

FILMFARE AWARDS 2025

‘Laapataa Ladies’ ties ‘Gully Boy’ record with 13 wins

Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred upon Zeenat Aman and, posthumously, filmmaker Shyam Benegal. The RD Burman Award for Upcoming Talent in Music went to Achint Thakkar for his work in Jigraand Mr & Mrs Mahi.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 70th Filmfare Awards lit up Ahmedabad’s EKA Arena on Saturday night, marking a grand celebration of Hindi cinema’s evolving spirit. *Laapataa Ladies* emerged as the evening’s biggest winner, collecting 13 awards, including Best Film and Best Director for Kiran Rao — tying the all-time record held by *Gully Boy*.

Hosted by Shah Rukh Khan alongside Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul, the ceremony blended glamour, nostalgia, and artistic recognition. The night featured energetic performances by Shah Rukh, Kriti Sanon, and Kajol, as the industry gathered to honour both established and emerging talent.

Abhishek Bachchan and Kartik Aaryan shared the Best Actor (Male) honour — Bachchan for his restrained performance as a man navigating loss in Shoojit Sircar’s *I Want To Talk*, and Aaryan for his portrayal of boxing legend Murlikant Petkar in *Chandu Champion*. Alia Bhatt won Best Actress (Female) for *Jigra*, in which she portrayed a woman grappling with guilt and redemption.

The Critics’ Choice Awards recognised Rajkummar Rao as Best Actor (Male) for *Srikanth*, where he brought depth to the role of visually impaired entrepreneur Srikanth Bolla. Pratibha Ranta earned Best Actor (Female) for her portrayal of a runaway bride seeking freedom in *Laapataa Ladies*. Shoojit Sircar’s *I Want To Talk* was named



ILLUSTRATION: DOWEL BISWAS

Critics’ Best Film.

In supporting categories, Ravi Kishan and Chhaya Kadam both received recognition for *Laapataa Ladies*, praised for their layered performances as figures representing social change and generational tension. The film’s success also extended to technical and musical categories, with Sneha Desai winning for screenplay and dialogue, and Ram Sampath honoured for music and background score.

Action thriller *Kill* earned multiple technical awards, including cinematography, sound design, and editing, while *Article 370* was acknowledged for its compelling story and direction. Madhubanti Bagchi took home Best Playback Singer (Female) for *Stree 2*, and Arijit Singh won the male counterpart for *Laapataa Ladies*.

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Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton dies at 79



Diane Keaton, one of Hollywood’s most beloved and enduring stars, has died at the age of 79 in California. She is survived by her two children, daughter Dexter and son Duke.

The cause of her death was not disclosed by her family. However, it was reported that Keaton had previously struggled with skin cancer. The *Annie Hall* star was first diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma in her twenties, and later developed squamous cell carcinoma. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, she underwent two surgeries to treat the latter condition.

Keaton’s breakthrough role came as Kay Adams, the wife of Michael Corleone (played by Al Pacino), in Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather* (1972) — a role she would reprise in both sequels. Her performance in *Annie Hall* (1977) earned her the Academy Award for Best Actress, while she received further Oscar nominations for *Reds* (1981), *Marvin’s Room* (1996) and *Something’s Gotta Give* (2003).

WHAT’S THE HAPS?

‘RASHOMON’

Open Space Theatre presents a stage adaptation of Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s stories and Akira Kurosawa’s renowned film *Rashomon*. Directed by M Arifur Rahman, known for popular adaptations of *12 Angry Men* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, the production brings Japanese folklore to Dhaka audiences in a captivating performance.

Date: Today (Monday) Oct 13, 2025
Time: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm onwards
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA



Sabina Yasmin and Moushumi Bhowmik to headline London festival

Two of the subcontinent’s most beloved voices, legendary songstresses Sabina Yasmin from Bangladesh and Moushumi Bhowmik from West Bengal, are set to share the same stage in London this month.

The singers will perform on October 19 at a special music segment of the London Bangla Book Fair and Cultural Festival, to be held at the Mayfair Venue in Romford, East London. Organised by Udichi’s UK chapter

in collaboration with several local cultural organisations, the festival marks its 16th edition this year.

The day-long event will feature book launches, poetry recitations, and children’s performances from noon to 5:30pm, followed by the much-anticipated concert from 6:30pm to 10pm.

Sabina Yasmin will leave Dhaka for London today and is expected to return on October 25 after the performance.

NEWS

Dozens killed in clashes

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Taliban. Pakistan has not officially acknowledged the airstrikes.

Afghan troops opened fire on Pakistani border posts late on Saturday. Pakistan said that it had responded with gun and artillery fire.

Both nations claimed to have destroyed border posts of the other side. Pakistani security officials shared video footage, which they said showed Afghan posts being hit.

The exchanges were mostly over yesterday morning, Pakistani security officials said. But in Pakistan’s Kurram area, intermittent gunfire continued, according to local officials and residents.

Afghanistan’s ministry of defence had previously said that their operation had finished at midnight local time.

Kabul yesterday said that it had

halted attacks at the request of Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The two Arab Gulf nations had released statements of concern about the clashes.

“There is no kind of threat in any part of Afghanistan’s territory,” the Taliban administration’s spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said yesterday. “The Islamic Emirate and the people of Afghanistan will defend their land and remain resolute and committed in this defence.”

Mujahid said that fighting was ongoing in some areas.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he “strongly condemns provocations” by Afghanistan.

“There will be no compromise on Pakistan’s defence, and every provocation will be met with a strong and effective response,” Sharif said in a statement, accusing Taliban authorities in Afghanistan

of allowing their land to be used by “terrorist elements”.

Pakistani officials yesterday said Pakistan had closed crossings along the 2,600-km border with Afghanistan, a disputed colonial-era frontier known as the Durand line drawn up by the British in 1893.

The two main border crossings with Afghanistan, at Torkham and Chaman, and at least three minor crossings, at Kharlachi, Angoor Adda and Ghulam Khan, were closed yesterday, local officials said.

The Pakistani airstrikes coincided with a rare visit to India by a Taliban leader, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, which resulted in an announcement by India on Friday to upgrade relations. India is Pakistan’s longstanding adversary, with the trip causing concern in Islamabad.

Int’l standards for accountability

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The visit comes at a time when the perpetrators of human rights violations, including mass killings and enforced disappearances, during the Awami League regime are facing trial.

Mogwe lauded Bangladesh for acceding to the UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the formation of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances and the initiation of the trial of human rights violators.

“The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances is doing an amazing job given the number of people who have come forward to tell their stories, share their experiences and pain. Generally speaking, in terms of trying to deal with accountability, it’s really important for a country, which has been through severe rights violations, to ensure that memory is not lost of what has happened.”

About her visit to the July

Memorial Museum, she said she was deeply moved at how the memories are being captured, but also recognised that there is a need to pay attention to the healing process.

“You know, there will be deep trauma as a result of what has happened. But to be able to have accountability, you need to have memory, and you need to know and remember what happened,” she said.

She said she has a very strong sense that the interim government is doing as much as it can within the limited time to ensure that accountability is clear, impunity is not accepted, and people’s fundamental freedoms and ability to live with dignity are underscored.

Asked about the practice of the death penalty that the FIDH opposes, she said Bangladesh is committed to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its optional protocols, including those related to the death penalty.

“But one can understand that those issues need to be further discussed within the Bangladesh context while recognising that Bangladesh is part of the international family of nations.”

Asked what she suggests for continuing the accountability process, Mogwe said the most important element is the political will of the government in power, and that she saw such will in the government officials she engaged with in Bangladesh.

Asked about the ban on the Awami League’s activities, she said: “It was a very internal reflection process, of which I don’t know much. So, I think there needs to be a sensitivity to context.”

The rights activist said the uprising began with the spirit against discrimination, and that has to go on.

“One thing we need to remember is that discrimination erodes dignity. It erodes the ability of people to live with dignity.”

Officials of last 3 polls

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may be met by reappointing those who had served before but were not involved in any controversy, said a senior PHQ official.

The police have already prepared a list based on officers’ permanent addresses, political backgrounds and posting history under the former Awami League government. The list has been reviewed by several government agencies.

The PHQ is in the process of replacing the superintendents of police in 64 districts and the officers-in-charge of 640 police stations across the country.

“Basically, those who played commanding roles during the last three elections are being replaced,” the PHQ official added.

During yesterday’s briefing, Jahangir said the meeting discussed measures to identify individuals or groups attempting to create disorder ahead of the election and to bring them under the law.

Strict legal action will be taken against those who try to disrupt the electoral process, he said.

The government has prepared a clear and coordinated action plan involving all relevant agencies to ensure a smooth and credible election.

Deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, upazila nirbahi officers, and officers-in-charge will be instructed to work impartially, he said.

“Law enforcement and election officials have also been directed not to engage in any unlawful activities while on election duty.”

To ensure security at polling centres, Jahangir said CCTV cameras will be installed at all high-risk stations along with effective monitoring systems.

“We are working to equip polling personnel with body-worn cameras and ensure sufficient numbers of such devices are available.”

Jahangir outlined a broad security training programme for forces to be deployed during the election.

About 1.5 lakh police personnel, 5,85 lakh Ansar members and around 33,000 BGB personnel are set to receive election-related training, he said.

The training, which began on October 5 and is expected to be completed by January 15 next year, is being conducted across 130 venues in 28 batches, he said.

The first batch of 6,500 officers has completed training, while another 6,500 are undergoing sessions.

Ansar and Village Defence Party

(VDP) members are also receiving pre-election training, with around 585,000 members to be trained, including 135,000 armed and 405,000 unarmed members. Their training is scheduled to finish by mid-January.

Additionally, 3,157 newly recruited sepoys are being trained as striking force members.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will deploy around 33,000 members across 1,100 platoons, with 60 percent of their training already complete.

“We expect training for all 31,000 to be completed this year.”

More than 80,000 members of the armed forces will be deployed nationwide to maintain law and order during the polls, Jahangir said.

“Patrolling and intelligence surveillance will be intensified so the situation does not deteriorate,” he said.

Asked about the recovery of illegal weapons before the polls, he said it is not possible to recover every firearm.

“If every weapon were recovered, there would be no need for law enforcement agencies. Some arms remain outside, which is why patrols and intelligence activities are being strengthened.”

Shelved after spending Tk 2,800cr

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The authorities should plan how to make optimal use of the existing road.

Originally named the Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project, it was scheduled for completion by December 2016 at a cost of Tk 2,037.9 crore.

But long delay was caused by issues relating to land acquisition, relocation of utility services, design changes, contractors running out of money, and the pandemic. Physical work was suspended twice.

As a result, the total project cost is now estimated at Tk 4,268.3 crore and the deadline is this December.

The dedicated rapid bus service was supposed to allow people to reach Dhaka from Gazipur in 35-40 minutes, which now takes between an hour and a half and three hours.

MASTER PLAN

The special assistant said the government is working to prepare a comprehensive transport master plan, as no such plan has been formulated since independence.

He noted that the road, rail, shipping, and civil aviation authorities are currently operating with their own plans, causing coordination problems.

The road transport and bridges ministry has led the formulation of the master plan to address the problem, and a draft has already been prepared, he added.

He said the country’s major highways can no longer handle the increasing volume of vehicles. As a result, greater emphasis is now being placed on developing the rail and waterway systems.

RAIL FARE

Speaking at the meeting, Bangladesh Railway Director General Afzal Hossain said rail fares need to be revised to reduce the losses the railway incurs every year.

He said the fares last increased about nine years ago, while the prices of all other essentials have gone up during this time. Therefore, the fares should be adjusted in line with current market conditions, he added.

Afzal said that even after reducing operation costs, the railway still spends Tk 2 to earn Tk 1.

He said they cannot provide the expected services due to shortage of locomotives and carriages.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority’s Executive Director Neelima Akhter, Roads and Highways Department’s Chief Engineer Syed

Moinul Hasan, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd’s Managing Director Faruque Ahmed, RRR President Anwar Hossain, and General Secretary Tawhidul Islam, among others, spoke the meeting.

All 114 Jamaat-Shibir

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during a clash between BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir members at Shah Makhdum Hall on February 8, 2010. His body was recovered from a manhole the following day.

Mazedul Islam Opu, then general secretary of the banned BCL unit, filed a case with Motihar Police Station against 35 identified Jamaat Shibir men and 20-25 unidentified others.

On July 28, 2012, police submitted a chargesheet, accusing 114 people, including then Jamaat ameer Matiar Rahman Nizami, secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee, former Rajshahi city Jamaat ameer Ataur Rahman, RU Chhatra Shibir president Shamsul Alam Golap, secretary Mobarak Hossain, Nawab Abdul Latif Hall president Hasmat Ali, and Shaheed Habbibur Rahman Hall president Raizul Islam.