

## Yamada Yoji to receive Lifetime Achievement Award at Tokyo Film Festival

Japanese cinema legend Yamada Yoji will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 38th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF), celebrating a storied career spanning over six decades and 91 films.

The festival will also screen Yamada's latest film, *Tokyo Taxi*, starring Chieko Baisho and Takuya Kimura. Adapted from the 2023 French hit *Driving*



*Madeleine*, the film will serve as TIFF's official centrepiece before its nationwide release on November 21. Yamada will appear at a special talk session alongside *Kokuho* director Lee Sang-il at the TIFF Lounge.

A cultural icon, Yamada has received some of Japan's highest honours, including the Order of Culture (2012), recognition as a Person of Cultural Merit (2004), and designation as an Honorary Citizen of Tokyo (2014).

The 38th Tokyo International Film Festival will take place from October 27 to November 5 in the Hibiya-Yurakucho-Marunouchi-Ginza district.



## ‘IN SEARCH OF PEACE’ A spark of artistic serenity

AISHWARYA RAIHAN

Galerie Zoom at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) inaugurated a solo art exhibition by Sadrul Rafi titled *In Search of Peace* on October 17, 2025. The event was graced by Ekushey Padak-winning artist Professor Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, who praised Rafi's artistic finesse and the depth of his imagination.

Artist Sadrul Rafi invites viewers into his distinct world of creative exploration, where he masterfully blends diverse techniques and mediums. His work reflects the inspiration of artistic greats such as Picasso, Michelangelo, Botticelli, and Monet, alongside the profound influence of Bangladeshi masters like Safiuddin Ahmed, SM Sultan, and Zainul Abedin. Coincidentally, Rafi shares his birthday – October 25 – with Pablo Picasso, a connection he regards as a blessing from the universe.

Inspired by Picasso's *Guernica* (a powerful anti-war painting), Rafi has created his own interpretation that



PHOTOS: AISHWARYA RAIHAN

captures his personal thoughts and struggles. His delicately illustrated white bird stands as a symbol of peace and a tribute to his admiration for Picasso and his art. Among his works, one of the most striking pieces depicts pots of soup and a tiny bird; rendered in soft, soothing hues, crisp lines, and a gentle sense of charm.

The artist demonstrates remarkable precision, patience, and dedication through his ink drawings. Rich in colour and vibrancy, his works maintain a harmonious balance, and each

composition feels visually soothing.

Rafi shared that his art aims to inspire the younger generation. He hopes children and young adults will nurture their minds through creative expression so that they may find peace in a world full of chaos. Through his work, he envisions a more inclusive and harmonious society.

*In Search of Peace* may be a small-scale exhibition, but it presents a thoughtful glimpse into the artist's mind and soul. The showcase at AFD will remain open to visitors until October 28, 2025.

## James announces marriage, welcomes newborn son

Legendary rock musician Nagarbaul James has announced the birth of his son, Gibran Anam, with his wife, US-born Bangladeshi Namia Amin (now Namia Anam).

The baby was born on June 8, 2025, at Huntington Hospital in New York. Speaking to The Daily Star, James said, "The feeling of becoming a father is extraordinary. Please pray for the mother and the baby."

James and Namia married in Dhaka on June 12, 2024, a year after meeting in Los Angeles. This marks the musician's third marriage; he has three children from previous marriages.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## ‘Rated R’

**Rated R** brings a fearless comedy experience with Makhzum Khan Shadid and Bipro (Bhuriman). Blending dark humour with unflinching truths, the show shatters boundaries, and strips away filters, it challenges audiences and redefines contemporary stand-up for the daring and curious.

DATE: FRIDAY | OCT 24, 2025  
TIME: 5:30 PM ONWARDS  
VENUE: THE NEST, NURJAHAN ROAD



# NEWS

## Judges may hold executive posts

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The drafting of the ordinance gained momentum after an HC bench on September 2 directed the government to establish a separate secretariat for the SC within three months.

Following the hearing of a writ petition, the HC declared article 116 unconstitutional and ordered that the corresponding provision of the 1972 constitution be reinstated. The earlier provision had empowered the SC to deal with transfers, promotions, and discipline of lower court judges.

The draft ordinance said the SC secretariat would be given the status of a ministry-level entity, with full authority over planning, formulation, budget, expenditure management of judiciary-related projects.

The secretariat would also oversee subordinate courts, administrative tribunals, all judicial officers and staff, as well as all issues regarding their discipline, control and postings, it said.

Once the SC secretariat is set up, it will be able to directly communicate with any ministry or division of the

government, and vice versa. At present, such communication takes place through the law ministry.

The inter-ministerial committee has objected to several clauses of the draft ordinance and advised the law ministry to reconsider those.

Section 7(2) of the draft said, "The SC secretariat, on behalf of the president, will perform all necessary administrative duties concerning the control and disciplinary matters of the members of judicial service."

The Cabinet Division has advised the law ministry to review whether the proposed section 7(2) contradicts article 116 of the constitution. The article says matters relating to transfer, promotion, and discipline of lower court judges lie with the president, subject to consultation with the SC.

Section 9 of the draft ordinance said an eight-member committee, headed by the senior-most judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, would oversee planning, approval and implementation of projects for judicial institutions.

The committee recommended

removing this clause, noting that the government already has specific ministries and departments to carry out such functions.

It also suggested scrapping clause 12(4), which said any proposal from the SC secretariat regarding the judiciary's expenditure limit cannot be changed without consultation with the chief justice.

Clauses 12(7) and (8) will provide the chief justice with the authority to allocate and use a budget for the SC. The committee advised that the finance ministry's inputs be sought on these matters.

The committee also recommended using the term "servant" instead of "officer" throughout the draft ordinance.

On October 15, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters that the draft ordinance would be sent to the advisory council within a few weeks.

At several past events, he expressed hope that a SC secretariat would be set up within the tenure of this government.

## Tug-of-war for water lily continues

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Assembly behind the president and Speaker's seats, positioned for clear visibility. It will be exhibited in the president's office at Bangabhaban, other official workplaces, and conference rooms, and the same applies to the prime minister's offices.

It may be displayed during functions or meetings presided over by the president, on vehicles used by the president and prime minister, behind the chief justice's seat in the Supreme Court, and at embassies and high commissions during national day ceremonies. It may also appear on the president and prime minister's official letterheads.

Rule 5 states that no one else may use the national emblem without written government permission, nor may it appear in trademarks, designs, patents, or for trade or professional purposes.

**NCP AND EC'S BACK-AND-FORTH**  
On June 22, NCP submitted its registration application to the EC, proposing three symbols: water lily, pen, and mobile phone. In follow-up letters dated August 3 and September 24, the party revised its preference to a white or red water lily.

The EC wrote back on September 30 asking the party to choose from the list of allocable symbols and submit its choice by October 7.

However, in another letter, it asked the party to select a symbol by October 19. That day, NCP sought a written explanation from the EC regarding the criteria for including or excluding symbols.

Earlier on July 9, the EC decided not to include the water lily as an electoral symbol under the Election Conduct Rules. Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmand Masud had said, "We've already decided in principle that the water lily will not be included in the symbol list, primarily because it is part of the national emblem."

The commission on September 23 increased the number of allocable symbols from 69 to 115, excluding the water lily. Of the 115, 51 were allocated to registered parties, while the rest were reserved for independents and future use.

The next day, the NCP wrote to the EC again, arguing that the commission's reasoning was not "legally correct" and its refusal had no legal basis. The letter said party leaders told the EC that the national emblem's water lily is floating on water and is yellow and reddish in colour.

It added that the water lily is one of four distinct elements of the national emblem. The EC has already allocated a sheaf of paddy to BNP and the star to Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD Rob). "Given this precedent, the EC can also list and allocate the water lily," it said.

The EC has also assigned the national fruit, jackfruit, to a faction of Bangladesh Jatiya Party, and the golden fibre (jute) to Trinamool BNP.

"Therefore, although the water lily is the national flower, there is no legal barrier to its inclusion in the list of allocable symbols," the NCP added.

However, BNP was granted a sheaf of paddy as its electoral symbol, while the national emblem carries two single ears of paddy on each side of the flower. "The two are not visually identical," said a top election commissioner, preferring anonymity.

After NCP's September 24 letter, CEC AMM Nasiruddin questioned why the NCP's request had sparked so much debate, when the same appeal by Nagarik Oikya was earlier rejected without so much controversy.

Asked about NCP's push to secure the water lily through amendments to electoral rules, he said the matter would be decided collectively within the commission.

Meanwhile, NCP Chief Coordinator

Nasiruddin Patwary on October 9 said his party would not accept registration without its desired symbol. "The EC now faces two options: either cancel symbols like dhan [paddy], tara [star], and sonali aash [golden fibre] or allocate shapla [water lily]. We do not want symbols of any fraternal political parties to be cancelled."

About parties such as BNP using symbols linked to the national emblem, an election commissioner said, "Before 2001, the EC would sit with political parties on the day of symbol allocation ahead of national elections and assign symbols. It was a norm that parties were given the same symbols they had contested with earlier."

Ahead of the 2008 election, the EC introduced party registration and, in accordance with the Electoral Conduct Rules-2008, allocated a specific symbol to each registered party while reserving others for independents.

"The BNP first used its symbol [sheaf of paddy] in the 1979 election, and it was formally designated as the party's symbol ahead of the 2008 polls as well. Why revisit a matter that has long been settled?" the commissioner said, requesting anonymity.

Explaining why other elements of the national emblem were allocated to parties, EC Tahmidia said, "The issue of the water lily only recently came up, and the commission now needs to make a decision. The water lily is the main element of the emblem. The other elements are decorative additions, but the foundation of it is the water lily."

Speaking to this newspaper, NCP Senior Joint Member Secretary Nahida Sarwar Niva said the party wants the water lily because it's a symbol widely accepted by people. "During our mass marches in July, we saw public enthusiasm for the water lily. That is why we believe using it is an effective way to connect with the people."

## Israel must ensure

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refugees, also worked for the Hamas group it is fighting in Gaza, reports AFP.

US Vice President JD Vance yesterday cautioned there were challenges ahead both in terms of disarming Hamas and rebuilding Gaza as part of a US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian movement.

"We have a very, very tough task ahead of us, which is to disarm Hamas but rebuild Gaza, to make life better for the people of Gaza, but also to ensure that Hamas is no longer a threat to our friends in Israel," Vance said during a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu said ideas for "the day after" had been discussed. "We're just creating an unbelievable day after with a completely new vision of how to have the civil government, how to have the security there, who could provide that security there."

"It's not going to be easy, but I think it's possible... we're really creating a peace plan and an infrastructure here where nothing existed even a week and a day ago," he said.

Meanwhile, Palestinians in Gaza told Al Jazeera that they have seen no real change in their lives since the ceasefire, as Israel continues sporadic attacks and keeps blocking aid.

## Russia, Ukraine pound each other

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Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday backed US leader Donald Trump's proposal to make the current front line the basis for negotiations with Russia, but doubted his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin would accept it.

Trump "proposed 'Stay where we stay and begin conversation'," Zelensky told reporters during a brief visit to Oslo.

"I think that was a good compromise, but I'm not sure that Putin will support it, and I said it to the president," he said.

He visited Norway yesterday, the first leg of a European tour aimed at shoring up support for Kyiv amid a string of deadly Russian attacks, reports AFP.

In a separate development, Putin oversaw a test of Russia's nuclear forces on land, sea and air to test their readiness and command structure.

The Kremlin said in a statement that the test included the practice launch of a land-based intercontinental ballistic missile, a separate missile launch from a nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea, and the launch of missiles from strategic bombers.

Through the first nine months of his second term, Trump has pressed for an end to the conflict, the deadliest in Europe since World War Two.

## Ex-IGP became approver

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since their movement had turned into a one-point demand to oust the government, they had to prepare.

Amir replied, "This was part of a meticulous design."

Commenting on the testimony of Mahmudur Rahman, editor of the Daily Amar Desh, Amir said, "My argument is that he is an opponent of Sheikh Hasina. He disliked her rule and doesn't like anything about her. Whether such statements, made out of anger, should be accepted or not is, I believe, up to the tribunal."

Referring to the statement of a

witness who claimed that Hasina, during a visit to Pongu Hospital, ordered that no wounded July uprising victims be released or treated, Amir said that only one witness made this claim. No one else – not even any doctor or nurse – corroborated it. He added that even the media did not carry any such report.

Amir concluded, "I believe that the charges brought against my clients are not sufficient for conviction. Since the prosecution could not prove the allegations, my clients should be acquitted with honour."

## 3 teens jailed

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the sentences under the relevant laws. As the convicts are juveniles, the punishments were determined following the Children Act," he added.

According to the case statement, the victim was an HSC second-year student. On March 18 this year, while returning home after visiting her father's grave in South Pangashia village, the girl was raped.

The next day, the victim filed a case with Dumki Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. She died by suicide on April 26 at a house in Dhaka.

The victim's father was killed in police firing during the July uprising last year in Mohammadpur.

## Amnesty hails

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justice for victims," said the rights organisation.

Amnesty urged the authorities to ensure that the proceedings adhere to international human rights standards, including guarantees of due process, the right to a fair trial, and the use of civilian courts for the hearings.

The rights body also called on the government to refrain from imposing the death penalty.