

## Raspurnima festival to screen Manipuri anthology 'Nunshipi'

The Manipuri community's largest festival, Raspurnima, will feature a special screening of Manipuri films today in Kamalganj, Moulvibazar. The programme will showcase the anthology film *Nunshipi (Pity Women)*, comprising three short films — *Inaphi*, *Tiras*, and *Hunashori* — each depicting the struggles of working Manipuri women.

Written and directed by Shuvashish Sinha under the Tahara banner, the shorts have been screened and awarded at various international film festivals. The films' producers are Uttam Kumar Singh and Sajedul Islam, with cinematography by Abid Mallik and music by Sharmila Sinha.

Jyoti Sinha stars in the lead role alongside an ensemble cast. Two screenings will be held today at 4.30pm and 8.30pm at the Manipuri Lalitkala Academy.



## Animal abuse must stop: Jaya Ahsan



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It was sultry afternoon when Jaya Ahsan, seemingly in a serious mood, joined a roundtable at The Daily Star. The roundtable was the first of its kind in the organisation, focusing on the welfare of stray animals, their population management, and the state's responsibility toward the voiceless.

As the roundtable took shape, the National Award-winning actress attentively listened to the observations of Dr Md Shahinur

Alam, Director of the Department of Livestock's Medicine Store; Brigadier Imrul Quais Chowdhury, Chief Health Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation; Rubaiya Ahmad, Founder and Chairperson of Obhoyaromno-Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation; Dr Cynthia Farid, lawyer at the Bangladesh Supreme Court; Zafar Sobhan, lawyer, journalist, and animal welfare activist; Saqeb Mahbub, lawyer at Mahbub & Co; and Dr

Nusrat Jahan, Senior Associate Veterinarian at Bangladesh Animal Care Centre.

"I've learned a lot today," said Jaya, noticeably grimmer than her usual demeanor. "I will say that in my industry, there are barely proper guidelines for human beings — and in a country where animals are seen as 'less', it's really challenging to ensure their rights, especially on sets."

Jaya Ahsan played an instrumental role in ensuring justice for elephants. Responding to a writ filed by popular actress Jaya Ahsan and PAW Foundation Founder and Chairman Rakibul Haque Amil, a court suspended the issuing and renewal of licenses to adopt elephants from the wild.

The actress continued with an anecdote from a set: "Once, I saw a monkey kept on a set for hours, and the crew were clearly trying to hide it from me." Once confronted, they simply said that they were properly feeding the animal, as a justification for keeping it for so long. "This is the state of 'animal welfare', even in the minds of artists."

Jaya emphasised the need for artists to genuinely understand the importance of animal rights and empathy toward them. "While there are many artists who adopted the 'animal lover' moniker purely out of fashion, at the very least, they now know what it's like to care for a cat or a dog, which will inspire empathy when they deal with a stray."

"While we have a long way to go, we must tread the path together," concluded Jaya.



### WHAT'S THE HAPS?



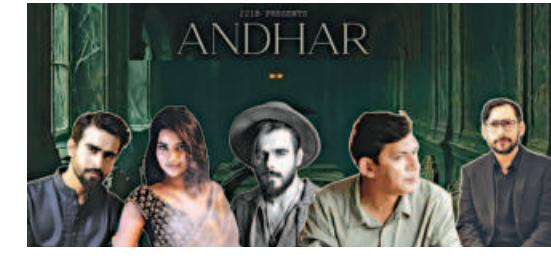
#### 'Café de Volte'

*Café de Volte*, a Hunt Inc production, unfolds in the quiet town of Jinjira, where civility conceals corruption. Directed by Diana Meriline, the play follows Max D'Rosario, a brilliant Bengali Christian chef whose restaurant launch turns into a dark reckoning — a blood-soaked fable of power, morality, and survival.

DATE: WEDNESDAY NOV 5, 2025

TIME: 7 PM-10PM

VENUE: STUDIO THEATRE HALL, BSA



## Who'll star in Raihan Rafi's eerie thriller 'Andhar'?

Filmmaker Raihan Rafi has unveiled the final cast of his upcoming supernatural thriller *Andhar* during an episode of the *Geek Myth* podcast. The star-studded lineup includes Siam Ahmed, Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazifa Tushi, Mostofa Monwar, Afsana Mimi, Gazi Rakayet, Tanzika Amin, Farrukh Ahmed Rehan, and Swarnali Choity in key roles.

The podcast was hosted by Cryptic Fate's Shakib Chowdhury, one of the film's three writers alongside Bassbaba Sumon and Adnan Adib Khan. Described as a horror story rooted in Bangladeshi culture, *Andhar* blends mystery, emotion, and thriller elements.

The technical crew features Sumon Sarker as DOP, Shihab Nurun Nabi as Art Director, and Arafat Mohsin Nidhi as Composer, among other prominent names.

# NEWS

## BNP men protest party ticket snubs

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Yasin, former convener of Cumilla South District BNP, was denied nomination, while BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Md. Monirul Haque Chowdhury got the party ticket.

In Madaripur-1, supporters of BNP leader Sajjad Hossain Lavlu Siddique, who was denied the party's nomination, blocked the Dhaka-Bhanga Expressway for nearly two hours on Monday night after Kamal Zaman Molla was announced the party's candidate for the constituency.

However, Molla's nomination was halted due to "unavoidable reasons", said a press release signed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

In Chattogram, the BNP yesterday expelled four of the partymen over their alleged involvement in nomination-related violence in Sitakunda upazila.

Their activities were "against public interest" and violated party discipline, said a press release signed by Rizvi.

The BNP awarded the party ticket to Kazi Salauddin for Chattogram-4 constituency.

Protesting the decision, supporters of Aslam Chowdhury, who was denied nomination, blocked the roads of Kadam Rasul, Bhatiari Bazar and Jalil Gate areas along the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway. They also set fire to a railway track nearby.

Earlier on Monday, the BNP unveiled a list of potential candidates for 237 constituencies to contest under the party banner in the upcoming 13th National Election expected to be held in February next year.

The nominees for the remaining 63 seats are yet to be decided.

Hours after the announcement, protests also broke out in several constituencies, including Madaripur, Chattogram, Kushtia and Meherpur, against the announced nominees.

[Our correspondents from Tangail, Shariatpur, Cumilla and Chattogram contributed to this report.]

## Ex-DMP chief

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He said that around 2:15pm on July 19, Rampura police OC Mashirul Rahman and additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of DMP's Khilgaon Zone Rashedul Islam arrived at the station with a BGB armoured personnel carrier (APC) and ordered police to open fire on protesting students and locals near the station.

"As a result of the firing, a man named Nadeem was killed near the Banasree Jame Mosque next to the police station. Another, Maya Islam, was also killed, and a child, Musa Khan, was injured nearby," Kibria told the tribunal.

Meanwhile, Constable Abu Bakar Siddiq, assistant librarian of the International Crimes Tribunal's Investigation Agency, also testified yesterday.

He said the case's investigation officer, Syed Abdur Rouf, had collected videos, audio clips, UN reports, newspaper reports, and other documents from the agency's

Chanchal Chandra Sarkar as the shooters.

Kibria, now posted at Badda Police Station, also identified ASI Chanchal, the only accused currently in custody, in the dock.

During cross-examination, Chanchal's counsel, Sarwar Jahan Nippon, argued that Kibria's claim that he recognised the accused from the video was based on an assumption, which the witness denied.

Amir Hossain, state defence counsel for four absconding accused, also cross-examined the witness. Both he and Sarwar claimed Kibria was not telling the truth, which the witness also denied.

Meanwhile, Constable Abu Bakar Siddiq, assistant librarian of the International Crimes Tribunal's Investigation Agency, also testified yesterday.

He was taken to Thakurgaon General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

In another accident, Maya Rani was on her way to attend a wedding in Shibrampur village with her husband on a motorcycle.

Around 4:30pm, when they reached Gorurhat village in Khochabari area, a cattle laden Nasimon hit their motorcycle and ran over Maya after she fell.

Locals rescued her and took her to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where she died around 5:00pm, said Ramjan Ali, SI of Thakurgaon Sadar police.

In Tangail, two were killed when a bus hit an auto-rickshaw at Deohata in Mirzapur.

Traffic on the highway remained suspended for about an hour.

In Thakurgaon, two were killed in separate accidents in Bhulli and Khochabari villages in Thakurgaon Sadar.

The deceased are Liakat Ali, 60, of Chareswari village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, and Maya Rani, 40, of Muralipur village in Dinajpur's Birgunj, said police.

Efforts are underway to seize the bus, he added.

[Our correspondents from Noakhali, Moulvibazar, Thakurgaon and Tangail contributed to this report.]

## Merging 5 lenders

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financial institutions, converted specially. They will be designated as Class B shareholders.

The remaining Tk 7,500 crore will come from the deposits of other institutional depositors, excluding banks, financial institutions and multinational companies, converted specially. They will be designated as Class C shareholders.

Finance ministry officials said that they had already prepared the application and relevant documents for the bank's licence, which were sent to the law ministry for vetting last week.

Once the vetting is completed, they will be forwarded to the BB, they said.

After forming the new bank, depositors will primarily get their funds.

As part of the move, the central bank has drawn up a detailed roadmap outlining specific timelines for the repayment process.

This will be announced soon through an official gazette, with the repayment schedule taking effect from the date mentioned in it. A draft of that gazette has already been prepared.

Savings of up to Tk 2 lakh, which will be treated as protected deposits, will require no wait and will be paid immediately after the merger.

The repayment schedule for individual depositors will be divided into two categories, according to the draft of the official circular.

Depositor repayments will get the highest priority as public confidence in the banking sector depends on it. On the other hand, the BB has finalised five proposed names as administrators for the Shariah-based banks that are under consideration for a merger.

The banking regulator is likely to send administrators to those banks this week.

As part of the move, Mansur invited the managing directors and chairmen of the five banks today.

## Attacks on journos up

FROM PAGE 12 and the occupation of establishments," the report said.

In October, at least 48 journalists were harassed or assaulted in 34 incidents — an increase from the previous month.

The HRSS also documented 35 incidents of violence against workers, leaving 11 dead and 116 injured. In addition, 36 workers died in workplace accidents.

The report further noted a rise in incidents of violence against women and children.

## Tanzania lifts some restrictions after election violence

AFP, Nairobi

Some Tanzanians were venturing out yesterday as restrictions, including a curfew and an internet blackout, were partially lifted after elections erupted into violence that the opposition says has left hundreds dead.

The country's electoral commission said President Samia Suluhu Hassan won the October 29 poll with 98 percent of the vote. The opposition has declared the election a "sham".

A total internet blackout in place since protests broke out on election day has been partially eased, but verifiable information out of the east African country remains tricky.