation process by contacting BGB and submitting a list of names.

Upon verifying their identities, BGB agreed to the handover, which was carried out at border pillar no. 64 in the presence of company commanders from both forces.

[Our correspondents from Sylhet, Lalmonirhat, and Benapole contributed to the report.]

## Two rights activists assaulted in Rangamati

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place, Marzia Prova, who was also injured, said, “We had wrapped up the event and were heading out from Kawkhali in a CNG-run autorickshaw. We had just crossed the bazaar and were approaching the Kawkhali bridge when a motorcycle stopped our autorickshaw.”

All three people got down from the bike and approached the autorickshaw, she went on.

“One of them was talking on the phone with someone, describing our appearance and informing them that they had found us.”

Marzia said the attackers then dragged out Oliur and started beating him, while verbally abusing her for attending the programme of what they claimed was a “terrorist organisation”.

“When I tried to stop the assault on Oliur, one of the men hit me on my face.”

Attackers also threatened, Marzia added, by saying that they would be handed over to the security forces.

When two or three other autorickshaws stopped at the place of the attack, Marzia said the attackers

released them and warned them to never come back to the area.

“We called the Kawkhali Police Station for help, and they told us to come back and file a case. But we didn’t feel safe about going back to Kawkhali.”

Oliur said that they broke his glasses, injured his eye and one of his fingernails was left bleeding.

Kawkhali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Islam Sohag denied that anything untoward had happened, telling our correspondent, “There was no trouble. The programme took place peacefully.”

Marzia, however, claimed that while they were at the programme, they found that eight of their pick up drivers had been detained. “Those vehicles were used to bring attendees to the programme.”

The organisers, requesting anonymity, echoed the same and provided The Daily Star with the names of the drivers. They also said that the keys to the vehicles had been taken.

OC Saiful, however, denied any knowledge of this.

Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote

marched on Dhaka University campus condemning the attack.

Protesters and the victims claimed that the attackers were Bangalees.

The protest, organised by the Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote was held at the Raju Bhashkorjo on the DU campus.

Biplobi Chhatra Moitri President Dilip Roy and General Secretary Jabir Ahmed Jubel also condemned the attack.

“This attack is a direct assault on citizens’ security and the long struggle for justice over the enforced disappearance of Kalpana Chakma. It is also an attack on freedom of expression,” reads a statement issued by them.

Hill Women’s Federation sent a statement decrying the attack. Quoting the federation’s chair Niti Chakma and the president of Parbatya Chattogram Nari Sangha, Konika Dewan, the statement said, “The attack is proof of the misrule in the hill tracts.”

“As long as we are colonised, there will be no peace and no safety for the women of the hills,” added the statement.

## Covid-19 testing at six hospitals

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in Dhaka; and Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in the port city.

Earlier, the DGHS issued an 11-point health advisory, urging people to avoid public gatherings and mandating mask use in crowded areas to curb the spread of the virus.

In the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, 15 out of 134 samples tested positive for Covid-19, according to DGHS data. The day before, 10 of 107 samples had returned positive results.

The infection rate saw a sharp increase in May, according to Covid-19 surveillance data analysed by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). Of 1,409 samples tested that month, 9.51 percent were positive -- the highest positivity rate since January 2023.

Additionally, two new SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants -- XFG and XFC -- were detected in Bangladesh for the first time at CMCH in April, according to a hospital-based influenza surveillance study jointly conducted by icddr,b and the IEDCR.

Prof Halimur Rashid, line director of Communicable Disease Control

at the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday that both RT-PCR and rapid test kits were supplied to the six hospitals to ensure they can resume testing as quickly as possible.

Contacted, Brig Gen Md Asaduzzaman, director of DMCH, the largest hospital in the country, said the hospital will resume testing tomorrow. “Those showing symptoms and referred by doctors will be allowed to get tested.”

Mezbahur Rahman, director of Mugda Medical College Hospital, said it would also restart Covid-19 testing tomorrow and continue uninterrupted. He noted that testing had been suspended for the past six months due to a shortage of kits.

Shafiur Rahman, director of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said if they cannot resume testing tomorrow, they would do so the day after or by Monday at the latest.

Brig Gen Md Saydur Rahman, director of Kurmitola General Hospital, which had continued testing throughout, said the number of patients seeking tests had remained low. “We’ve received more

test kits today [yesterday], and will continue the service,” he told The Daily Star.

CMCH is also preparing to resume testing tomorrow. Its Director Brig Gen Mohammed Taslim Uddin said, “All preparations for testing are almost complete.”

Col Tanvir Ahmed, director of DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital, said they had been conducting tests continuously and would now do so with the newly supplied kits.

At a press briefing on Wednesday, DGHS Director General Prof Md Abu Jafor said the government, international agencies, and some other countries were in talks to procure additional test kits, as some of the stored stock had expired. “We have already collected 28,000 rapid test kits, and 10,000 RT-PCR kits are expected to arrive today [Wednesday].”

Covid-19 was first detected in Bangladesh on March 8, 2020, with the first death reported 10 days later. Since then, over 20.51 lakh people have tested positive, and at least 29,500 have died from the disease.

## BB mulling settlement with suspects

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been frozen, and the administration is working with foreign law enforcement agencies to trace the funds, it says.

During a visit to London this week to advance asset recovery efforts, Yunus called for “more enthusiastic support” from UK authorities. “This is stolen money,” he told the FT, arguing that the UK government had both a “legal and moral obligation” to assist in tracing and returning the assets.

A white paper commissioned by the government and published in December estimated that around \$234 billion was siphoned out of

the country during Hasina’s time in office.

According to the FT, Mansur and other officials alleged that funds were misappropriated through fraudulent loans acquired via control of bank boards and by embezzling from infrastructure projects.

As part of its recovery strategy, Mansur said the government is in talks with litigation funding firms, entities that cover legal costs in exchange for a share of the settlement or award.

“We have been looking at litigation funding, and we are getting a very positive response,” he said. “We would

like to see that as much as possible can be funded through litigation funders.”

One such firm, Sydney-based Omni Bridgeway, confirmed to the FT that its executives visited Dhaka and held meetings with Mansur and senior officials at more than 16 banks.

“We have expressed a particular interest in supporting the banking sector by financing and managing the recovery of non-performing loans, especially those involving the illicit transfer of funds abroad,” said Wiegier Wielinga, the company’s managing director of enforcement.