



HBO Max greenlights 'THE BIG BANG THEORY' SPINOFF 'STUART FAILS TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE'

HBO Max has greenlit a new comedy series titled *Stuart Fails to Save the Universe*, a spinoff of the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. Developed by Chuck Lorre, Zak Penn, and Bill Prady, the show stars Kevin Sussman as Stuart Bloom.

Joined by his girlfriend Denise (Lauren Lapkus), geologist Bert (Brian Posehn), and physicist Barry Kripke (John Ross Bowie), Stuart embarks on a mission to fix reality.

The series marks the fourth installment in *The Big Bang Theory* franchise, following *Young Sheldon* and *Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage*, and is produced by Chuck Lorre Productions and Warner Bros Television.

'MAINSTREAM' XEFER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The ever-rebellious Xefer was the talk of the town once again this Eid, with *Lichur Bagane* being hummed in tea-stalls and blasted in parties. She also lent her voice in *Dhamaka* in Tasnia Farin and Sariful Razz starrer *Insaaif*.

"Times have changed, and I feel like this journey of making my own brand and taking risks has culminated in this perceived success," says Xefer, over the phone. The singer had quite the career trajectory, from her album *Uncaged* to her first smash hit *Jhunka*, to now being featured in multiple festive hits after last Eid's *Niye Jaabe Ki*. "I thought a lot about my music and what I wanted to do during Covid", she reflects. "I believe that everything I did afterward led me to where I am today. I've stopped taking on lowball offers, attended music camps in the USA and collaborated with some of the best in the industry."

While it was unthinkable for an artiste who was thought to be 'niche' and a 'cover artiste' to become this popular, Xefer has certainly defied all odds to become a mainstay in the industry.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?



'Equanimity Sessions S03E01'

Equanimity Sessions (S03E01), a workshop on filmmaking for aspiring storytellers, is being held on July 14 at Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan. Acclaimed filmmaker and Chorki CEO Redoan Rony will lead the session, sharing his creative journey, practical filmmaking tools, and insights on OTT-era storytelling.

The entry fee for the event is Tk 300. Registration is required, and seats are limited—available on a first-come, first-served basis. For further details, visit **Equanimity Sessions** on Facebook or call +8801643574435.

Date: Monday | July 14

Time: 6:30pm onwards

Venue: Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan

Nepali film 'Missing' set for nationwide release in Bangladesh



The critically acclaimed Nepali film *Missing: Keti Harayeko Suchana* is set for a nationwide release in Bangladesh on July 18, 2025, under the SAFTA agreement.

Imported by Show Motion Limited in exchange for the Bangladeshi film *No Dorai*, the film will screen at all

Star Cineplex branches. Directed by Dipendra Gauchan, the film stars Srishti Shrestha and Najir Husen in a cross-cultural love story that begins with a dark twist—a drugging and abduction—and unfolds across Nepal's Madhesh region.

Praised for its depiction of folk traditions and scenic landscapes, the film explores love beyond ethnic boundaries. Star Cineplex's Mesbah Uddin Ahmed confirmed that screenings will take place in Dhaka and nationwide.

Ed Sheeran unveils debut painting collection in London



British pop star Ed Sheeran has debuted his first art exhibition, *Cosmic Carpark Paintings*, at the Heni art gallery in London, running from July 11 to August 1.

The collection features colourful, Jackson Pollock-inspired abstract works, some of which will be available for purchase, with part of the proceeds supporting the *Ed Sheeran Foundation*'s music education initiatives.

Sheeran, known for chart-topping hits like *Shape of You* and *Perfect*, began painting in 2019 after his *Divide* tour. He shared behind-the-scenes footage of his creative process, crediting Damien Hirst for encouraging the show. The works were created in a disused car park and inspired by celestial themes.

NEWS

'Help find my missing mother'

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Foreigner Tribunal case (FT Case No/ Jo/13):

"After she was taken into custody, we came to know through social media that my mother had been pushed into Bangladesh. Later, we also heard she had returned to India from Bangladesh, but since then, we have received no further information," reads the letter.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Subhan said, "We are Indian nationals. The names of my grandfather, father, and mother are all listed in past voter lists. We have all the necessary documents to prove our citizenship."

Asked for possible reasons why his mother could be taken, he said that his family had an ongoing land dispute in Lankajan Darjisit of Nandapur Chariali, Hojai.

"Our rivals filed a case in 2011 with the local police station claiming we were Bangladeshi nationals. My mother was arrested in 2013 and jailed, but later the Supreme Court ruled in our favour and confirmed our Indian nationality. My mother was released afterwards."

According to Subhan, his mother was recently summoned by the superintendent of police to provide testimony and was then pushed into Bangladesh along with 65 others.

"After hearing the news, we went to the local BSF camp and submitted all documents proving our citizenship. BSF then held a meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and brought back

some individuals. But I have not been able to trace my mother since."

"I just want my mother back home, nothing else."

Meanwhile, BGB declined to comment on the specific incident.

However, BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui acknowledged that push-ins or pushbacks by BSF were happening regularly, including in some cases involving Indian nationals and Rohingyas.

"We've repeatedly asked the BSF for proper, legal handovers. But pushbacks are continuing. We have protested these incidents strongly," he told reporters after an event in Chattogram yesterday.

The BGB chief's remarks come amid mounting reports of Indian authorities pushing individuals, including Rohingyas and alleged undocumented migrants, into Bangladeshi territory, bypassing standard repatriation protocols.

According to government data, Indian authorities have forcibly pushed back over 1,900 people across the border into Bangladesh since May 7. Among them, over 200 were Rohingya refugees.

Asked about BGB's response, he said, "We asked for a systematic repatriation process. If a Bangladeshi has illegally entered India, we're willing to repatriate them through coordination meetings

with the BSF. In some cases, BSF follows this process and hands them over officially. But in many instances, they don't—and pushbacks continue."

He noted that the BGB has formally raised the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has also communicated concerns to India via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian High Commission.

On a separate note, the BGB chief mentioned a manpower shortage in the force.

"We currently have around 57,000 personnel to cover a border stretching 4,427 km, much of it through difficult terrain. We need more manpower. The process to increase it is ongoing."

He said a new battalion was recently established in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, and more are being planned in other locations.

"We're also expanding border outposts (BOPs), and the current government has promised to recruit around 5,000 new personnel. We hope to complete their recruitment and training soon."

The DG said that just a day before, BGB held a meeting with the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to discuss these issues.

"It was a detailed discussion—not just about BGB, but also about addressing manpower shortages across other law enforcement agencies. Increasing manpower is a time-consuming and costly process, but it is in progress."

EC wants power

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On costs, Sanauullah said a single postal ballot would cost Tk 700 via public post and up to Tk 5,000 using private couriers.

To oversee and expedite election preparations, the EC has formed five coordination and oversight committees, each headed by an election commissioner.

These seven member teams will oversee law and order, field administration, polling official training, electoral laws and inquiries, expatriate voting, and coordination with both local and international observers.

This move comes a day after Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus directed the EC to complete all election preparations by December.

On delimitation, the EC said its technical committee is reviewing constituency boundaries.

"The delimitation process is at its final stage. There have been no objections in 221 constituencies. We hope to publish the full draft next week," said Sanauullah.

The issue of amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) was discussed and will be revisited in future meetings.

The EC also reviewed a proposal for the EC Secretariat Act, suggesting a new "Election Commission Service"

structure for recruiting officials like the EC secretary.

Until then, the commission will continue operating under the current system.

In terms of voter list updates, 4,406,602 new voters have been identified, while 2,132,590 deceased voters have been removed. A supplementary voter list will be released next week.

On the topic of unused EVMs, the EC has formed a committee to determine what action should be taken.

"EVMs will not be used in any upcoming election," Sanauullah reaffirmed.

Regarding a recent meeting with the National Consensus Commission, he said, "We had detailed discussions. It lasted two hours. We are on the same page."

Asked whether separate polling centres will be set up for young voters, he replied, "If there's a proposal aimed at motivating young voters who have become disinterested in voting, we will definitely consider it."

As for NID corrections, Sanauullah noted that when the current commission took over, 374,000 correction applications were pending.

"Over the past seven months, we have resolved 900,000 applications. Currently, 74,000 are pending."

Parties agree

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use and misuse of articles 141A, 141B and 141C of the constitution.

Article 141A empowers the president to declare a state of emergency if the nation's security or economy is threatened by war, external aggression or internal disturbance.

Article 141B allows laws or executive actions that override certain fundamental rights, including freedoms of movement, assembly, association, speech, profession and property, during emergencies.

Article 141C allows the president to suspend enforcement of these rights and halt related court proceedings while an emergency is in effect.

All parties agreed to remove "internal disturbance" as a valid ground from article 141A. They proposed that only constitutional crises, pandemics, natural disasters, foreign invasion or threats to sovereignty be deemed acceptable.

Sanauullah stressed that emergency declarations should require full cabinet approval, not just the prime minister's. The BNP also demanded that certain rights, particularly the right to life and protection from torture, remain intact during emergencies, unless someone is being prosecuted under article 47(3) for war crimes or genocide.

NCP's Akhtar Hossain warned that vague terms like "internal disturbance" have been used to suppress dissent in the past.

"Currently, the president can declare an emergency with the prime minister's countersignature. We propose that this require prior cabinet approval, or preferably approval from an all-party parliamentary committee or the full parliament."

Jamaat's Azad agreed: "Article 141A should be amended. Emergency powers must never become political weapons. We have also proposed ensuring citizens retain access to legal recourse during emergencies."

He suggested that the next parliament form a cross-party committee in its first session to review and recommend emergency declarations. "It should include ruling and opposition members to ensure balanced decision making."

Sanauullah reiterated the need to curb political misuse of emergency powers. "There was broad agreement to reform articles 141B and 141C for this reason."

Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the Consensus Commission, expressed optimism about the progress made in the discussion yesterday. "We hope to reach consensus on the remaining critical issues in upcoming sessions."

18 judges forced

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Most of the forced retired judges were serving as special judges in various districts and different tribunals.

Of them, Bikash Kumar Saha, district and sessions judge, Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman, district and sessions judge, Md Nurul Islam, additional district and sessions judge, and Mohammad Hossain, joint district and sessions judge, are currently attached to the Law and Justice Division in Dhaka.

The other judges are Sheikh Mofizur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Rajbari; Md Mahbubur Rahman Sarkar (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1, Kishoreganj; Sheikh Golam Mahbub (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Kushtia; Md Mojibur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1, Gaibandha; Md Ehsanul Haque (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Bhola; Md Jewel Rana, (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Jorpur; Md Jonoraputra Bighnokari Oporad Domon Tribunal (Public Safety Disrupting Crimes Prevention Tribunal), Khulna; Md Monir Kamal (district and sessions judge), Cyber Tribunal, Sylhet; Shahidul Islam, special judge (district and sessions judge), Patuakhali; Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir, special judge (district and sessions judge), Dinajpur; Md Nazimuddoula, district and sessions judge, Thakurgaon; Fazle Elahi Bhuiyan (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 3, Habiganj; Md Rustum Ali, member (district and sessions judge), Administrative Tribunal, Barisal; and AKM Enamul Karim, additional district and sessions judge, Patuakhali.

Publish July Charter

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said, "Our fight is for a discrimination-free, democratic, extortion and corruption-free Bangladesh. That fight is not over yet. We are here to deliver that message."

The NCP leader also said the party would expand its organisational activities in Magura, urging the people there to raise their voices against corruption and extortion.

"Ten people from Magura were martyred in the July mass uprising," said Nahid.

"We all have to uphold the honour of their blood. We must remember they gave their lives for a new Bangladesh, to rebuild the country. That is why we are on the streets," he said.

Swelling Teesta threatens

FROM PAGE 12 meteorological office in Feni recorded 61.1 millimetres of rainfall.

Around 50,000 people in parts of Fulgazi, Parshuram, Feni Sadar and Chhagalnaiya upazilas had become waterlogged, said Feni Deputy Commissioner Md Saiful Islam. Among them, 8,133 people from 2,255 families had taken refuge in 70 shelter centres.

Abul Kasem, a resident of Paschim Alka village in Parshuram, said they are yet to recover from the extensive damage caused by the June 24 flood and they have been hit again.

Different areas of Noakhali and Laxmipur towns have been waterlogged due to heavy rain in the last four days.

At least 300 families have so far been shifted to flood shelters in different upazilas across the district, said Noakhali's Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khondaker Ishhtaque Ahmed.

In the Barishal division, the water

level of several rivers crossed the danger level yesterday afternoon.

The water level of the Bishkhali river at Pathaghatia point was flowing 3cm above the danger level, the Meghna river 42 cm above the danger level at Tazumuddin and the Baleswar river 9cm above the danger level at Pirojpur point as of 3:00 pm yesterday, said Tajul Islam, deputy assistant engineer of Water Development Board, Barishal.

In Barishal, after two consecutive days of heavy rain, the intensity has slightly decreased. Since Thursday morning, light drizzle has been reported across the city. According to the Met Office, 27 millimetres of rainfall were recorded in the 24 hours to noon.

Torrential rainfall caused waterlogging in most parts of Pirojpur town, including Bottola, Amanatganj and Rupatali.

Biola has experienced the highest rainfall of the current monsoon season, recording a total of 380 millimetres over the past six days. In the last 24 hours alone, 93.3 millimet