

Razz, Farin-starrer ‘Insaaf’ set for Chorki release

Sanjoy Somadder’s *Insaaf* will premiere on Chorki on September 4 at 12:01am, following its successful theatrical run during Eid-ul-Azha. The release comes after high audience demand, according to the platform.

The film stars Sariful Razz as Yusuf, a feared terrorist, and Tasnia Farin as law enforcer Jahan Khan. Mosharraf Karim adds depth in an unexpected role as a doctor, revealing the world of medical syndication.

Guest appearances by Chanchal Chowdhury and Xeler, along with the revival of the classic song *Akashete Lokkho Tara*, add further intrigue.

Farin expressed excitement about global audiences accessing the film, while Razz praised both Somadder’s direction and Farin’s performance. The ensemble also includes Don, Misha Sawdagor, and Fazlur Rahman Babu.



PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR

ART EXHIBITION

‘Hawabibi In this City’: A cry against patriarchal toxicity

AISHWARYA RAIHAN

Hawabibi In this City, a solo exhibition by artist Shaily Shrabonti was inaugurated at La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on August 25. Shaily is a Dhaka-based visual artist who holds a BFA and MEA in Oriental Art from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Her art reflects the struggles, resilience, and success of women in patriarchal societies.

Hawabibi, inspired by Abrahamic traditions, is Shaily’s rebellious creation against patriarchy—embodying modern women still chained to a system that denies their freedom and contributions.

Shaily’s Hawabibi wears an abaya and hijab despite being Bengali in a hot climate. The artist critiques how the veil is weaponised to confine women to domestic roles, while her character

strives to break—or at least adapt to—those restraints.

Shaily uses translucent watercolour washes and crisp ink lines to depict Hawabibi as modern nature, encasing trees, birds, and flowers in orbs. In one work, she carries a Western version of herself, “Eve,” in a blue orb—different in form but confined within the same subtle cage.

Several artworks feature a red backdrop with black-and-white figures, symbolising feminine rage. In one, Hawabibi appears as Durga with ten arms. Some pieces, made during the pandemic, use local mats as economical canvases for acrylic painting.

Shaily’s Hawabibi symbolises resilient women in a patriarchal world. The exhibition reflects society with striking symbolism and serves as an eye-opener for visitors. It runs at AFD until September 3, 2025.



Tahsan to celebrate 25 years of music in Australia

Singer and actor Tahsan Khan will mark the silver jubilee of his music career with a month-long tour across Australia, beginning in Adelaide on September 6, followed by Brisbane on September 7, Sydney on September 13, Melbourne on September 20, and Perth on September 27. Tahsan, who started professionally with the band Black in 2000, has since released seven solo albums, including hits like *Kothopokothon*, *Kritodasher Nirban*, and *Icche*. His popular songs include *Amar Prithibi*, *Irsha*, and *Ke Tumi*.

Although he has not been actively acting lately, Tahsan appeared in the web series *Baaji* last year and hosted the first season of *Family Feud Bangladesh*. He continues to perform at home and abroad with Tahsan and the Band.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

WHAT’S THE HAPS?



Anime Fest 2025: ‘Limited Realm’

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind experience crafted just for true anime fans. This year, they are keeping it exclusive with a limited audience, so every guest can enjoy a premium, full-day celebration of anime, cosplay, and pure fun.

DATE: SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 6
TIME: 11AM-8PM
VENUE: CELEBRITY HALL, GULSHAN 1



‘Sisimpur’ now streaming free on Bongo

For the first time, children’s favourite *Sisimpur* is available on an OTT platform, with Bongo offering free streaming. The platform has already released new episodes from the show’s 15th season, featuring beloved characters Halum, Tuktuki, Ikri, and Shiku.

Launched in 2005, *Sisimpur* has long been a popular educational programme for pre-primary and primary school children. The show teaches letters, words, and sentence formation, while also encouraging kids to learn from their surroundings and everyday objects.

NEWS

South Asia least

FROM PAGE 12

However, he pointed out Dhaka’s limitations -- narrow export base, low FDI, a constrained private sector, strained ties with India, and the Myanmar crisis -- all of which restrict its regional agency. “During the previous government there was a unique type of relationship that in many ways constrained Bangladesh’s agency... I think there’s an opportunity now that hopefully you can capitalise on,” he added.

Prof Mushtaq Khan of SOAS University of London said India’s internal politics often spill into its relationship with Bangladesh.

“India is trying to throw out its own Muslims into Bangladesh, saying they are Bangladeshi,” he said.

Stressing that connectivity cannot advance without trust, he said, “Maybe we should stop talking about roads and rail and transport networks until we solve the fundamental problem about people.”

He noted a shift in Bangladesh’s outlook from treating India as its dominant partner to seeking balance through engagement with ASEAN, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, the US, and China.

Prof Sreeradha Datta of OP Jindal Global University endorsed Prof Mushtaq’s views. “The government of India is constantly talking about its own national interest. But what about Bangladesh’s national interest? Threat perception works both ways, and I don’t think India has fully recognised that,” she said.

She added that Bangladesh’s disrupted connectivity with Nepal illustrated how politics, not economics, drives decisions. “These were essentially politically motivated rather than profit motivated,” she said, calling for a reset of relations across South Asia, though she admitted such change was unlikely soon.

Dr Amena Mohsin, former professor of international relations at Dhaka University, said connectivity in the region is largely reduced to infrastructure, not connectivity of minds. “For me, if you want to have a South Asia, that South Asianness has to be there -- the meeting of people’s minds where you can identify yourself as a South Asian.”

Jahangirnagar University Prof Shahab Enam Khan, who moderated the discussion, said the very idea of market and private sector-driven resources is being exploited through political preferences, whether it is saffron, rightism, or nationalism.

From the classroom

FROM PAGE 12

tools neatly arranged beside him. “I open the shop at 10:00am and work till 4:00pm. I earn Tk 280 in a day,” he said, his voice trembling.

“I learned how to mend and polish shoes, but I don’t know how to make new ones yet. I’ll learn that too. From now, I must work every day to earn for my family.”

As he spoke, his eyes welled up.

“I used to dream of studying and becoming an established person. But after my father was beaten to death, everything collapsed. He was the only breadwinner. Now I must feed my grandmother, mother, and two sisters. I don’t know if I’ll be able to continue my education, but I want to make sure my sisters can.”

On the night of August 9, Ruplal, 48, and his nephew-in-law Pradip Lal, 47, were returning home on a battery-run van. When they reached Burirhat Bottala in Sayar union, some locals stopped them, suspecting they were van thieves. Within minutes, a mob formed and beat them to death.

The following day, Ruplal’s widow Malati Rani Robidas filed a murder case with Taraganj Police against 700 unnamed persons. Based on CCTV footage, police have so far arrested six people -- all now in jail.

For Joy, however, the arrests bring little solace. The dreams his father nurtured for him now lie broken on the roadside, alongside the shoes he must mend to keep his family alive.

Inequality result

FROM PAGE 12

But while the country has seen economic development, the number of extreme poor has doubled in the last three years, he noted.

He pointed out that incidents of rape have also risen alarmingly, with the number in the first six months of this year almost equalling the total of last year.

These have happened when “the country has seen the fall of a fascist government and everyone is talking about a revolution,” he said.

He also described the destruction and mass killings in today’s world as “unparalleled.”

“Never before has there been such an event, never before has there been so much progress, and never before has there been so much human

“Joy is the only man remaining in our family. He is our only support now. However little he earns, we must survive on it,” Malati said in a cracked voice. “My heart breaks that I can’t send him to school anymore. Some inhuman people have destroyed our happiness forever.”

Joy’s elder sister Nupur said, “The pillar of our family is gone. Now my little brother has to bear all the burden. That’s the most painful thing for me. If I had any means, I would not let him work -- I would keep him in school.”

Nupur completed her HSC last year while the youngest sibling is a sixth grader.

Shopkeeper Abu Hanif, who runs his store opposite to where Ruplal once sat, said, “For 12 years, I watched Ruplal work in front of my shop. He was a simple, honest man. He loved reading the morning paper and dreamt of educating all his children. And now, that very spot is occupied by his school-going son. It breaks my heart to see this... Ruplal’s dream was destroyed. The whole society must take responsibility when a child is forced to abandon school to survive.”

Joy’s teachers too are distressed.

Rezaul Haque, of Taraganj Government Model High School, said, “It hurts me deeply to see one of our students working as a roadside cobbler. If his father had not been killed, he would never have had to shoulder this burden. This is a lesson for our society.”

suffering, so much human despair,” he said.

Stressing the importance of journalism about the Liberation War, he said while the number of people killed is often cited, there are only a few writings on the sufferings and horrific experiences endured.

At the ceremony, this year’s Bazlur Rahman Memorial Award was handed to Shahadat Parvez, photography editor of Desh Rupantor, in the print category, and Shafiqul Islam, head of news at Ekattor Television, in electronic media. Each received a crest and Tk 1,00,000 in prize money.

The programme was also addressed by Liberation War Museum Member Secretary and Trustee Mofidul Hoque and Trustee Sarwar Ali.

60% of all seats vacant or uncontested

FROM PAGE 2

of a women-friendly political atmosphere are the main reasons behind their reluctance to join the polls.

Faiza Mehabin Priantee, president of Jahangirnagar Sanskritik Jote, said, “Women are losing interest in politics as there is no supportive and inclusive environment on campus. Complaints of abuse are ignored, and perpetrators continue with impunity.”

Rezwana Karim Snigdha, associate professor of anthropology, said the long gap in Jucu elections left many students unaware of their value. She noted that since last

August, women in politics have faced severe online harassment, discouraging them further. “Lack of recognition and insecurity have fueled their apathy.”

Some male students have also shown little enthusiasm for the polls.

Except for Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, no other student organisation has fielded hall panels. JCD submitted full panels in four male halls and partial panels in seven, but none in the female halls.

Sharan Ahsan, a general secretary candidate from the Sompritiir Oikya panel, said the university administration failed to create a festive atmosphere for the election.

Parts of JP HQ set on fire

FROM PAGE 1

grenades to disperse the attackers and bring the fire under control.”

“The fire damaged books from the ground-floor library, important documents, and furniture.”

Delowar claimed the attack was carried out by men from Gono Odhikar Parishad.

“They labelled the Jatiya Party as a collaborator of the deposed Awami League and demanded that the government ban the party.”

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner, Ramna Division, DMP, told The Daily Star that agitators threw brickbats at the JP office last night. “Police, however, dispersed them and controlled the situation.”

Earlier in the day, another group attempted multiple attacks on the Uttara residence of JP Chairman GM Quader.

They also staged a demonstration and burned an effigy of Quader in front of his house in Uttara’s Sector 7. As there was tight security there since morning, the police successfully resisted the attackers and secured the area.

On Friday night, leaders and activists of Jatiya Party and Gono Odhikar clashed in front of the former’s central office in the capital’s Kakrail.

At least six people, including Gono Odhikar Chairman Nurul Haque Nur and General Secretary Rashed Khan, were hospitalised as members of police and army charged truncheons on them to control the situation.

Following the incident, attacks started taking place at JP offices in various districts, including Tangail, Thakurgaon, Khulna and Rajshahi.

Party sources claimed the attackers were from Gono Odhikar Parishad.

In Tangail, the JP office near Sadar Police Station was vandalised around 11:30am yesterday. The attackers later blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway at Nagar Jalfai for about half an hour, leaving vehicles stranded on both sides.

Locals said after holding a brief rally, protesting the attack on Gono Odhikar Chairman Nur, they left the area, allowing traffic to resume.

“Additional police have been deployed in the area,” said Tanvir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station.

In Thakurgaon, JP’s Haripur upazila unit office was vandalised yesterday afternoon. The agitators also torched office furniture while chanting slogans against JP and its leaders, witnesses said.

Earlier, Gono Odhikar men brought out a procession from the Battali area in the upazila headquarters and paraded different streets.

When the procession reached the JP office, the activists began vandalising it, witnesses also said.

On information, police rushed to the spot, but the attackers had fled before their arrival, said Haripur Police OC Jakaria Mandal.

No one was injured in the incident, the OC said, adding that additional

“Restrictions on campaigning, final exams during polls, ID card-related complications, and the broader national political climate have dampened enthusiasm.”

Meanwhile, Election Commission member Professor Mafruhi Sattar said the commission is considering re-elections for the vacant posts. Recalling his student life, he said he witnessed four Jucu elections.

“All four were full of enthusiasm. I’m surprised by such a lacklustre Jucu this time. The university administration has probably failed to generate excitement.”

The Jucu election, last held in 1992, is scheduled for September 11.

police have been deployed in the area to avoid further untoward incidents.

In Khulna city, at least 20 people were injured after police charged truncheons in front of the JP district and city office at Dakbangla intersection yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, a procession of 50 to 60 men from Gono Odhikar marched towards the JP office from Shibari intersection.

Witnesses said the demonstrators tried to break the gates and hurled bricks. At that time, police intervened, charging truncheons and dispersing the protesters.

Sadar Police OC Haoladar Sanwar Hossain said, “Activists of Gono Odhikar tried to create disorder in front of the JP office. Police dispersed them immediately. The situation is now under control.”

In Rajshahi city, JP office in the Gonokpara area was vandalised around 12:00am.

JP THANKS ARMY, COPS
JP Secretary General Shameem Haider Patwari yesterday thanked the army and police for saving the lives of the party’s workers and leaders.

Speaking at a press conference at the party’s central office, Shameem, however, demanded that the government carry out a fair investigation into whether the army and police used excessive force on Gono Odhikar men to tackle the Friday’s situation.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.]