



(1) Britt Lower beams after winning Lead Actress for 'Severance'. (2) Noah Wyle wins Lead Actor Emmy for 'The Pitt'. (3) Javier Bardem in a Palestinian keffiyeh at the Emmys. (4) Trammel Tillman makes history as the first Black man to win Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for 'Severance'.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AP

EMMYS 2025

A night of historic wins and bold political statements



(L) Outstanding Comedy Series winners 'The Studio' celebrate Emmy victory onstage. (R) 15-year-old Owen Cooper holds his Emmy after making history as the youngest Supporting Actor winner for 'Adolescence'.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards offered more than glitz and glamour. Marked by standing ovations, long-awaited reunions, record-breaking triumphs, and impassioned calls for justice, this year's ceremony showed that television's biggest night can be as culturally resonant as it is entertaining.

Apple TV+'s *The Studio* cemented its place in Emmy history, collecting 13 trophies- the most ever awarded to a comedy series in a single cycle. The record was previously held by FX's *The Bear*, which won 10 in 2023. With nine victories at last week's Creative Arts Emmys and four more on Monday, *The Studio* established itself as this year's undeniable comedy powerhouse.

In the limited series categories, *Adolescence* proved dominant with eight wins, including best limited series. The cast received widespread recognition, with Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper, and

Erin Doherty all earning acting honours, while Jack Thorne and Graham also won for best writing.

Freshman drama *The Pitt* triumphed in the fiercely contested best drama series race. Stars Noah Wyle and Katherine LaNasa added to the show's success with wins for best lead actor and best supporting actress in a drama, bringing its total to five awards.

The night was also marked by history-making achievements. Fifteen-year-old Owen Cooper stunned the audience by becoming the youngest male actor ever to win an Emmy, taking home best supporting actor in a limited/anthology series or TV movie. Breaking a record that had stood since 1973, Cooper reflected in his emotional speech: "Tonight proves that if you listen, focus, and step out of your comfort zone, you can achieve anything in life."

Severance star Trammel Tillman made history as well, becoming the first Black man to win best supporting actor in

a drama series. His debut nomination turned into a career-defining moment, greeted with a standing ovation.

For veteran actor Noah Wyle, recognition was long overdue. A five-time nominee in the supporting category during his *ER* years, he finally claimed Emmy gold as best actor in drama.

The evening wasn't only about new achievements. Nostalgia also took center stage, with reunions from *Gilmore Girls*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and *Law & Order* reminding audiences of television's enduring legacy across generations.

Beyond the awards and reunions, the Emmys also became a platform for political courage. Several stars used the global stage to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and voice support for Palestine, reflecting a growing cultural boycott movement in Hollywood.

Academy Award winner Javier Bardem delivered one of the night's boldest statements, appearing with a kaffiyeh draped around his neck and declaring

"Free Palestine" on stage. Speaking to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Bardem reaffirmed his commitment to the Film Workers for Palestine movement, which calls for boycotts of institutions tied to Israeli state policies. "We are not targeting people by identity - we are targeting complicit institutions," he said.

Hacks star Hannah Einbinder, who won best actress in a comedy, echoed Bardem's sentiments backstage. "As a Jewish person, I feel obligated to distinguish between Judaism and the state of Israel," she said. "This boycott is about pressuring institutions complicit in the genocide - not individuals."

Others chose quieter but equally resonant acts of solidarity. Ruth Negga, Chris Perletti, and Aimee Lou Wood wore red ceasefire pins, while Megan Stalter carried a black handbag emblazoned with "Cease Fire!" "What's the point of being at these big events if you're not going to use your privilege?" Stalter told *Variety*.

Vicky Zahed brings flash fiction 'Ondho Balok' to Chorki

Vicky Zahed's flash fiction *Ondho Balok* premieres on Chorki at 12:01am on September 18. Written by Nazim Ud Daula, the story mixes romance, fate, and doubt, breaking away from Vicky's usual suspense style. Tawsif Mahbub plays Orko opposite Sadia Ayman as Dina; two lovers whose relationship fractures after the arrival of a mysterious blind boy.

Veteran actor Tariq Anam Khan and Shilpi Sarkar Apu appear in key roles. Vicky Zahed, whose career began with short films, said he remains drawn to Chorki's flash fiction format for its unique storytelling scope. The screenplay and dialogue were co-written by Zahed and Nazim Ud Daula, with cinematography by Bidrohi Dipon. Produced jointly by Chorki and Alpha-1, *Ondho Balok* is the platform's second flash fiction release.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'CHITRANGADA'

Acclaimed theatre troupe Swapnadal will stage Rabindranath Tagore's lyrical drama *Chitrangada*, directed by Zahid Repon, marking the production's 120th performance. Adapted from the *Mahabharata*, the play tells the story of Manipuri princess Chitrangada and her struggle between love, identity, and self-worth, offering a timeless reflection on human relationships.

Date: Thursday | September 18, 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS

Two die

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Begum, 58, a homemaker from Anandi Dhaniram village -- both in Parul union.

Razzak reportedly slaughtered a sick cow on August 2 and developed fever and sores the next day. He died on August 9 after hospitalisation.

Komola Begum fell ill after handling and cooking meat from a sick cow and died on September 6.

Family members of both deceased said several relatives who came into contact with the meat have also been infected.

Razzak's son, Mizanur Rahman, said, "My father slaughtered the cow. I also handled the meat. Four members of my family including me were affected. My father's symptoms were the worst."

"First comes fever, then reddish boils that turn black," said Mizanur, who is undergoing treatment.

Dulal Mia, son of Komola Begum, said, "We did not know that touching or eating meat of a sick cow could cause such a disease. My mother contracted it while cleaning and cooking the meat, and she died. Two other family members and I have been infected. We have taken treatment."

Rangpur District Livestock Officer Abu Sayeed confirmed that meat samples tested positive for anthrax. "Infected cows were slaughtered and sold cheaply. Many preserved the meat in freezers, leading to widespread exposure," he said.

Over the past three months, more than 100 cows have died in Pirgacha, though not all were anthrax cases. Authorities have vaccinated 40,000 cattle and are distributing leaflets to raise awareness. Butchers have been warned against slaughtering sick animals.

Nazrul Islam, a farmer from Parul village, said two of his cows died and two others remain infected despite vaccination.

Rangpur Civil Surgeon Shahin Sultana said the situation remains under control. "Anthrax does not spread from human to human, but handling or consuming infected meat can cause transmission," she said.

Contacted, Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of IEDCR, said a team from IEDCR is still investigating the matter on the spot.

"I will be able to comment once I receive the report," she told this newspaper yesterday.

Arakan Army

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showing the movement of Bangladeshi trawlers crossing into Myanmar waters under the cover of darkness. He said the BGB, navy, and coast guard are working in coordination to prevent drug smuggling.

Speaking on the issue of Bangladeshi fishermen frequently getting detained by Myanmar authorities, Mohiduddin said fishermen were detained only when they crossed into Myanmar waters,

Man hacked to death

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On May 6, Ibne Samad Sardar of the same area was hacked by assailants and later died after months of treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rakib was arrested in that case and later released on bail.

Citing CCTV evidence and accounts from locals, the OC said, "Several assailants suddenly attacked Rakib with Chinese axes, striking him repeatedly until he collapsed. They fled immediately after."

After a post-mortem examination, Rakib's body was handed over to his family yesterday.

Police said Rakib's family and the attackers' families had a longstanding feud, with both sides accused in several cases, including murder.

"We suspect the killing stems from that conflict," the OC said, adding that police will file a murder case.

Meanwhile, also on Sunday night, a

Protests in Nepal

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for PM. Karki, appointed on Friday, has already dissolved the House and announced that parliamentary elections will be held in six months, on March 5, 2026.

Meanwhile, in its first cabinet meeting, Nepal's interim government yesterday declared those who died in the uprising as martyrs and decided to provide cash relief to their families.

The government will provide one million rupees to each bereaved family, and an additional Rs500,000 to cover other expenses. It was also decided that funerals of the deceased would be held with national honours, and a day of mourning would be observed on September 17, with the national flag flown at half-mast.

A decision was also made to continue providing free medical treatment for the injured.

Murder suspect

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proceedings in the morning," he added.

Following the death, Rab contacted Tanvir's family, local council representatives, police, and a doctor. In their presence, the hanged body was taken down and sent for autopsy at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, the officer said.

"We'll be investigating the matter internally, following protocol," the Commanding Officer added.

Moniruzzaman Molla, officer-in-charge of Golapganj Police Station, said, "The deceased's sister filed an unnatural death case. Preliminary evidence suggests suicide. We'll submit a full report to the court after receiving the autopsy findings."

The body was handed over to the family yesterday after the autopsy, he added.

US vows unwavering

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He had also said Trump wanted the Gaza war to be "finished with" -- which would mean the release of hostages and ensuring Hamas is "no longer a threat".

But talks were made more difficult last week when the Trump administration was caught off guard by an Israeli attack in Qatar against Hamas leaders.

"We sent a message to terrorists: you can run but you cannot hide," Netanyahu said.

The "raid didn't fail."

Rubio said Washington would continue to tell Qatar to continue its "constructive role" as an intermediary in the Gaza war.

A US official later said Rubio will travel to Qatar today, where Arab and Muslim leaders gathered yesterday to pile pressure on Israel after the attack.

Qatar's emir said at the summit that Israel had sought to derail truce talks, which Doha along with Egypt and the United States have sought to broker between Israel and Hamas.

"Whoever works diligently and systematically to assassinate the party with whom he is negotiating, intends to thwart the negotiations... Negotiations, for them, are merely part of the war," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said.

In Gaza, Israeli strikes killed another 25 people yesterday, all but one in Gaza City, Gaza civil defence agency reported.

Foreign power backed

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The tribunal has so far heard 46 witnesses.

During lunch break, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said Nahid Islam, a key leader of the July uprising, will testify today.

Mahmudur said Hasina's first move was to weaken the army. "Two months into her tenure, the BDR massacre was orchestrated with Sheikh family members -- particularly former MP Sheikh Taposh -- involved. Fifty-seven army officers were murdered and their families tortured, yet Taposh was never tried."

He alleged that "10 months before the December 2008 election, the results were predetermined in Delhi" and accused a top army official and a DGFI officer of engineering the Awami League's landslide.

Hasina and her ministers failed to protect officers and allowed the Pikhana massacre to continue, he said, adding that the hostility stemmed from "Hasina's father's reliance on the Rakkhi Bahini over the army".

Hasina then turned to judiciary, Mahmudur claimed, citing Khaleda Zia's eviction from cantonment house -- which Hasina later admitted was a political decision -- and the abolition of the caretaker government system.

Although most amici curiae (neutral experts invited to advise the court) and several Appellate Division judges supported retaining the caretaker system, four justices ruled otherwise and were later rewarded as chief justices, he alleged.

He said the 2013 Shahbagh protests were staged to create a "public enemy concept" targeting Islamic parties, comparing the strategy to Hitler's demonisation of communists and Jews. "The Ganajagaran Mancha functioned as the second parliament," he said, alleging civil servants were pressured to endorse executions while Hasina declared she was "always at Shahbagh in spirit".

"This paved the way for retrospective legal changes that turned Abdul

Quader Mollah's life term into a death sentence -- a historic injustice."

He alleged on May 5, 2013, security forces carried out a mass killing of Hefazat-e-Islam members at Shapla Chattar, naming top officials of police, Rab and BGB as responsible. They were later promoted and no trial was held.

He recalled the 2012 "Skypescandal", which exposed alleged collusion between the tribunal chairman, a Belgium-based Bangladeshi, and prosecutors in drafting verdicts.

He accused Hasina of staging three "farical" elections: in 2014, when 153 MPs were elected uncontested; in 2018, when ballots were stuffed the night before; and in 2024, mocked as the "me and my dummy's votes" election.

Mahmudur recounted how he was detained, tortured and mentally abused in Rab's "Ayna Ghar", Cantonment Police Station and DB custody, where he was kept on remand for 39 days. He said he witnessed severe torture of Islami Chhatra Shibir president Delwar Hossain in DB custody in 2013.

He further accused the regime of staging militant dramas to impress foreign powers, citing the 2016 Kalyanpur operation where "poor villagers were framed as militants and killed in fake encounters."

Mahmudur named six former chief justices, three appellate judges, 10 lawyers including two ex-law ministers, 12 senior police officials including five former IGPs, three election commissions (except Mahbub Talukdar's), 16 political leaders and 13 senior army and DGFI officials, including four former army chiefs, as aiding Hasina's consolidation of power.

He alleged that India played a decisive role in Hasina's rise, citing New Delhi's pressure before the 2014 polls, when a top diplomat pushed the Jatiya Party to contest. Even after the "fake elections" of 2018 and 2024, India allegedly lobbied in Washington and Europe to support Hasina.

Mahmudur's testimony will be cross examined by the state appointed defense counsel today.

Admin reshuffle

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connection with the darbar sharif attack. He faces charges of arson, grievous injury, looting, murder, and exhumation and burning of corpses, said Sharif Al Rajib, additional SP of Rajbari.

So far, a total of 24 people have

been arrested in two cases over the attack -- one filed over the killing of a follower of Nurul in clashes, and the other over attacking police, according to Sharif. "No one is being detained without verification. Therefore, there is no reason for those not involved to be worried," he said.