

TROPA MAJUMDAR to direct 'Baramkhana' honouring Lalon's legacy

Theatre troupe Theatre will premiere *Baramkhana*, a new production inspired by mystic poet Lalon Shah—on July 19 at 7pm at Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mohila Samiti.

Adapted from Sunil Gangopadhyay's *Moner Manush*, the play explores Lalon's philosophy, resistance, and spiritual community.

Written by Pantha Shahriar and directed by Tropa Majumdar, it marks the group's 41st production.

The cast includes Ramendu Majumdar, Tropa Majumdar, and Tanzum Ara Palli, among others. Music direction is by Kartik, Bishwajit Bairagi, and Tanmoy Ghosh, blending Baul traditions with modern composition.

Shaiful Islam handles set and lighting, Wahida Mallika Jolly designs costumes, and Saidur Rahman Lipon directs choreography. Khurshid Alam manages the production.



Lili Reinhart to lead and produce film adaptation of 'The Love Hypothesis'



Lili Reinhart is set to star in and executive produce the film adaptation of Ali Hazelwood's bestselling novel *The Love Hypothesis*. Developed by Amazon MGM Studios and MRC, the romantic comedy follows a PhD student who fakes a relationship with a brilliant professor, challenging their views on love.

Claire Scanlon (*Set It Up*) will direct, with Sarah Rothschild writing the screenplay. Elizabeth Cantillon will produce, alongside executive producers Reinhart, Hazelwood, and Catherine Hagedorn.

The novel, published in 2021, spent nearly a year on the New York Times bestseller list and was named Amazon's Best Romance of the Year. Reinhart recently starred in *Hal & Harper* and has several upcoming projects, including *Fake Wedding* and *American Sweatshop*.



Channel i to celebrate Kabori's birth anniversary with film festival

Sarah Begum Kabori, a beloved icon of Bangladeshi cinema, graced the silver screen for decades. Her radiant smile earned her the endearing title of the industry's "Mishti Meye."

To commemorate her 75th birth anniversary this year, Channel i will host a three-day film festival from July 19 to 21. The event will showcase a selection of films featuring Kabori in her finest roles.

The lineup includes *Masud Rana* on July 19, *Bodhu Biday* on July 20, and *Biniinoy* on July 21, as confirmed by the organisers.

Channel i will also broadcast a musical special titled *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*, highlighting songs from Kabori's films throughout the three-day celebration.

James Gunn unveils first look at 'Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow'

James Gunn has unveiled the first look at *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*, the next major chapter in the DC Universe following the success of *Superman*.

Scheduled for release on June 26, 2026, the film stars Milly Alcock as Kara Zor-El, with Craig Gillespie directing. The teaser poster, shared by Gunn, features the iconic House of El symbol and swaps the "Look Up" tagline for "Look Out", hinting at a more intense tone.



Alcock's costume blends classic comic elements with a brown trench coat, nodding to the *Woman of Tomorrow* comic arc. Introduced in *Superman's* post-credit scene, her volatile nature contrasts David Corenswet's Superman, promising an unpredictable take on the Kryptonian legacy.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Sharmee and Eastwords'

Eastwords, an emerging indie band in Dhaka's music scene, will perform at Jatra Biroti, presenting a blend of original compositions and reimagined Bangla classics. The lineup features a tribute to the martyrs of July through a special musical segment including musicians from diverse backgrounds, united by a shared artistic vision.

Date: Today | July 18
Time: 7:30pm onwards
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani



Bangladeshi short 'Sole Mate' earns spot at Antares Int'l Film Festival

Bangladeshi short documentary *Sole Mate* has earned a spot in the competition segment of the Antares International Film Festival, set to take place in Moscow from August 6 to 10.

Directed by first-time filmmaker Adel Imam Anup, the four-minute film stands out with its unique concept—imaging the emotions of a pair of shoes. It features no faces, relying solely on foot movements and a voiceover by Rezwan Kabir Kallol to tell its story.

Out of 2,400 submissions, 104 films from 29 countries were selected. The screenplay was co-written by Anup and Kallol, with Sheikh Qorashni penning the script. The film had its premiere at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy during the Friendly Neighbourhood Filmmaker Fest.



NEWS

Dhaka turns to Boeing

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on August 1.

"We are trying to reduce the trade gap between Bangladesh and the US by increasing imports from America," said Rahman. He noted that his ministry has been consulting with business leaders from the crucial garment and pharmaceutical sectors, as well as trade experts, ahead of the negotiations.

Rahman declined to provide further details, citing a bilateral non-disclosure agreement.

The government also plans to include private sector representatives in the upcoming talks, a move businesses have recently advocated for. In addition to government-led purchases, private sector importers are being encouraged to source more goods, such as soybeans, from the US.

The effort to rebalance trade follows earlier proposals from Dhaka. In April, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus wrote to Trump offering to increase imports of US cotton, wheat, LNG, and soybeans. A similar offer was made by Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin to US Secretary of State Jim Mattis.

Bangladesh currently exports goods worth more than \$8 billion annually to the US, its single

Hunt for outdated vehicles from Sunday

FOR INSTANCE, in 2010, the BRTA banned buses over 20 years old and trucks over 25 years old from operating in the capital. However, many of these old vehicles shifted to inter-district highways instead.

A special committee formed by the National Road Safety Council in March 2019 recommended setting a maximum usable life for commercial vehicles to reduce road crashes and bring discipline to the transport sector.

In May 2023, the then government fixed the economic life of buses and minibuses at 20 years and trucks and covered vans at 25 years.

But following pressure from transport associations, the government backed off from its decision and put the order on hold, allowing outdated vehicles to remain on the roads.

In a stakeholder meeting on October 24 last year, the government gave a six-month deadline—until May 2024—to remove all such outdated vehicles from Dhaka.

Experts say old and unfit vehicles are a major cause of road accidents. In addition, older vehicles tend to emit more toxic gases due to incomplete fuel combustion, contributing significantly to air pollution.

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Four arrested

According to the case statement, the girl had been staying at a relative's house after attending a fair on the night of the incident. The six men allegedly broke into the house, tied up the relative, and raped her.

She did not initially tell anyone about the incident out of fear, but on July 12, she attempted to take her own life. After being hospitalised, she shared the details with her family.

A doctor at the hospital said her condition is critical.

Another Bawm prisoner dies

conducted around 7:00pm.

Earlier, another prisoner, Lal Yan Bawm, 30, an accused in one of the bank robbery cases and also a suspected operative of the KNF, died in prison custody on May 15.

ASK also demanded proper treatment for the injured, prevention of harassment of innocent people, and measures to prevent further human rights violations.

It, however, said videos circulating on social media clearly show the use of firearms and the sound of

gunshots, asking: "If the police did

not open fire, who did?"

The rights body believes that without a clear and credible explanation, such contradictions will only deepen public confusion, fear, and mistrust in the administration.

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Yunus also appreciated the

Arrest the culprits, spare the innocent

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League's student wing, Chhatra League, must be brought to trial for their role in the July atrocities.

"We are on the streets demanding justice, and we will not leave until justice is ensured."

Nahid said that the NCP has been ensuring peaceful political programmes.

"But if fascists come at us, we will not hesitate to resist. We are ready to take up sticks, even arms, if needed."

"We promise the people of Bangladesh. By August 3, we will complete the march across all districts and gather at the Shaheed Minar to declare our July Charter."

Nahid and the NCP leadership arrived at Faridpur Circuit House at 1:40pm via Khulna, Jashore, and Magura.

Heavy security was deployed in Faridpur for the rally. Besides regular police, personnel from the army, Rab, Coast Guard, and Ansar were stationed at key points.

After the rally, the group proceeded towards Rajbari.

At Rajbari, Nahid addressed a rally, saying: "We cannot counter the Awami League just by imposing a ban. This party must be confronted on legal, political, cultural, and intellectual fronts."

The rally was held in front of the Shaheed Smriti Chhatar near Gate No 1 railway crossing in the town.

The NCP rally at Rajbari town yesterday.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nahid said, "We carry their ideals and dreams of the brave children of Rajbari, who were martyred in July. We know we cannot be defeated because we know who our enemies and allies are. Our goal is to build a new Bangladesh."

Also speaking at the rally, Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (south) of NCP, slammed certain media outlets.

"Those so-called intellectuals and pseudo analysts sitting in Dhaka and the media have legitimised yesterday's attack on us in Gopalganj."

"The Awami League's cultural and media wings must also be resisted, not

just the party itself. We have repeatedly pointed out the role of Bashundhara Media. That outlet employs paid intellectuals and pseudo-liberal who justify the attacks."

"These media outlets, especially Bashundhara's, have reactivated their pens to justify the attack on us yesterday," he added.

The rallies were also addressed by Member Secretary Akther Hossen, Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, and other local leaders.

After the event, they departed for Manikganj in the evening.

Minimum age lowered to 21

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previously submitted biased or agenda-driven reports will not be granted registration."

The EC will publish a notice in daily newspapers, giving observer organisations 15 days to apply for registration.

"A notice will be issued shortly to initiate the new registration process," said Shariful Alam.

Under the new policy, the commission has decided that "Observer ID" cards will be issued three days prior to the polling day.

A new provision has been added allowing the observers to remain in the field and monitor the election for up to three days.

Representatives of local observer organisations will be allowed to observe the elections on the day before the vote, on election day itself, and the day after the vote.

Meanwhile, the EC has also written to the European Union to send observers.