

Tahsan announces gradual retirement from music at Melbourne concert

Popular singer and actor Tahsan Khan stunned fans in Melbourne by announcing he will gradually step back from music. During his Australia tour concert on September 20, the 45-year-old artiste told an emotional crowd, “This is my last concert. I will slowly wind down my music career,” hinting that regular shows and new releases will cease.

Marking a decisive retreat from public life, Tahsan revealed he has deactivated all social media to devote more time to his family, especially his daughter. Though he stopped short of saying “retirement,” the concert – part of his 25-year music celebration – felt like a farewell, leaving admirers teary-eyed and reflective as the celebrated performer closed a defining chapter of Bangladeshi pop music on a poignant note.



I am beyond words; this award means so much: Mohammad Touqir Islam

SHARMIN JOYA

Last year, the web series *Sinpaat* earned praise after releasing on Chorki. It did not just make a mark for its vivid screenplay, but also for its raw locations, and most interestingly, its artistes, who are mostly non-actors.

This year at Blender’s Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards, the project was awarded four major awards in the critics’ category, including the Best Director, Best Actor (Female), Best Film/Drama/ Series, and Best Sound Design.

Regarding winning the Best Director award, Touqir shared his favourite moment while attending the show and shared why *Sinpaat* is close to his heart.

“Before heading to the award show, all 17 of us who planned to attend decided to meet under the metro station at Bijoy Sarani,” he shared wittfully. “As we gathered, one team member pulled out a can

“Receiving the award feels especially meaningful because the project was so demanding for all of us. Portraying real-life criminal Sohel Sheikh and exploring his intense stories was challenging, and full of complexities.

of hairspray, and there we were—getting ready right on the street! That moment, messy yet joyful, perfectly captured who we are and the beauty of our unity.”

After *Shaaticup*, the director wanted to focus on a plot that detailed the characters in the spinoff, such as the role of Duru, played by Zinnat Ara, who was crowned the Best Actor (Female) in the critics’ category. He also shared how the plot was inspired by its lead



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

role, Sohel Sheikh, as well.

“Receiving the award for *Sinpaat* feels extra special because it was such a challenging project for me and the entire team. The lead role of Sohel Sheikh, a real-life criminal, and much of the plot were inspired by his personal stories. Delving into those accounts was extremely difficult—raw, intense, yet layered

with unexpected colours.”

His realisation while making the show will remain with him forever as he shared while concluding. “They shaped the entire show and, in many ways, added depth to our own lives, making us realise so much about the world and ourselves. Winning an award for such a work is beyond words.”

First look at ‘SABA’ unveils riveting new teaser



The official trailer of *Saba*, directed by Maksud Hossain and starring Mehazabien Chowdhury, offers a gripping preview of one of the year’s most anticipated Bangladeshi films. The teaser follows Saba, a young woman balancing the care of her paralysed mother with the relentless demands of survival in Dhaka.

Mehazabien’s intense performance shines through the brief clips, contrasting tender caregiving scenes with the city’s chaotic energy. The film also features Rokeya Prachy and Mostafa Monwar, and is noted for its gritty realism and emotional depth.

After a successful festival circuit – including Toronto, Busan, and Red Sea – *Saba* is set for a September 26 Durga Puja release, positioning itself as one of the year’s most powerful Bangladeshi dramas.

WHAT’S THE HAPS? Play: Last Suffer

Megahgompriyo brings *Last Suffer* to the stage, reimagining Anton Chekhov’s character *Vasilii Svetlovidoff* alongside the life of French playwright and actor *Molière*. Directed by Nawajesh Ashraf Easad with dramaturgy by Rizu Luxmy Aboroadh and Easad, the play promises a bold exploration of pain, resistance, and liberation through riveting performances.

Date: Wednesday-Friday | September 24-26, 2025

Time: 7:30pm onwards
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA

NEWS

BB to provide

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July, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data. However, inflation remained above 9 percent for more than two years.

The governor has set a target to bring inflation down to 5 percent by the end of this year. The meeting was held to help achieve that goal and analyse the market.

After the meeting, Mostafa Kamal, chairman and managing director of Meghna Group, said discussions were held with the governor on the current stock of essential commodities, import requirements, and supply challenges.

He said the governor wanted imports to increase without fuelling inflation and emphasised the need for market analysis and necessary measures.

Some restrictions had been imposed on imports worth over \$300 million, he said, adding that the governor assured them the central bank would ensure close monitoring so there would be no difficulties in importing essential and other major commodities.

Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of Shwapno, a subsidiary of ACI Ltd, told journalists that the US dollar market had remained stable for a long time and that there was currently no shortage of dollars.

“Now Bangladesh Bank aims to maintain reserves while bringing inflation down below 5 percent and at the same time ensuring an adequate supply of goods,” he said.

Areif Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank, told journalists that the inflation target could not be achieved if the supply of goods was disrupted.

“The businesses have shared their concerns, and Bangladesh Bank will provide full cooperation in importing essential commodities,” he said.

The spokesperson said there was currently no US dollar crisis in the banking sector. On the contrary, the central bank was purchasing dollars from the market. If obstacles were created in imports now, the situation would worsen in the future if a shortage arose, he said.

“There are no restrictions on opening LCs, and Bangladesh Bank will provide direct support, if necessary,” he added.

New BB scheme may hurt

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by realistic cash flow projections. Without rigorous scrutiny, the facility risks becoming a tool for evergreening distressed assets, undermining transparency.”

The agency highlighted that the scheme reduces the central bank’s role in oversight, allowing lenders to approve rescheduling themselves with board endorsement, except for loans exceeding Tk 300 crore.

This implies reduced oversight from the central bank, potentially increasing the risk of inconsistent practices and weaker credit discipline across banks, Moody’s said.

The low threshold of 2 percent down payment raises risks and the two-year grace period “delays testing

actual repayment capacity, which could artificially suppress NPL ratios, masking underlying asset quality risks”.

The requirement to withdraw legal cases within 90 days of rescheduling “will likely hinder recovery efforts and increase loss given default if borrowers default again”.

Lower provisioning requirements under the scheme could boost short-term profitability, but Moody’s warned this might “lead to higher dividend payouts, especially in banks with weak risk management, resulting in capital outflows at a time when the system needs to conserve capital”.

“Without regulatory checks, this will exacerbate the capital shortfall,” Moody’s said.

Rucu polls deferred to

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Abdullah Al Kafi, cultural secretary candidate from the JCD-backed Oikkoboddho Notun Projonmo panel, alleged that the crisis had been staged. “Our campaign was disrupted by an unjustified strike. Now, with the shutdown suddenly withdrawn by Jamaat-backed teachers, it is clear the whole thing was designed to benefit Shibir.”

Fuad Ratul, VP candidate from the left-backed Gonotontrik Shikharthi Parishad, although supporting the deferral, said, “Repeated changes in schedule have eroded students’ trust. The administration must now strictly ensure a participatory election on October 16.”

Tasin Khan, VP candidate from the Sarbojonin Shikharthi Sangsad panel, welcomed the deferral but called for a permanent solution to the quota issue. “Otherwise, the same crisis may rise again just before the election.”

Salahuddin Ammar, GS candidate from the Adhipotobirodhi Oikya panel, said the commission has acted to protect student participation. “If the election had been held on the 25th, it likely would not have been inclusive. We now hope for a participatory and festive election on October 16.”

Earlier in the day, several panels, including Rucu for Radical Change, Sarbojonin Shikharthi Sangsad,

Socheton Shikharthi Parishad, United for Rights, and over 50 independent candidates, submitted a memorandum to the Rucu Election Commission, demanding that the election date be deferred.

Later, at 3:00pm, the Shibir-backed panel submitted a separate memorandum, urging the commission not to postpone or reschedule the polls.

In response to the memoranda, the Rucu Election Commission convened an emergency meeting at 4:00pm.

The announcement for the deferral came only a day after university authorities had reaffirmed that the election would go ahead on September 25 despite the ongoing strike by teachers, officers, and staff.

The strike by teachers and staff was first called on Saturday to protest an alleged attack on faculty members during a scuffle with students demonstrating against the reinstatement of the quota – a provision allowing admission privileges for children of university employees.

Later that night, students staged a sit-in in front of the vice chancellor’s residence, demanding that the quota be abolished.

Around 2:00am, the VC appeared before students and announced the suspension of admissions under “institutional privileges”.

Bangladesh Business Awards

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community every year since 2000 to recognise outstanding achievements and contributions of business icons.

The theme of this year’s award is “Powering the Private Sector.”

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed is scheduled to attend the event as chief guest at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka. Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin is also scheduled to attend as special guest.

This year, awards will be given in five categories: Business Person of the Year, Best Financial Institution of the Year, Enterprise of the Year, Outstanding Woman in Business and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for deadly strikes

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ministry called the strike a “terrorist attack” and initially put the death toll at two.

Ukraine said Moscow had carried out 46 air strikes on its territory as of 10:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Sunday.

Kyiv said overnight Russian strikes in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia had killed three people and wounded two others, one seriously.

Russian forces had “dropped at least five” bombs on the city, according to Ivan Fedorov, the head of the regional military administration.

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and wants Kyiv and Western countries to recognise the peninsula as part of its territory.

Ukrainian forces frequently carry out strikes on the heavily fortified region, including on a bridge connecting it to the Russian mainland.

After meeting Russian leader Vladimir Putin for high-profile talks last month, US President Donald Trump said Ukraine would not be able to regain Crimea as part of a peace deal.

Progress towards a truce has stalled since that flurry of diplomacy, which also saw Trump hold a separate meeting with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky.

‘Nothing works without money’

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72.1 percent, income drops 36.8 percent, and capital shortages 30.8 percent. The richest 20 percent were most concerned with price hikes (73.6 percent) and loan repayments (30.5 percent). Rural and urban households shared similar concerns, with price hikes affecting 68.9 and 71.1 percent respectively.

Concerns over children’s education amid rising school fees affected 64.5 percent of rural households and 64.6 percent of urban ones. Marriage prospects were a worry for some but ranked lower.

Law and order topped governance concerns, especially for urban and higher-income groups, with bureaucratic corruption a close second. Among low-income families, 41 percent reported corruption, 40.1 percent cited law and order issues, and 32.9 percent pointed to lack of justice. Among the richest households, 52.1 percent were concerned with law and order, 41.6 percent with corruption, and 37.2 percent with freedom of speech.

Optimism about the future revealed a clear class divide. Only 1.6 percent of the poorest group felt “very optimistic”, compared to 14.4 percent of the richest. About a third of the bottom 10 percent expressed pessimism, while nearly 38 percent of the richest said they were optimistic. Younger people were slightly more hopeful, with 33.17 percent of youth calling themselves optimistic.

Looking ahead, most respondents – both youth and non-youth – said they wanted corruption prevented, good governance established, and political violence ended. Among youth, 55.9 percent prioritised fighting corruption, 52.3 percent sought good governance, and 43.9 percent called for an end to political violence. Economic development was the top aspiration for both groups, with 60.9 percent of youth and 62.3 percent of non-youth highlighting it, followed by poverty reduction and better law and order.

Addressing the webinar, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute President M Humayun Kabir, also a former ambassador to the US, said people remain worried about law and order. “We had bureaucratic problems, and people thought these would change, but they haven’t. In fact, the situation has become more complex.

“Earlier, people used to go to the police, who would take the case after accepting a bribe. But now the police say they have no power and cannot do anything.”

He said this makes finding solutions harder. “Most problems cannot be solved because people do not have money. Justice is out of the people’s hands, and that is why they are frustrated and want to be free from corruption.”

He added that the reform people want most is proper service at the deputy commissioner’s office or police stations, and accountable governance.

Researcher and columnist Altaf Parvez warned that nearly 46 percent of people have “given up hope” after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. He said the survey should also include the voices of women and minorities, who face fear and intimidation.

“We used to say that we must keep our struggle alive. But how long will we continue our struggle? We fought in 1971 and have seen two uprisings since then.”

He said that after the July uprising, the social fabric has been torn and a trend of revenge and hatred is visible. “We couldn’t accommodate everyone; instead, conflict is growing in the country,” he said, adding that the absence of effective local government and a weak interim government has deepened the crisis.

“As a result, we’ve seen mobs replacing the administration, and false charges being filed across the country,” he said, adding that extortion has risen due to a lack of new employment opportunities.

He also said the health sector is facing a new crisis after India imposed visa restrictions, while universities remain unstable and students have yet to return to classes – something politicians themselves want. Despite the recent student union elections, the situation has not improved.

“Our politicians are now more focused on whether proportional representation will be introduced in the upper house, which has actually kept people in a state of tension,” he said.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue; journalist and researcher Asif Bin Ali; and Bhuiyan M Asaduzzaman, researcher at Dacca Institute of Research & Analytics, also spoke at the event.