


Chanchal Chowdhury returns to Tollywood with ‘Tridhara’

Chanchal Chowdhury is set to appear in Amitabh Bhattacharya’s upcoming film *Tridhara*, marking his first on-screen collaboration with Rituparna Sengupta.

Veteran actor Kaushik Ganguly will also join cast. The narrative unfolds as a love from 25 years ago suddenly resurfaces, disrupting their present and forcing the characters to confront their past and navigate unexpected emotional turmoil.

While Chanchal and Rituparna confirmed initial discussions, both noted that plans are not yet finalised. This project signals renewed cross-border collaboration following recent political tensions.

During Eid-ul-Azha, Chanchal earned acclaim for his roles in *Utshob* and *Insaaf*, with his limited screen time leaving a strong impact. His active theatre promotions signal a powerful post-protest comeback.



Jagorony Theatre to premiere ‘KADAMATI’



Jagorony Theatre will premiere its 21st production, *Kadamati*, on July 4 at the Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mohila Samity.

Written by Aniket Pal and directed by Debashish Ghosh, the solo performance stars Smaran Saha and explores themes of displacement, identity, and longing.

The inaugural show will be attended by Professor Abdus Selim, President of ITI Bangladesh, along with Babul Biswas and Abdul Kader Talukdar.

Director Ghosh describes the play as a reflection on uprooting—how the search for comfort often leads to isolation and loss of self.

Set and light design is by Palash Hendry Sen, with contributions from Ramiz Razu, Shahana Jahan Siddiqua, Sajid Ahmed Rony, Shreya Saha Swarna, and Azim Uddin as production director.



Bankim’s ‘Devi Chaudhurani’ reimaged in landmark Indo-UK film

*Devi Chaudhurani*, the much-awaited Indo-UK co-production, is set to bring Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s legendary novel to cinemas during *Durga Puja* this year.

Directed by Subhrajit Mitra, this historical drama explores the life of the iconic bandit-turned-revolutionary, Devi Chaudhurani, a pivotal figure in Bengal’s anti-colonial struggle during the *Sannyasi-Fakir* Rebellion.

The film stars Srabanti Chatterjee as the fierce Devi Chaudhurani, with Prosenjit Chatterjee portraying her mentor Bhavani Pathak.

Their performances are supported by a talented ensemble including Bibriti Chatterjee and Darshana Banik.

Bollywood’s renowned action director Sham Kaushal choreographs the film’s combat sequences, while the musical score is composed by Bickram Ghosh.



Brad Pitt’s ‘F1’ delivers Apple’s first box office win

Brad Pitt’s racing drama *F1* has debuted with \$55.6 million domestically and \$88.4 million internationally, totaling \$144 million worldwide in its opening weekend.

The film, directed by Joseph Kosinski and co-produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Lewis Hamilton, marks Apple’s first theatrical success.

*F1* follows a retired Formula One driver mentoring a young racer and was praised for its realism, with Pitt driving on actual circuits.

Imax and premium formats accounted for 55% of domestic sales. Apple, which lacks a distribution arm, partnered with Warner Bros. for theatrical release.

With an “A” CinemaScore and strong audience turnout, *F1* sets a new benchmark for original Apple films in today’s franchise-driven box office.

NEWS

App to help detect arsenic

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Backed by a scientific model trained on millions of historical arsenic test results, the app delivers instant assessments, flagging wells as safe or unsafe based on observed indicators, not lab analysis.

The official launching ceremony for the iArsenic app is scheduled to be held at the DPHE auditorium from 3:00pm to 4:00pm today.

Arsenic poisoning from contaminated groundwater has remained one of Bangladesh’s most persistent public health crises.

While tubewells were originally installed to prevent cholera and other waterborne diseases, many now draw water from arsenic-rich aquifers, causing slow but severe damage to health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that long-term exposure to arsenic concentrations above 10 micrograms per litre can lead to skin lesions, cancers, developmental effects in children, and cardiovascular diseases. Yet around 20 million, often unknowingly, continue to drink water from contaminated wells.

What makes the iArsenic app so powerful is its combination of science and simplicity. The interface is available in both English and Bangla, ensuring that rural communities, those most at risk, can use it without technical barriers.

A simple green-red indicator shows the arsenic status of each well. Green means likely safe. Red means potentially unsafe.

Accessible from anywhere with an internet connection, iArsenic bridges the gap between government screening and household-level awareness. Anyone who knows a tubewell’s depth, location, and staining colour can use the app to assess its risk.

“iArsenic is not a replacement for chemical testing but a public tool for

early screening,” said Dr Mo Hoque, lead researcher from the University of Portsmouth.

“No single option will solve arsenic exposure for the 20 million people still at risk. We need coordinated action from schools, mosques, health workers, and tools like this app working together to raise awareness and support safer choices.”

Developed by an international team including scientists from the University of Portsmouth, Curtin University (Australia), University of Dhaka, Imperial College London, and others, the app has been validated against field data and shows 84 percent accuracy in identifying high-risk wells.

The platform is especially valuable in areas where health services are limited. By identifying risky wells, families can take timely action such as switching to a safe well nearby, installing a safe well, or contacting authorities for further information.

The research team has also developed a three-tier classification system to guide action, identifying nearly 18,000 Tier 1 villages and urban wards where arsenic risk is high and safe water options are limited.

“These are priority hotspots,” said Dr Ashraf Dewan of Curtin University. “We urgently need coordinated investment in these Tier 1 areas, combining digital tools like iArsenic with targeted government interventions, social mobilisation, and stronger community awareness. That’s how we turn data into protection.”

EC regains power

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relaxed in certain cases, such as in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, islands, remote or hard-to-reach areas, and regions with low population density.

Polling centres cannot be set up in establishments owned by anyone with political affiliations. Priority should be given to setting up centres in government establishments.

Besides educational institutions, the centres can be in community centres, cyclone shelters, and other office buildings of government, semi-government, and autonomous organisations.

Meanwhile, the EC on June 17 wrote to four ministries and two directorates to take necessary measures and submit progress reports within a month on minor repairs at educational institutions likely to be used as polling centres.

The letter further said that these institutions should undergo minor renovations using funds from the respective ministries or divisions.

Adviser’s Office said a section of government officials was initially reluctant to appoint DCs from the 28th batch for the upcoming election period, preferring officers from the 25th and 27th batches to manage field administration.

There have already been at least four rounds of DC appointments from these two batches under both the previous and current governments. But after evaluations, it was found that a significant number of officers lacked competency.

As a result, the decision was made to prepare a DC fit list from among 160 officers of the 28th batch.

On June 21, 37 officers took oral tests, and the remaining candidates are expected to complete the process by July. New DC appointments are likely in August, according to officials familiar with the proceedings.

The responsibility for transfers and postings of DCs and other senior officials lies with a

four-member public administration advisory committee led by the finance adviser, though the chief adviser makes the final decision on appointments.

Sources said the committee has not been meeting frequently enough to process transfers and postings, causing delays.

According to a senior official, a list of 25 officers from the current DC fit list was submitted to the committee, but no decision has been made yet.

“The committee appears indecisive and reluctant, at least for now, to withdraw officers of the 24th BCS batch from field administration,” the official said, requesting anonymity.

Public administration expert Firoz Mia said the success or failure of the government during the election period will largely depend on field administration.

“Those who will serve as DCs during the polls should be appointed eight to nine months in advance so that

Worker beaten to death

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people tried to make him stand up. But Hridoy was unable to stand up properly.

Following the incident, hundreds of outraged workers protested by blocking the highway for several hours. Law enforcement later intervened to restore order. The factory has since been shut down indefinitely.

Contacted Md Salah Uddin, officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station, said the incident came to light as the factory authorities tried to cover up the incident.

“We first got information that a thief got injured by falling while trying to intrude into the factory by leaping over the wall, and he was sent to hospital.

Later, we came to know from the hospital that the man was brought dead to the hospital.

“Later, we heard the details from locals. Then, we collected CCTV footage and other evidence. At one stage, we confirmed that it was a killing.”

“We have arrested a suspect. A district court sent him to jail,” he added.

Authorities at Greenland Limited could not be contacted over the phone.

Contacted, Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the matter warrants a proper investigation to unearth the truth.

said Hridoy was tortured to death by security guards after being accused of theft.

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11 more banks to face asset quality review

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Hussain Khan confirmed the matter to The Daily Star, but he did not disclose the names of the banks.

Central bank officials, seeking anonymity, said the eleven banks are Islami Bank Bangladesh, Al-Arafah Islami Bank, National Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, United Commercial Bank, IFIC Bank, AB Bank, Premier Bank, NRB Commercial Bank, NRB Bank, and Meghna Bank.

The banking sector reform task force made the decision to conduct the review at a meeting yesterday at the central bank headquarters.

The World Bank will provide support for the review.

The newly formed Bank Restructuring & Resolution Unit is now working on this issue.

To ensure a proper audit, Bangladesh Bank has assigned a dedicated official as a focal point for each bank, BB officials said, adding that each audit firm will also have a designated official responsible for the task.

Central bank officials said that the issues to be included in the AQR process have been specified. These include financial policies, asset risk and valuation, internal control policies, loan classification, and rescheduled loans, they added.

In addition, the policies related to single borrowers and large loan limits, major defaulting borrowers, and the assessment of accounting policies and internal control systems of banks to reduce other credit risks will be reviewed. Liquidity and investment policies will also be evaluated in line with existing regulations.

When contacted, Omar Faruk Khan, Managing Director (current charge) of Islami Bank Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that it sent a representative when the central bank called the bank regarding the issue

ICT-2 accepts the charges

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police station officer-in-charge Rabiul Islam, the university’s police outpost in charge and sub-inspector (SI) Bibhuti Bhushan Roy, assistant SI of police Amir Hossain, constable Sujon Chandra Roy, and Chhatra League leader Imran Chowdhury Akash and pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad Sarwar Hossain Chandan, are among the accused.

Those accused include eight police officers, four BRU faculty members, university staff, a physician, and activists of the ruling Awami League and its affiliates.

Among the 30 people charged, four – Shariful, Amir, Sujon, and Imran Akash – are currently in jail custody.

The tribunal, led by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, issued arrest warrants for the 26 absconding accused and ordered the police chief to produce them on July 10. The court also asked jail authorities to present the four in their custody on that date.

While pressing the charges, Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam said the former VC, proctor, RMP commissioner and his deputy bear the command responsibility and used their authority to coordinate the attack that killed Abu Sayed and injured four others.

He said they jointly issued directives to their subordinates, including ASI Amir and constable Sujon, to carry out the shooting and later altered forensic reports to obscure the truth.

He said the other accused, from their respective positions, actively took part or assisted in this killing, attack, and torture. They also compelled or facilitated the alteration of the inquest and post-mortem report of Sayed.

Describing the crimes during the uprising as both widespread and systematic, Tajul told the court that the use of lethal force against protesters had been ordered from the highest level of the then government.

“The instruction came directly from Sheikh

Hasina to suppress the anti-discrimination movement and was relayed through the home minister, the inspector general of police, and subsequently to field-level commanders,” he told the tribunal.

Tajul also read out selected portions of the 109-page formal charge.

“The way students and the masses took to the streets during the July uprising was unparalleled in the political history of this country. The brutality inflicted upon them constitutes crimes against humanity, committed across all 56,000 square miles of the nation,” he told the court.

He then presented the historical background of the mass uprising outlined in the formal charges, mentioning the formation of the Rakkhi Bahini after the Liberation War, the 1972 election and the introduction of one-party rule, which contradicted democratic norms and disrupted the country’s democratic journey.

He also referred to consistent electoral irregularities from 2008 to 2024, where opposition political forces were repressed through a joint mechanism of state and party administration.

Tajul also pointed to the destruction of the state institutions, politicisation of the executive and judiciary, and the undermining of constitutional institutions’ neutrality. He further cited widespread corruption under the guise of development projects, the Shapla Chattar massacre, and the BDR carnage.

He told the court, “These incidents are not isolated—the crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 uprising are a continuation of this pattern of criminal conduct.”

The prosecution also submitted witness statements, 13 videos, two audios, and other supporting documents to the tribunal supporting the charges brought against the accused.

In the formal charge, 46 persons have been made witnesses.