

Rickshaw
Rally returns
with graffiti
tribute to
July uprising



Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) hosted a grand Rickshaw Rally yesterday, as part of the *July Revival Festival 2025*. Organised under the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, this vibrant event showcased nearly 300 rickshaws adorned with graffiti related to the 2024 July Uprising.

In a symbolic and heartfelt gesture, the rally was inaugurated by Rahima Begum, mother of July martyr Sohel. The opening ceremony was attended by Mofidur Rahman, secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, and AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Mohammad Warees Hossain, secretary and acting director general of BSA, presided over the ceremony.

Organisers described the rally not just as a cultural festivity but a symbolic act of remembrance, reclaiming public spaces with stories of resistance, dignity, and creative defiance.

STOP TAGGING AND BERATING US

SABNAM FARIA

Actress Sabnam Faria has sharply criticised Bangladesh's worsening political crisis, calling out political parties for corruption, manipulation, and treating citizens like pawns in their battle for power ahead of the upcoming national election.

In a blunt social media post that quickly went viral, Faria wrote, "Born in a country where I don't even know who to seek justice from." She accused political leaders of looting public funds, silencing dissent, and engaging in staged outrage while the public suffers.

"Leaders of one of the political parties are running off with stolen money, the younger ones mourn online with offensive hashtags and the rest are busy fighting over extortion, donations, and

exit strategies," she stated.

Faria said ordinary citizens have become mere spectators in a political circus: "We stay silent while watching this colourful farce. Speak up, and one side calls you a dollar-eating traitor, the other shouts, 'Why didn't you speak for 16 years?' Meanwhile, no country even wants to give us a visa anymore."

Her post ends with a plea: "Oh Allah, save our beloved motherland from the curse of politics."

This isn't the first time the actress has taken a stand. Known for speaking out on social issues, Faria's latest remarks strike a nerve amid growing public frustration over economic hardship, rising political instability, and a yet-to-be defined electoral system.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Baatighar to restage 'Radcliffe Line' after two-year hiatus



Baatighar Theatre's acclaimed play *Radcliffe Line* will return to the stage on August 15 at 7:15pm at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA). Written and directed by Sanjoy Sarker Muktonil, it was last performed in August 2023.

At the heart of this play are two characters—Jamal, a member of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and Hiralal, a member of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

Hiralal spots a cow near the border and chases it into a tunnel, ending up in no man's land. Meanwhile, Jamal pursues the same cow and encounters Hiralal inside.

The play explores political history, shared suffering, and border tragedies. Amid rising tensions and armed standoff, Jamal and Hiralal realise their struggles are alike despite divisions of nation and religion.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

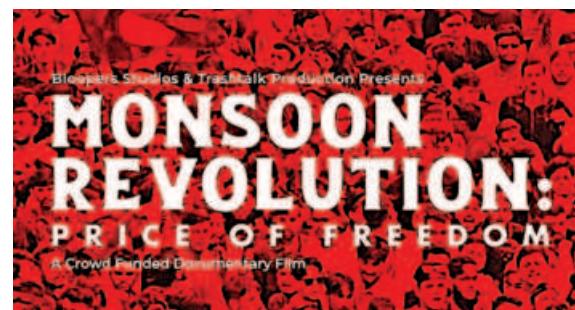
'Monsoon Revolution: Price of Freedom'

As part of the *Monsoon Revolution Spirit: July Revival* festival, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy presents the documentary *Monsoon Revolution: Price of Freedom*. The film captures the sacrifices of the masses, the brutal truths of July 2024 protests, and the silent struggles of the marginalized. The screening is open to all.

Date: Tuesday | August 5, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm onwards

Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



Dhaka's Geet and Sangeet cinemas close down again amid industry slump



Two of Dhaka's longest-standing single-screen cinema halls, Geet and Sangeet, have shuttered operations once again, citing a dramatic decline in audience turnout.

Tucked along the Dholairpar-Jurain stretch beside the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway, the twin theatres had been screening local films regularly. But with few compelling titles on offer and dwindling footfall, both cinemas went dark last Saturday.

The closure is indefinite, although authorities have left the door open for a potential reopening during next year's Eid season — contingent on stronger film offerings and a renewed interest in theatrical viewing.

Tom Holland unveils new suit for 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day'

Tom Holland has been spotted wearing a fresh Spider-Man suit for the upcoming *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, set for release on July 31, 2026.

In a video shared by Sony Pictures on social media, Holland sports a redesigned costume featuring a larger chest emblem, inspired by earlier versions worn by Tobey Maguire and

Andrew Garfield.

Brand New Day will continue the story from *No Way Home*, where Peter Parker's identity is forgotten by the world he lives in. It features returning characters like Zendaya's MJ, Jon Bernthal's Punisher, Mark Ruffalo's Hulk, and Michael Mando's Scorpion.

Destin Daniel Cretton is directing the film with a script by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers.

NEWS

US retailers lean on suppliers

FROM PAGE 12

previous 10 percent baseline tariff pushed the total to 29.5 percent. With the new 20 percent reciprocal tariff, the rate will now stand at 39.5 percent.

Ramzul Seraj, managing director of Elite Garments, said he had already been absorbing a portion of the initial baseline tariff. His buyers have not asked him to shoulder more.

However, some retailers are also adjusting prices for the end consumers to offset the higher import costs. Seraj said a higher-end woven shirt his factory sells for \$10, which previously retailed for \$65 in the US, is now being marked up to \$70. He

added that buyers may slightly increase the price they pay him to compensate.

The pressure from retailers appears to be a temporary measure for some, designed to bridge the gap until the new costs can be fully integrated into their pricing models.

Shovon Islam, managing director of Sparrow Group, said his buyers have asked him to share a portion of the additional tariff until the next summer season, ending around February 2026.

Despite the squeeze on margins, exporters are reporting a positive development: work orders, which had been pending amid uncertainty over the

final tariff rate, are now flowing back. "The buyers are taking all the pending work orders after the announcement of the new tariff rate," said Zahir.

Officially, the industry's main body has yet to register the trend.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said that no exporters had formally complained to him about the cost-sharing requests and that he was not otherwise aware of the issue. This suggests that these negotiations are happening on a direct, buyer-to-supplier basis as companies navigate the fallout from the new trade policy.

Gaza aid site

FROM PAGE 12

October 2023 attack on Israel.

United Nations agencies have said that airdrops of food are insufficient and that Israel must let in far more aid by land and open up access to the war-devastated territory where starvation has been spreading.

Meanwhile, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir yesterday visited the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem and prayed there, violating a decades-old arrangement covering one of the most sensitive sites in the Middle East.

In a separate development, Hamas has rejected reports that it expressed a willingness to disarm during Gaza ceasefire negotiations with Israel, stressing that it has a "national and legal" right to confront the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, reports Al Jazeera.

The Palestinian group responded on Saturday to recent remarks purportedly made by United States President Donald Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, during a meeting with relatives of Israeli captives held in Gaza.

Citing a recording of the talks, Israeli news outlet Haaretz reported that the US envoy told the families that Hamas said it was "prepared to be demilitarised".

But in a statement, Hamas said "the resistance and its weapons are a national and legal right as long as the [Israeli] occupation persists".

That right "cannot be relinquished until our full national rights are restored, foremost among them the establishment of a fully sovereign, independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital", it said.

Legal challenges have been filed against some of Trump's tariffs, arguing he overstepped his authority.

An appeals court panel on Thursday appeared skeptical of the government's arguments, though the case may be ultimately decided at the Supreme Court.

Trump was "elected to assess the foreign affairs situation... and take

appropriate action," he added.

Meanwhile, White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said that while talks are expected to continue over the next week with some US trade partners, he concurred with Greer's tariff assessment in that the bulk of the rates "are more or less locked in."

Asked by the host of NBC's Sunday talk show "Meet the Press with Kristen Welker" if Trump could change tariff rates, should financial markets react negatively, Hassett said: "I would rule it out, because these are the final deals."

Legal challenges have been filed against some of Trump's tariffs, arguing he overstepped his authority.

An appeals court panel on Thursday appeared skeptical of the government's arguments, though the case may be ultimately decided at the Supreme Court.

Trump was "elected to assess the foreign affairs situation... and take

Staffers at Janakantha

FROM PAGE 12

capital's New Eskaton.

Her allegation is against several individuals, including major (retd) Afizur Rahman, chief operating officer of Globe Janakantha Shilpa Paribar, and Joynal Abedin Shishir, joint convener of National Citizen Party and planning adviser for the newspaper.

Shamima in an audio message said, "For the last few days, a certain group had been creating unrest, and we sensed something was about to happen. We had planned to publish a tribute in red for the July-August martyrs, but they sabotaged it by changing it to black [in online edition] — implying a rejection of the uprising. Soon after, their actions escalated, making it clear this was part of a plot

to take over Janakantha."

Talking to BBC Bangla, both Afizur and Shishir have denied the allegation of taking over Janakantha.

Shishir said they have merely formed a board for management purposes. "This decision was taken unanimously by all working journalists."

BBC Bangla adds that Afizur, who had served for a long time at the DGFI under the AL regime, said, "There is no question of taking over the house. I do not deserve such accusations. Madam (the editor) has said many untrue things."

On Saturday night, at a gathering outside the Janakantha Bhaban, protesters announced the suspension of all activities at the newspaper. The same night, the dismissed employees

and journalist union leaders formed the new editorial board and took control of operations.

The new board includes Shishir, Mir Mohammad Jasim, adviser (online) Sabrina Binte Ahmed, deputy chief reporter Israfil Forazi, and representatives from the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists.

As of yesterday, the online version of Janakantha no longer shows the names of the editor and publisher in the printer's line. Instead, it says the paper is "Published and printed by the Editorial Board under Globe Janakantha Shilpa Paribar member institutions Globe Printers Ltd and Janakantha Ltd."

However, the print edition still names Shamima A Khan as editor.

Govt set to unveil July declaration

FROM PAGE 12

"All of Bangladesh was united along the path forged by the blood of numerous martyrs and the sacrifices of its fighters..."

"One year later, 36th July has returned. On this day, the long-awaited July Declaration is going to be announced."

A day-long event will begin at 11:00am to mark the occasion. The programme will include performances by popular bands like

Artcell, Warfaze, and Souls.

According to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, the declaration will be read out in the presence of all stakeholders of the July uprising.

The interim government has prepared the July Declaration in consultation with key political parties, including the BNP. Major parties have endorsed the declaration's state and constitutional recognition.

The process to draft the declaration was initiated in

response to demands made by the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) last December.

The student protests, which began on July 1 last year against the quota system in government jobs, quickly turned into a mass uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

According to a report by a UN fact-finding mission in February, up to 1,400 protest-related deaths occurred between July 15 and August 5.

Election Commission

FROM PAGE 12

[those of that party] will create obstacles... And the Election Commission is conspiring to enable that.

"For the past 15 years, no one was able to give votes. Now, if someone goes to take votes in a democratic way, they are being obstructed," he added.

"Secondly, the more we observe the Election Commission, the more we understand it is a spineless body... Thirdly, such a commission is supposed to guide Bangladesh towards democracy. But we see that most of its components are either in military uniforms or clad in party colours.

"The Election Commission is a vital constitutional institution. We have taken part in its registration process, submitted the necessary documents, and will continue to fulfil

our responsibilities. However, we're also revealing to the public where the problems lie, and through our actions, people will gradually see that the EC lacks backbone."

When asked why he was making such remarks, Patwari said, "If they don't let me vote, why should I participate? But the process is yet to reach a conclusion. We are engaging with them regularly, pointing out flaws and giving them the chance to rectify them."

"If the commission wants to wear military and party uniforms, sell its backbone, and deny people their voting rights, we may eventually be forced to take a final decision. But for now, we're still giving them a chance. May they have a change of heart, return to the democratic process, and work towards restoring the people's

right to vote."

Patwari was joined at the EC by NCP Chief Organiser (South) Hasnat Abdullah, Joint Convener Khaled Saifullah, and Joint Member Secretary Zahurul Islam Muda.

The visit took place on the final day for 144 new political parties, including the NCP, to complete registration with the EC. Parties were required to submit all documents by yesterday.

The EC had received applications from all 144 parties by June 22. None met the registration criteria during the initial screening. The commission later granted a 15-day extension in two phases to allow them time to comply.

Md Shariful Alam, director (public relations) of the EC Secretariat, 80 parties have submitted their required information with EC for registration.