

CHORKI ANNOUNCES ORIGINAL FILM ‘Little Miss Chaos’ showcasing young talent

Chorki has announced its new original film *Little Miss Chaos*, a romantic dramedy by debut director Mahmuda Sultana Rima. Centred on the lively university life of Ira, played by newcomer Sadnima Binte Noman, the story blends food, fashion and friendship with themes of trauma, love and humour. Opposite her is Saad Salmi Naovi as Maruf, the calm figure who steadies Ira's chaotic world.

Rima, who also wrote the script, describes it as a reflection of urban youth – where past baggage meets the search for trust and belonging. Chorki CEO Redoan Rony said the platform is committed to young voices and fresh storytelling. A poster released on September 24 teased the vibrant tone, while the trailer and release date for *Little Miss Chaos* will follow soon.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHORKI



SHARMIN JOYA

This award renewed my confidence VICKY ZAHED

Experimenting with dark content has always been one of director Vicky Zahed's strengths as a storyteller. This time, his web series *Chokro*, based on a dark yet real-life plot, earned him the Best Director (Series) award at Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards this year.

The iScreen-produced web series, featuring Tawsif Mahbub and Tasnia Farin in the lead roles, was inspired by true events.

Vicky could not attend the award ceremony in person due to unavoidable circumstances. The director shared that he missed the moment, and on his behalf, lead actor

Tawsif received the honour.

"An award always inspires an artiste and motivates them to excel. I am thankful to The Daily Star for honouring me with the Best Director (Series) award in the popular category for my web series *Chokro*," said Vicky. "For the OTT industry, this award has become a benchmark for everyone behind and in front of the camera, and it reflects Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards' continued commitment to fostering healthy competition."

The director further added that the recognition has made him more responsible as a storyteller. "Although I couldn't attend the ceremony, winning this award after *Redrum* (2022) is an indescribably special feeling. It has given me renewed confidence, encouragement, and energy to tell more stories in the future," he concluded.

Vicky's recent directorial project *AKA*, featuring Afran Nisho and Masuma Rahman Nabila, has also received much praise on social media and among audiences.

ENAMUL KARIM NIRJHAR features Konal, Dola, Masha and Antora in new album



A new album titled *Bujhlam*, presented by Gaanshala and Ek Nirjharer Gaan, releases tomorrow featuring four original blues tracks written and composed by Enamul Karim Nirjhar. The album brings together celebrated singers Somnur Monir Konal, Masha Islam, Dola Rahman, and Antora Rahman – a rare all-female lineup in Bangladeshi blues.

The tracklist includes *Drishyer Chhaya* by Konal, *Eki Bhabe Bujhlam* by Masha, *Bojhapora Shobdo* by Antora, and *Thakle Sahosh* by Dola, with musical arrangement by Autumnal Moon. Nirjhar said the songs explore solitude and inner conflict, blending words and melody into a "beauty of silence."



Warfaze seals first South Asian Zippo collaboration

Bangladeshi rock band Warfaze has become the first South Asian group to collaborate with Zippo for exclusive band-themed lighters. The agreement was signed on August 28 at Luxco Trading's Gulshan office. Two limited-edition designs, produced in the United States, will feature Warfaze album artwork on one side and the band's logo on the other.

Currently on a Canada tour celebrating 40 years of music, Warfaze expressed excitement over joining Zippo's global lineup that includes Metallica, Guns N' Roses and Bob Marley. Band leader Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu called the collaboration a special tribute to fans, with a Dhaka press conference planned after their return.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Bhaba-er Bhita’

Acclaimed director Molla Sagar presents *Bhaba-er Bhita*, celebrating the birth centennial of legendary filmmaker Ritwik Kumar Ghatak. Honouring the creator of *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, *Komal Gandhar*, and *Subarnarekha*, the production revisits his revolutionary film language.

DATE: FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 26, 2025
TIME: 6PM ONWARDS
VENUE: BENGAL SHILPALAYA



NEWS

No clear progress on ACC

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consultant either already appointed or in the process of being appointed.

Iftekharuzzaman stressed that responsibility for implementation rests with the government. "Except for one or two, there was political consensus on almost all our recommendations. There are no major obstacles to ACC reform," he said.

"No matter how many legal and institutional reforms we make on paper, unless there are positive shifts in mindset and a genuine commitment to anti-corruption practices, realising the commission's vision will be difficult."

Reflecting on the reform commission's proposals, Iftekharuzzaman said ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen

had expressed disappointment, not disagreement, noting that he found all 47 recommendations valid and necessary.

Asked, Momen said, "There's nothing new to add after Dr Iftekharuzzaman's comments. Repeating the same words becomes irritating. If there had been any disagreement between us, we would've started arguing right away."

He also acknowledged the government's acceptance of the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by Transparency International, which ranked Bangladesh 151st out of 180 countries.

"Previously, the government would reject the CPI outright. But this time, we

accepted it as close to reality," he said.

Addressing corruption within the ACC itself, he added, "If my commission isn't free of corruption, then I lose the moral right to speak out against corruption elsewhere. Whenever we find evidence of corruption within our institution, we take immediate action."

The newly signed MoU between the ACC and TIB aims to strengthen anti-corruption efforts through joint initiatives, including public awareness campaigns, ethics promotion, procedural improvements, research, training, policy dialogue and advocacy.

Director General (Prevention) Akhter Hossain signed on behalf of the ACC, while Dr Iftekharuzzaman represented TIB.

‘Rab helicopters will strike from above’

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above, alright."

The recordings were played after Tanvir Hassan Zoha, special investigation officer and prosecutor, who seized them from the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC), testified as the 53rd prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case against Hasina and her two aides. Another accused – Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, former inspector general of police – has now become an approver in the case.

The calls were between Hasina and then Dhaka South mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former Dhaka University vice-chancellor ASM Maksud Kamal, and Inu.

Zoha said CID forensic experts matched the voices with samples from the four individuals and confirmed them to be genuine.

According to the recordings, plans were made to track protesters with drones; deploy lethal weapons and helicopters; compile lists and detain organisers, label them "Razakars" (traitors) and execute them; shut down the internet; and spread propaganda branding protesters as militants.

After Zoha's statement, Md Amir Hossain, state-appointed defence counsel for Hasina and co-accused former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, cross-examined him and claimed the recordings were AI-generated.

Zoha rejected the claim, saying they were genuine. He added that

investigators recovered 69 audio clips and three call data records linked to Hasina from the NTMC on December 23 last year.

In the Hasina-Inu conversation, Inu urged using intelligence and local leaders to compile lists and detain organisers overnight, a step Hasina agreed to. When he pressed to restore internet services, she shot back, "Where will I get internet? They've burned it ... I would not bring it anymore; if another government comes, they'll bring it. I gave internet ... let them keep burning it."

Inu insisted another government would not come. Hasina replied, "I can't do it anymore ... I'm leaving now." When he said there was no need to go, she said Jamaat must be punished, and Inu urged "breaking the backbone" of Jamaat Shibir again in Dhaka.

He also discussed enforcing a strict curfew, saying anyone leaving home would be arrested, though no shooting would occur, and the army's position would be "absolutely strict". Inu said detainees would be held at local stations for up to 10 hours before release and claimed his party could mobilise up to 100,000 people to take control of Dhaka once the curfew was lifted.

Hasina noted that international sources labelled the events "a terrorist attack", to which Inu said, "[That is] the card we will play now... the government is tackling militant activities." Hasina replied, "No card playing... an international agency sent me a message saying it is [a] terrorist attack."

In another recording, Hasina was heard telling former DSCC mayor Taposh, her nephew, "We are now doing things differently. We are capturing photos with drones, and sending helicopters to several places. Wherever they [state forces] will see gatherings, there from the sky... I am having it done from the sky now, already started in several areas... already started."

Taposh repeatedly pressed for a mass arrest campaign, to which Hasina replied, "I have given instructions, now I have given direct instructions; now they will use lethal weapons. Wherever they [state forces] find them [protesters], they will shoot directly." He responded, "Yes, yes."

The Daily Star independently verified the Hasina-Taposh recording and, in July this year, conducted its own investigation with the Tech Global Institute, a technology nonprofit, whose analysis confirmed the call and voices were authentic with no sign of AI manipulation.

In another call, Hasina told the DU VC, "They [the protesters] want to become Razakars, don't they? Then they're all Razakars. What a strange country we live in. We've already hanged the Razakars, and now we'll do the same to them ..."

The VC assured her that protest leaders would be identified and expelled once the situation calmed.

The tribunal fixed next Sunday for the next hearing, when the investigation officer will testify as the last witness.

India imposes new condition

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ban on non-basmati rice exports.

A joint secretary in the Commerce Ministry, who requested anonymity, said the move aimed to track and regulate the movement of non-basmati rice, potentially requiring exporters to register their business activities related to this commodity before shipping abroad.

Saudi Arabia's grand mufti passes away

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Medina, hosts the annual Hajj pilgrimage required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their lives, making the pronouncements of the grand mufti that much more closely followed.

While closely aligned to Al Saud ruling family, which has allowed women to drive, opened movie theatres and further socially liberalised in recent years, Sheikh Abdulaziz denounced extremists like those in the Islamic State

"The registration would provide the government with better oversight of the non-basmati rice exports," he said, adding, "It could help monitor the volume and destination of exports to ensure compliance with export policies and maintain domestic food security."

An exporter said such a system could help prevent issues like the mis-

declaration of the type of rice being exported. "Because this has been an area of concern in the past," he added.

The move has come amid reports of losses of paddy in Punjab, Haryana, Bengal, and other states and another exporter, said, "It will help the government keep a tab on export demand and, if necessary, step in to bring things under control."

Foreign ministry, embassy officials to blame: BNP

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Acting chairman Tarique Rahman chaired the meeting virtually.

Regarding the polls, BNP leaders said some political parties have been pushing for a proportional representation system to delay the election and advance their own interests.

They also expressed concern that the posting of certain individuals to different administrative positions could be intended to influence the polls outcome.

BNP leaders mentioned that though Jamaat said it would not join the election if its demand for PR is not met, it has already picked possible candidates.

"Jamaat has always been two-faced. It says one thing but does another. These are its tactics," said a leader.

Tarique and his team have already identified at least 148 seats where the party is strong and have selected possible candidates, the leaders said.

They urged Tarique to quickly hold meetings with allies to finalise the candidates and push them to begin campaign without delay.

The names of the possible candidates would be announced right after Durga Puja, they said.

At the meeting, party leaders said that before the chief adviser's trip to the US for the UN General Assembly, AL supporters in New York announced protest programmes and even obtained permission to gather. However, no preventive steps were taken to ensure the safety of political leaders.

They also said the absence of BNP supporters at the airport was disappointing for the party.

"Mission and embassy officials knew through which gate and at what time the guests would arrive. They leaked this information to Awami League leaders. They also misled BNP leaders so that they could not meet Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir," said a leader, seeking anonymity.

A party insider said the government had invited Tarique to join the trip, but he asked Fakhrul to go.

On September 21, Fakhrul left with the chief adviser's entourage and reached New York the next day, where eggs were hurled at NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossain. A torrent of sexist slurs was directed at NCP Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara. Fakhrul was just ahead of them at the time.

FAKHRUL INTVIEW

The BNP believes that a Kolkata-based newspaper Ei Samay published an interview of Fakhrul to damage the party's image.

Fakhrul, who joined Tuesday's meeting virtually, said his words were "twisted" and presented differently by the newspaper.

Party leaders stood by Fakhrul, saying that there is no reason to question his honesty or political skills.