



Jaya Ahsan's 'Putulnacher Itikatha' to release on August 1

Jaya Ahsan starrer *Putulnacher Itikatha* (*The Puppet's Tale*) is set for theatrical release on August 1. Directed by Suman Mukhopadhyay, the film also stars Abir Chatterjee and Parambrata Chatterjee. Based on Manik Bandopadhyay's iconic novel, the story has been slightly shifted to the late 1930s-40s for modern relevance.

The long-delayed project, first conceptualised in 2008, had its world premiere at the Rotterdam Film Festival earlier this year. Suman Mukhopadhyay was inspired by his father's stage adaptation and revived the film in 2022 after a 14-year gap.

Meanwhile, Jaya is busy promoting *Taandob* and *Utshob* and will next be seen in *Dear Maa* on July 18 and *Ajo Ardhagini* later this year.



Afran Nisho and Redoan Rony unite for the survival drama 'Domm'

Afran Nisho and director Redoan Rony are collaborating for the first time on the upcoming film *Domm*, slated for release during Eid-ul-Fitr 2026.

Inspired by true events, the film explores the rise of an ordinary man, with both Nisho and Rony praising its emotional depth and performance-driven nature.

Nisho describes *Domm* as a survival-inspired story with a larger canvas than his previous works, emphasising its acting challenges as a key motivator.

The project also stars Chanchal Chowdhury, whose involvement was confirmed by Rony in December 2023.

Domm, produced by SVF Alpha-i Entertainment and Chorki, promises to be a gripping, story-centric film that blends emotional storytelling with powerful performances.



BTS' V tops global music influencer list on Instagram

BTS member V, also known as Kim Taehyung, has been ranked the world's most influential music figure on Instagram, surpassing international stars such as Selena Gomez and Billie Eilish. The 2025 rankings were published by data analytics platform HypeAuditor.

Despite being inactive on social media for several months due to his military service and Blackpink's Lisa also listed in the which concluded last month, V Top 5.



secured the top position with over 68 million followers and an impressive engagement rate of 20.6 percent.

He currently ranks third overall among all Instagram influencers, trailing only Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

V is now the most influential Asian celebrity on the platform, with fellow K-pop stars Jimin and Blackpink's Lisa also listed in the

SCARLETT JOHANSSON becomes highest-grossing actor of all time

Scarlett Johansson has officially become the top-grossing lead actor at the global box office, with total earnings reaching \$14.8 billion, according to The Wrap.

This milestone follows the success of her latest film, *Jurassic World Rebirth*, which earned \$318 million globally in just six days. Johansson plays Zora Bennett, taking over the franchise from Chris Pratt.

Much of her box office success stems from her role as Natasha Romanoff in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), with over \$8.7 billion from films like *Avengers: Endgame* and *Infinity War*.

At 40, the actress surpasses Samuel L Jackson and Robert Downey Jr, achieving this feat with only 36 lead roles—demonstrating her strong bankability and global appeal.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Ali Mehedi: Made in Bangladesh'

Bangladeshi-born stand-up comedian Ali Mehedi, who codes by day and cracks up crowds by night, is set to present his laugh-out-loud stories this Friday.

He has performed at the New York Comedy Festival, Halifax Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and made his TV debut on CBC Canada in 2024.

Ali will take the stage delivering sharp, heartfelt comedy about culture clashes, family drama, and life between borders. Tickets for this open-to-all event are priced at Tk 500.

DATE: FRIDAY | JULY 11
TIME: 7:30PM ONWARDS
VENUE: NAVEED'S COMEDY CLUB



Jon M Chu to helm live-action 'Hot Wheels' film

Following the success of *Wicked: Part One*, director Jon M Chu is set to helm a live-action *Hot Wheels* movie for Warner Bros and Mattel. Based on the iconic toy line, the film will feature some of the "hottest and sleekest vehicles," though plot details remain undisclosed.

The script will be written by *Creed II* writers Juel Taylor and Tony Rettenmaier, with production by JJ Abrams' company Bad Robot and Chu's Electric Somewhere. Chu described the film as a chance to honour *Hot Wheels*' legacy while exploring bold new directions.

This project follows the success of *Barbie* and joins Mattel's lineup of toy-based adaptations. Chu is also working on projects including *Play Doh, Oh, the Places You'll Go*, and more.

NEWS

Next polls key to rebuild trust in police

FROM PAGE 12

Calling on journalists to ensure that "headlines" do not dilute the core message, he said: "Please be mindful while presenting news. I have seen many times that even if the report is positive, the headline or scroll carries a negative message. This confuses and disheartens the public. Please use captions that help people grasp the positive message."

Asked about the date of the next election, Nasir said it has not been finalised yet. All details, including the polling day, will be announced at least two months prior to the election.

Foreign observers who had termed

the past three national elections "credible" will not be allowed to observe the upcoming parliamentary election.

"Why should we accept observers who certified the last three elections as 'very good' and 'acceptable'?"

Meanwhile, a three-member delegation from Canada met the CEC. After the meeting, the CEC said that the Election Commission has contacted the European Union regarding the deployment of foreign observers for the election.

The EU has been requested to send observers from all 28 member states in a coordinated manner.

However, the CEC made it clear that biased observers will not be allowed under any circumstances.

"We will review them carefully. We will accept those who are experienced, defensible, reliable and have observed elections in various countries. Under no circumstances will we approve those who certified the last three elections."

Election commissioners Abdur Rahmehan Masud, Tahmidah Ahmad, Md Anwarul Islam Sarker and Abdul Fazal Md Sanaullah were present at the event.

RFED General Secretary Golam Rabbani moderated the event, which was presided over by its President Kazi Jebel.

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"Until we achieve a new constitution and meaningful reforms, I call upon you to join this movement. Together, we will build an egalitarian and democratic Bangladesh."

NCP Chief Organiser (North) Sarjis Alam, Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary, Joint Convener Nasrat Tabassum, and Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara, took part in the rally.

During her speech, NCP Senior Joint Member Secretary Nahida Sarwar held a handful of soil from Abrar's grave in her right hand and said, "Dear people of Kushtia, this is soil from the grave of Shaheed Abrar Fahad -- the soil of Bangladesh. We must build this country as the Bangladesh of our martyr, Abrar. With this soil as our oath, we will build a new Bangladesh, Insha'Allah."

After concluding the rally, the central leaders departed for Meherpur at around 3:30pm.

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