

## Star Cineplex to screen 'Superman' and 'Karate Kid: Legends' with global rollout



A double treat awaits Bangladeshi moviegoers this weekend as James Gunn's *Superman* and *Karate Kid: Legends*, starring Jackie Chan, will premiere at Star Cineplex on July 11 (Friday).

*Superman* is releasing on the same day as its international release. It introduces a new DC Universe on the big screen with David Corenswet in the titular role. Beyond action, the film explores themes like immigration, morality, and politics. Director Gunn described it as "the story of an immigrant finding his place in the world."

Meanwhile, *Karate Kid: Legends* sees Jackie Chan return as Mr Han, mentoring a new student, Li, who moves from Beijing to New York. The film, a spiritual successor to the 2010 reboot and *Cobra Kai*, also features Ralph Macchio reprising his iconic role as Daniel LaRusso. Together, they face off against Kim Tae Sang, a martial arts master seeking to corporatise the discipline.

Star Cineplex has confirmed screenings at all its branches, offering Bangladeshi audiences a chance to enjoy both blockbusters alongside the rest of the world.

## 'Aesthete' invites viewers into a vivid dialogue of art and identity

**Aesthete**, a group exhibition at Alliance Française de Dhaka's La Galerie, features 33 paintings and sculptures by 28 Bangladeshi artists. Open to the public until July 15, the exhibition runs Mondays to Saturdays, from 3pm to 9pm.

Inaugurated by Professor Emeritus Rafiqun Nabi, with Raquib Mohammad Fakhrul and Ranjit Das in attendance, the show presents diverse artistic voices through various media and styles—from abstraction to social realism.

Themes range from natural beauty and folklore to political unrest and personal identity. With works by artists such as Abdullah Al Bashir, Lutfa Mahmuda, and Bishwajit Goswami, *Aesthete* invites viewers to observe, reflect, and engage with layered narratives.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AFD



## 'Bachelor Point' Season 5 to stream free on YouTube

The fifth season of the popular Bangladeshi series *Bachelor Point*, directed and produced by Kajal Arefin Ome, will stream for free on Boom Films' YouTube channel starting today.

New episodes will air every Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm, featuring fan-favourite characters like Kabil, Pasha, Habu, and Shimul.

Initially launched on the Bongo OTT platform, the series is now headed to YouTube due to strong viewer demand. "Boom Films gained over 600,000 subscribers just from promos," said Ome. The show will also air on Channel i at 7:50pm, with reruns at 3:40am and 11:30am.

Each 20-minute episode stars Marzuk Russell, Ziaul Hoque Polash, Chashi Alam, Shimul Sharma, Lamia Lam, Abdullah Rana, and Monira Mithu.



## NEWS

### Helicopter deal with Russia stalls

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company by the US Department of the Treasury.

In a letter dated January 19 this year, Md Jasim Uddin, deputy secretary of the Public Security Division, instructed the inspector general of police to halt all processes involving the justification certificate required for importing the aircraft.

The move was taken "to avoid any future complications in procuring helicopters from a sanctioned entity," the letter stated.

According to ministry sources, Tk 299.68 crore has already been paid in two installments—Tk 214.06 crore in the first and Tk 85.62 crore in the second.

The remaining amount remains deposited with the bank.

According to police sources, four officers were sent to the Army Aviation School in July 2021 to undergo basic aviation training.

Mushfiq Haque (35th BCS), Sarwar Hossain (35th BCS), Fatema Tuz Zohra (36th BCS), and Abul Hossain (37th BCS) completed their solo flight training by March 16, 2022.

Additionally, several sub-inspectors and constables received helicopter maintenance training through the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Air Wing.

A full aviation wing was established under the police to support rescue

missions, emergency response, and aerial surveillance—particularly in remote or disaster-prone areas.

An assistant inspector general was also given charge of the wing.

Without the aircraft, the wing remains inactive and faces the risk of becoming obsolete, while concerns have also arisen over potential skill loss among trained officers.

"These two helicopters have now become a thorn in the police's side. The aviation wing, launched five years ago with high hopes, is now sitting idle," said a senior official.

Confirming the development, SM Humayun Kabir Sarker, joint secretary (Police 2 Branch), Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, told The Daily Star, "We have withheld the delivery of the helicopters until further notice due to sanctions by the US Department of the Treasury."

Asked about a possible resolution, Humayun Kabir said, "The sanctions were imposed due to military concerns. As a developing country, we are now trying to make it clear that these helicopters were entirely meant for civil purposes."

"There is a provision for a waiver under the terms of the sanction, and we are now working to secure that waiver as part of our next course of action," he added.

According to JSC Russian

Helicopters' website, the Mi-171A2 is a next-generation multirole helicopter that builds on the legacy of the Mi 8/17 series, offering enhanced reliability, safety, and performance.

Developed in collaboration with operators, it features powerful propulsion, upgraded rotor and gear systems, a modern fuselage, advanced avionics, and a glass cockpit.

The Mi-171A2 is versatile, cost-effective, and capable of handling a wide range of missions in diverse conditions, while ensuring high levels of comfort and operational efficiency.

The aviation wing was expected to play a crucial role in disaster response, emergency rescues, and law enforcement surveillance operations across the country.

Police officials say the wing would also enhance rapid deployment capabilities during search and rescue missions, natural calamities, or incidents of public security.

Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general (media) of the Police Headquarters, told The Daily Star, "Police officers have already received pilot training, and maintenance staff are prepared."

Regarding the officers' idleness, he said, "In the absence of an aviation wing at the PHQ, the four pilots and a maintenance engineer are now posted in Rab's air wing and receiving training as part of continuous skill development."

### Relentless rain

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regions of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

A bulletin by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) mentions heavy rainfall in several places in neighbouring Indian states, including Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and West Bengal.

Contacted, FFWC Executive Engineer Sarder Uday Raihan said, "The water level in the Haldia river is expected to cross the danger marks on Thursday. Due to continuous rains, water levels in all major rivers have been increasing. However, chances of a large scale flooding are low at the moment."

He further said the flood situation in Feni might begin improving from Friday.

Sources at the Feni district administration said Aman seedbeds and vegetable fields have been submerged, and fish from enclosures have been washed away in the flooded villages.

Abul Hashem, a resident of Paschim Alka village in Parshuram, said, "We still haven't recovered from the extensive damage caused by last year's flood. And now, we're facing another flood. Fish from the pond in front of my house have been washed away, the seedbed is submerged, and water has entered our home. Our houses are on the verge of going under."

"We are on the brink of losing everything. We want a permanent solution."

FFWC Deputy Commissioner Saiful Islam earlier told this newspaper that around 12,000 people have been marooned in parts of Fulgazi and Parshuram. Of them, 347 people from 115 families have taken shelter in various relief centres.

#### PORT CITY WATERLOGGED

In Chattogram, many low-lying areas of the city went under knee-to-waist-deep water amid heavy rains. Areas

like Chawkbari, Bakalia, Agrabad, Halishahar, GEC Intersection, Kapasgola, Shukalabbar, Chandaon, and Katalganj are among the worst affected.

Abdur Rahman, a meteorologist at the Patenga office of BMD, said the city recorded 160 millimetres of rainfall in the 24 hours leading up to 3:00pm yesterday.

Similarly, heavy rainfall has been recorded in Bardarban, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati, causing waterlogging in the low-lying areas in those districts.

Some 6,558 families live in risky areas on the slopes of 26 hills, said the Chattogram district administration, adding that they were asked to leave their homes for safety because of the rain, but many did not listen.

#### HIGHEST RAINFALL

Patuakhali is the worst affected in the Barishal division, as 275 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the district in the last 24 hours ending at 9:00pm on Tuesday—the highest single day rainfall ever recorded in the district's history, said Md Rahat Hossain, a local weather observer.

Continuous downpours have left large parts of the Patuakhali municipality waterlogged. Many roads remain submerged, severely disrupting daily activities, particularly in low-lying neighbourhoods.

"My fish enclosure and pond have been submerged. Many of the fish have washed away. I've suffered a huge loss," said Rahim Sildar, a resident of the Bara Bighai area in Sadar upazila.

In Barishal and Bholai, many low-lying areas in the city have been submerged under two to three feet of water.

Educational institutions, including Government BM College and several girls' high schools, have witnessed flooding on their premises.

### Ctg open drain

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past six years, especially during the rainy season.

Two such deaths occurred in 2020, five in 2021, three in 2023, three in 2024, and one so far this year.

According to neighbours, the child's mother works in the garment sector, while her father is employed by a cable company.

### AL should be punished

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political party to put the country on the right track.

"The sooner it can be placed on this track, the better."

Fakhrul urged those who believe polls are unnecessary to reconsider their viewpoint.

"Polls are necessary for the people. We need an elected government, one that has a connection with the people. That's why we are taking part in the reforms. We were the ones who demanded each of these reforms. So, there is no contradiction between reforms and elections... the two will proceed together."

### New austerity measures

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agencies can acquire land based on clearance from the finance division provided they complete all procedures.

As per the latest circular, all types of block allocation expenditure under the operating budget will remain closed.

However, the ministries and divisions will be allowed to spend block allocations under the development budget based on approval from the finance ministry.

Participation in foreign seminars, symposiums and workshops of all kinds under the government budget will remain suspended.

However, limited travel abroad is permitted for essential purposes with the approval of the appropriate authorities in some cases.

For example, under both operational and development budgets, all institutions and universities are allowed to travel abroad to study postgraduate and PhD courses under the scholarships provided by foreign countries and development partners.

## 'Dune: Part Three' announced, to be partially shot in Imax

Denis Villeneuve's next instalment in the *Dune* saga is officially titled *Dune: Part Three* and will partially be filmed using Imax cameras.

The film adapts Frank Herbert's *Dune Messiah*, following Paul Atreides as emperor. While Imax CEO Richard Gelfond previously suggested it would be filmed entirely in Imax, this was later clarified as a misstatement.

Villeneuve, who considers the first two films a diptych, says the third will have its own distinct identity. Production begins soon, with Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, and Jason Momoa returning.

A December 2026 release is expected. The film precedes Villeneuve's involvement in Amazon MGM Studios' *James Bond* reboot. Imax has seen strong demand, with recent blockbusters earning over 20% of box office revenue from its screens.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## 'Laalchey Bikel Belay'

Post Office Society, the eclectic band formed in 2006, will host their first ever solo show, *Laalchey Bikel Belay*, at Jatra Biroti. Known for their rare appearances and unreleased originals, the band will perform 16-17 of their own songs—offering audiences a long-awaited glimpse into their rich, under-the-radar musical archive.

Date: Friday | July 11

Time: 6:30-9:30pm

Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani



## Over 1,900 forced into Bangladesh

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Khangchhari (160), Lalmonirhat (128), Satkira (110), Panchagarh (99), Kurigram (91), Thakurgaon (69), Feni (67), Sunamganj (53), Jhenaidah (52), Meherpur (50), Chapainawabganj (45), Dinajpur and Habiganj (43 each), Netrokona (32), Mymensingh (31), Cumilla (13), Kushtia (nine), Brahmanbaria (seven), and Naogaon (one).

A Bangladeshi foreign ministry official said Dhaka has formally raised the issue with New Delhi multiple times, calling for an end to the push-ins. "We've asked India to follow proper procedures, but have yet to receive a response. Meanwhile, the push-ins continue," he told The Daily Star.

In early May, the foreign ministry sent a letter to India's external affairs ministry, urging compliance with the established repatriation mechanisms. The ministry warned that illegal push-ins could undermine border security and fuel anti-India sentiment.

"These Rohingyas even had UNHCR cards issued in India. Now they're ending up here, and we are being forced to take responsibility," he said, adding, "I don't understand why Rohingyas with Indian UNHCR cards aren't being sheltered in Indian camps."

According to the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) and the BGB, over 200 Rohingyas have been pushed into Indian camps. "A full aviation wing was established under the police to support rescue

and India's Border Security Force.

He added that Indian authorities often claim those being pushed in are undocumented Bangladeshi, and Bangladesh must verify those claims. "And any Rohingya found in Indian territory should be repatriated to Myanmar, not sent here [Bangladesh]."

Indian human rights activist Kirity Roy told The Daily Star, "India has legal mechanisms. Article 21 of our Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. And the Foreigners Act outlines procedures for dealing with undocumented individuals. If someone is here illegally, there must be a legal process for repatriation. What's happening now is a blatant violation of human rights. We have protested and alerted both the National Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court."

Another official, requesting anonymity, said the push-ins violate existing bilateral frameworks, including the 1975 India-Bangladesh Joint Guidelines for border authorities, the 2011 Coordinated Border Management Plan, and agreements made during director general-level talks between BGB and

over a thousand people and injured over 10,000. "Some of my brothers have lost eyes, others have lost legs. According to a BBC report, Sheikh Hasina herself ordered the shootings. Hasina and the Awami League are responsible for this massacre."

NCP leaders began the march in Chuadanga from Hatboalia Bazar in Almudanga upazila. When they reached Hatboalia from Meherpur's Gangni at 1:00pm, students from various educational institutions welcomed them.

NCP Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, its Chief Organiser (south) Nasrat Abdullah, Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam and Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Zara were present.