

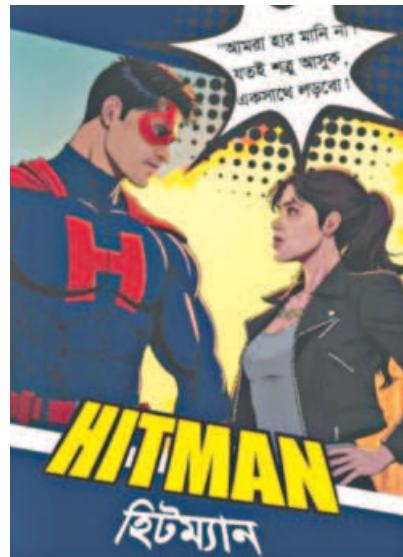


Comic series 'Hitman' to feature Niloy and Heme

Popular actor Niloy Alamgir and actress Heme will be seen together in the upcoming drama *Hitman*. The project is inspired by a new comic series of the same name, where Niloy takes on the lead role and Heme portrays Sohani, the cartoonist behind the character.

The story follows Rakib (Niloy), who, on his way to a job interview, finds himself entangled in a street altercation. Sohani, stuck in traffic, notices his fiery outburst, photographs him, and later casts him as the central figure of her comic.

Produced by Rangon Entertainment and directed by Tariq Mohammad Hasan, the drama will soon premiere on the company's YouTube channel.



PARSA is back

SHARMIN JOYA

Upon her return from the United States, actress and dancer Parsa Evana brought back more than just fond memories of a lovely holiday with her mother. She also gained valuable training in both acting and dance.

The actress participated in a course at The Freeman Studio, a highly regarded acting school in the US known for its focus on "proper technique and camera performance." She enrolled in the intensive eight-week programme, which helped polish her craft.

"After the short selection, I was called for the online interview, where they liked my performance and invited me to join the course. I've never had formal training in acting, so I wanted to fully immerse myself in the craft. Apart from that, I also took a dance course, where I learnt more about hip-hop, modern, and contemporary dance."

"I am looking forward to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, as I will be performing with Mofassal Alif and team, and we will do the opening performance. I am very excited and looking forward to it."

A gold medallist in Bharat Natyam and champion of *Shera Nachiyé* (2014), Parsa shares that dance is the art form through which she best expresses her emotions. "For me, dance is the ultimate stress reliever. My mother also wants me to continue dancing."

For the first time, the young artiste will perform at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards. She expressed her excitement, saying, "This year I performed at the CJFB Awards, which marked my first performance at any award ceremony. I am looking forward to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, as I will be performing with Mofassal Alif and team, and we will do the opening performance. I am very excited and looking forward to it."

She has been active on social media, sharing posts and dance videos, where fans often ask her when she will be returning to acting. "This comment really makes me sad, as I feel blessed that the audience has showered me with so much love. "The problem is, I often get roles I have already done. I keep looking for variations, which sadly I don't get. I won't work until I get roles that my audience will truly appreciate," she concludes."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

Srijit Mukherji brings Sarat Chandra's 'Pather Dabi' to screen with 'Emperor vs Sarat Chandra'

West Bengal director Srijit Mukherji has announced *Emperor vs Sarat Chandra*, a new film inspired by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and his iconic novel *Pather Dabi*. The project coincides with the novel's centenary in August 2026. First published on August 31, 1926, the book intensified anti-British sentiment and was banned the following year.

The film will explore the political climate of that period, the banning of *Pather Dabi*, and figures such as Rabindranath Tagore and Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. Produced jointly by SVF and DAG Creative Media, shooting begins in November, with a release set for May 1, 2026.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

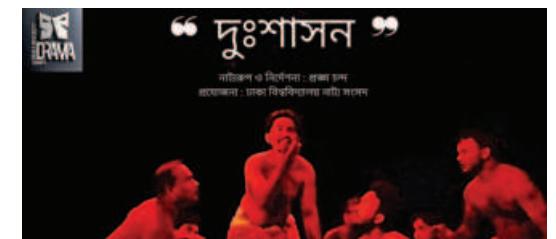
'DUSHASHON'

Based on Narayan Gangopadhyay's short stories *Dushashon* and *Pushkara*, this play explores the timeless clash between myth and history, oppression and resistance, belief and disbelief. With a blend of music, choreography, and layered psychological conflict, director Progga Chanda crafts a performance that promises both intensity and hope.

Date: Wednesday | September 3, 2025

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS

BNP pledges cooperation with govt

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repeatedly to restore democracy. Many attempts were made to destroy the BNP. But with the ideals of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia, BNP has risen like the phoenix."

Fakhrul added that if the party comes to power with public support, it will bring political change under the leadership of BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, and ensure economic growth to take the country forward.

Highlighting Ziaur Rahman's role, the BNP leader said, "The main

ideology of Bangladesh Nationalist Party is Bangladeshi nationalism, which brought significant changes in the country's politics.

"In a short time, Ziaur Rahman brought qualitative changes. He ensured the freedom of the media, the basic rights of the people, and the independence of the judiciary. At the same time, he introduced the free market economy, as a result of which the country's economy saw a big change."

In another development, BNP yesterday announced a voluntary

canal and drain cleaning campaign in Dhaka North and South starting from today, cancelling its previously scheduled rally in the capital to mark its 47th founding anniversary.

In a video message, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said the rally schedule was revised considering traffic congestion and public inconvenience.

He said the leaders and workers of the party's other organisations and associate bodies will also participate in the cleaning drive.

gender discrimination on campus. "Women's halls close at 10:00pm. Even with IDs, they cannot visit friends' dorms when needed. After completing post graduation, they are forced to vacate immediately, with no alternative housing. We'll ensure at least six more months of accommodation for them. Above all, we will make the campus safe for women and ensure equal facilities for male and female students. This campus belongs to everyone, and there must be no discrimination."

On the election environment, he raised concerns over misinformation

campaigns on social media. "Some groups are spreading false information. We informed the administration, and they instructed BTSC to act. But these groups keep changing names and continue spreading lies. If not controlled, questions will remain over the election atmosphere."

"We were oppressed before, and we still are," Abidul added. "We openly did Chhatra Dal politics, and for us, the campus was hostile. But we played a major role in this mass uprising. We're still fighting on the streets for democracy and human rights. This struggle will continue."

On the election environment, he raised concerns over misinformation

Want to inspire women

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Udyan, right next to the campus, rallies are held every few days, and then outsiders enter and harass female students. The administration cannot control this. I want the proctorial team to be more active and, if necessary, to involve students," she said.

Expressing concern over the accommodation crisis, Sabina said, "Due to insufficient dormitories for female students, six to eight people often have to live in one room. The quality of food is poor. I want students' living spaces to be healthy. We will work to ensure this. For that, we can implement the 'One Student, One Bed, One Table' policy."

She also pledged to work on students' health issues. "In a large campus like Dhaka University, there is no dispensary. I want medicine corners at different points and sanitary vending machines for female students," she said.

She further raised concerns over the academic and research environment. "The research budget is insufficient. There are not enough seats in the library. As a result, students' studies are being disrupted. We want the administration to ensure our basic rights, including education. If necessary, we will act as a supportive force for the administration," said the GS candidate.

Regarding the overall electoral atmosphere, Sabina complained that some organisations had put up posters in violation of the code of conduct, but the administration did not take timely action. She urged the authorities to ensure equal opportunities for all parties.

Japan loosens gun rules as bear attacks rise

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday eased gun rules making it easier for hunters to use rifles in built-up areas following a rise in attacks by bears.

More and more wild bears have been spotted in residential areas in Japan due to factors including a declining human population and climate change.

Shibir-backed panel

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also pledged to reduce the number of male staffers in female dormitories and recruit female members for the proctorial team.

Under the manifesto, non-resident female students will be allowed to enter their allotted dormitories using their ID cards, while hall regulations will be relaxed.

The panel further vowed to establish a paperless system in the registrar's office to eliminate bureaucratic red tape.

It promised to organise research-related workshops and an inter-university research fest, along with soft skills training, career workshops, and job fairs.

The manifesto includes plans to provide appropriate prayer spaces for female students, especially around Curzon Hall, and to develop the central mosque and hall mosques as well as temples and prayer houses of other religions.

For students with physical disabilities,

Jamaat threatens

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The party said it wants the election to be held under the PR system out of its commitment to equal opportunities for all political parties.

Later in the day, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said no one would participate in a staged election.

"If a managed, staged election like before is forced on the country after so much blood and struggle, why should the people participate?" he asked during a roundtable discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

To remove doubts about the PR system, he also called for a national political dialogue under the leadership of the chief adviser with participation from all parties.

"From today's roundtable, I demand that, if needed, PR provisions be added to the July Charter and put to a referendum so the people can decide. We'll accept the verdict.

"If you argue PR isn't in the constitution, then what about the election being held in 2026? The last election was already held in 2024. If you respect the constitution so much, elections should only be held in 2029. On what constitutional basis is an election happening in 2026? On what basis is Yunus Sahib here?"

the panel pledged to introduce an "Adommo Medhabi Shikharthi Briti" (Indomitable Meritorious Student Scholarship) stipend.

The panel's vice president candidate Md Abu Shadik Kayem said, "We've already prepared a one-year work-plan, under which we'll bring reforms through monthly activities."

General secretary candidate SM Farhad said they split the academic year into quarters to bring three reforms per month.

"We can implement 36 reform proposals in a year if we follow this plan. Through these reforms, a massive transformation will take place on campus."

Finland jails Biafra separatist leader for terrorism offences

AFP, Helsinki

A Finnish court yesterday sentenced a Nigerian separatist leader to six years in prison for terrorism offences for promoting the Biafra region's independence by "illegal means".

Simon Ekpa, a 40-year-old dual Finn-Nigerian national, was found guilty of supplying armed groups with weapons and explosives and inciting others to commit crimes.

The Paijanne-Tavastia district court said he was a key figure in the organisations and groups pushing for the independence of Nigeria's southeast region where a 1967-70 civil war left hundreds of thousands dead.

In a statement, the court said it had convicted Ekpa of "participating in the activities of a terrorist group, (and) public incitement to commit a crime for terrorist purposes."

He was also found guilty of aggravated tax fraud.

The crimes were committed in the Finnish city of Lahti between 2021 and 2024.

"He used social media to gain a politically influential position and took advantage of the confusion in a key separatist movement in Nigeria to take a significant role in it," the court said.

Fear sends off-campus students

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dorm because I don't think I'd be safe in my rented house. Like me, many students have also moved to the dorms."

Prof Taslim Uddin, provost of AF Rahman dormitory, said, "We've accommodated around 50 to 100 non-residential students in this dorm. Despite there being limited hall seats, the students have been sharing their beds. We're trying to ease the tension."

CU currently operates 15 residential halls: 10 for male students and five for female students. Together, these halls accommodate approximately 7,000 students: around 4,500 males and 2,500 females.

While the number of students currently enrolled is over 27,550, only about 25 percent of them reside on

campus in the wake of students' demands.

After the meeting, CU Pro VC Dr Kamal Uddin said the authority has decided to file a case with the police over the series of attacks on CU students. "Apart from a committee will be formed to ensure treatment of the injured students."

Dr Kamal also said a decision has been taken to immediately install a police outpost at the Railway Crossing Gate to maintain law and order.

A total of 14 students are currently undergoing treatment in two port city hospitals. In Parkview Hospital, eight students are admitted, with two of them in the ICU. Six others are under treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. One more student was referred to Dhaka for better treatment.

A visit to the areas where the clashes took place revealed a sense of eerie calm. Most cottages and residential buildings were found locked, with only a handful of students seen in the vicinity.

Later in the day, the CU authorities convened a meeting and took a few