

I would never disrespect a woman: Irfan Sajjad

SHARMIN JOYA

A new series titled *Eta Amaderi Golpo*, featuring Irfan Sajjad, has recently begun airing. Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the project also stars Khairul Basar, Sunerah Binte Kamal, and Keya Pavel.

"I've mentioned before that I'm focusing more on films and being selective about television work. However, the way this series has been designed is very rich—it carries the production values of OTT content. I can confidently say no television series in Bangladesh has been made with such arrangements."

The series premiered on November 5 on Cinemawala's YouTube channel, with Channel 1 as its television partner.

Irfan also revealed that he will soon begin work on an OTT project directed by Sumon Dhar for iScreen. "After quite some time, I've taken up a web project," he said.

At this stage of his career, Irfan wants to focus on exclusive and festive projects. "I'm being very selective now, as I'm preparing myself for the silver screen and avoiding average work," he added.

In a short span, two of Irfan's films—*Vhoyal* (November 2024) and *Ali* (July 2025)—were released, both directed by Biplob Hayder. Reflecting on the audience's response, Irfan noted, "Both films were made by new production houses. I believe the response could have been stronger with broader marketing and promotions. Large-scale campaigns help projects reach their

audience—something these films lacked, no matter how good the project is."

Currently in talks with several production houses, Irfan hopes to collaborate with established directors and major banners in the near future.

Last week, an incident on social media left actor Irfan Sajjad deeply disturbed. Speaking to The Daily Star, he shared his side of the story.

"My colleagues, friends, and followers know that I often post about cricket—and most of my posts are sarcastic," Irfan said. "After Rubaba Dowla ma'am was appointed as a director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), I made a sarcastic post saying that now, at least if the boys don't perform well, there's no hope. It was meant humorously and positively, not in a negative or sexist way. What I meant was that for us, the boys, Rubaba ma'am is a diva—someone beautiful, brilliant, and admirable. Unfortunately, some radical feminists took it offensively. When I saw the situation escalating and hatred spreading, I chose not to argue and preferred peace over drama."

Despite his clarification, Irfan said a section of people continued to spread negativity online, leaving him traumatised.

"I will be extremely careful about what I post on social media from now on," he stated. "My wife is a news presenter, and I believe that

if I, as a man, can contribute to creating a safer environment in the media, she too will be safer—it's all connected. I would never intentionally disrespect any woman in my life."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

'Noya Manush' heads to Dhaka and Karachi film festivals



The debut feature by filmmaker Sohel Rana Bayati, *Noya Manush* has been invited to the Dhaka International Film Festival and the World Cultural Festival in Karachi.

Based on AMM Hasanuzzaman's novel *Bedoran Baluchore*, the film was adapted for the screen by Masum Reza. The cast includes Moushumi Hamid, Ashish Khandaker, and a large ensemble.

At DIFF, running from January 10 to 18, 2026, the film will compete in the Bangladesh Panorama section. In Karachi, it will screen on November 27 as part of a 38-day global arts showcase featuring participants from over 100 countries.

The film was shot on Kanudir Char during Super Cyclone Sitang and features music by Emon Chowdhury, Mushfiq Litu, and Shovon Roy.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Buddhijibir Bashay Shoytan'

Anuswar's new production dives into a feverish night where a tormented intellectual confronts a devil amid a world collapsing under war. A stark, unsettling meditation on morality, madness, and the fragility of human conscience, the play mirrors the chaos engulfing our present era.



Date: Friday-Saturday | November 14-15, 2025
Time: 5pm and 7:30pm onwards
Venue: Anuswar Studio, Segunbagicha



Michael Jackson makes history as 'Thriller' re-enters top 10

Michael Jackson has set a new Billboard milestone as *Thriller* returned to the Hot 100 at No 10 after the 2025 Halloween season. The jump from No 32 makes him the first artiste to score top 10 hits in six different decades.

The 1982 single generated 14 million streams and reached 9.3 million in radio audience, underscoring Jackson's lasting cultural reach sixteen

years after his death. The surge follows renewed attention driven by the trailer for Antoine Fuqua's 2026 biopic *Michael*. Jackson now surpasses Andy Williams, who charted across five decades. Taylor Swift continues her current dominance, holding No 1 with *The Fate of Ophelia* and leading the Billboard 200 with *The Life of a Showgirl*.

NEWS

Suicide bomber

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people have been martyred and around 27 are wounded."

An AFP journalist saw paramilitary troops cordoning off the area where the minister said the assailant detonated the explosives near a police vehicle.

"We are trying to identify who he (the attacker) is and where he came from," Naqvi said. Pakistani Taliban militant group claimed responsibility, saying in a statement they had targeted judicial officials.

"Our fighter attacked the judicial commission in Islamabad. Judges, lawyers and officials who carried out rulings under Pakistan's un-Islamic laws were targeted," the group said in a statement, threatening to carry out more attacks "until Islamic Sharia law is implemented" in the Muslim-majority country.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pinned the blame on "terrorist proxies backed by India", Pakistan's longtime foe, without providing evidence.

Sharif accused the Pakistani Taliban militant group and separatists from the country's Balochistan region, both of whom have carried out attacks mostly targeting the security forces.

In Islamabad, lawyer Mohammed Shahzad Butt said there was a "massive blast".

"Everyone started running inside out of panic. I have seen at least five dead bodies lying at the front gate," he told AFP.

Rustum Malik, another lawyer, told AFP he "heard a loud bang at the gate" as he was entering the complex.

"It was complete chaos, lawyers and people were running inside the complex. I saw two dead bodies lying on the gate and several cars were on fire," said Malik.

Islamabad has largely been spared major militant violence in recent years, with the last suicide attack occurring in December 2022.

The bombing came as Pakistani security forces battled militants who had holed up in a school in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Wana district.

"There was an attack in Wana as well last night," Naqvi said. "Three people died in that attack. The attacker involved in that attack is an Afghan. Afghanistan is directly involved in that attack."

Bangladesh 13th

CASUALTIES AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS 1995-2024

HAZARDS	FATALITIES	AFFECTED PEOPLE (million people)	ECONOMIC LOSS (billion USD)
Droughts	25,283	1825.08	286.95
Flood	205,452	2720.01	1314.01
Heatwave	278,395	33.93	32.86
Storm	274,753	988.26	2637.27
Wildfire	2,791	15.26	177.57
Other	45,611	112.30	64.96

SOURCE: GERMANWATCH CRI 2026

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that COP30 must find effective ways to close the global ambition gap," said David Eckstein, one of the authors of the report.

Global emissions must be cut immediately to avoid further human and economic losses.

"At the same time, adaptation must accelerate, with concrete loss and damage solutions and adequate climate finance," he added.

In 2024, drought, flood, heatwave, storms and wildfires were the main weather events.

Bangladesh, the Philippines and

India recorded the most people affected by extreme weather in 2024. Bangladesh experienced a severe heatwave with temperatures that reached 43.8 degrees Celsius and that affected more than 33 million people.

"Heat waves and storms pose the greatest threat to human life when it comes to extreme weather events," said Laura Schäfer, another author of the report.

Storms also caused by far the greatest monetary damage, while floods were responsible for the highest number of people affected, she added.

No sensible person

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LeT founder Hafiz Saeed is "actively planning attacks on India through Bangladesh".

On Monday, at least eight people were killed in a car explosion near the Red Fort in the Indian capital, Delhi.

While the cause of the blast has not yet been officially confirmed, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "conspirators" will be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, a deadly suicide bombing took place outside Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, near court buildings, claiming 12 lives. Terror outfit Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called it "India's state-sponsored terrorism".

Szalay's 'Flesh'

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London for so many years I also had a similar feeling about London," Szalay told BBC Radio.

"I really wanted to write a book that stretched between Hungary and London and involved a character who was not quite at home in either place."

The novel was the Canadian-born author's sixth work of fiction. He was shortlisted in 2016 for his book 'All That Man Is' which told the story of nine men at various life stages.

"We had never read anything quite like it. It is, in many ways, a dark book but it is a joy to read," Roddy Doyle, chair of judges this year, said in the statement shared by the organisers.

"I don't think I've read a novel that uses the white space on the page so well. It's as if the author... is inviting the reader to fill the space, to observe – almost to create – the character with him."

ASK probe finds

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treatment for the victim, and guarantee the safety of his family.

The report said that taking a detainee to police quarters while in custody and summoning his wife at night are both violations of legal procedure.

According to the report, Afsana told ASK investigators that Md Fazlul Karim, sub-inspector (SI) and the investigating officer of Netrakona Sadar Police Station, called her from her husband's phone on October 20 and asked her to bring food to the station. When she refused, her husband called again and said, "Why aren't you coming? The police are asking you to come."

Moments later, she heard her husband screaming over the phone, shouting, "My wife can't come here with a child. Kill me instead!"

Terrified, Afsana went to the police station around 9:00pm with her mother and two-year-old child. She said the investigating officer told her to go to the police quarters and warned, "Don't panic or cry when you see your husband."

Afsana said that when she entered the police quarters, she saw her husband blindfolded, hands and legs tied, hanging from an iron rod. When she asked why, the police replied, "He's on remand; should we let him sleep instead of questioning?"

She alleged that the police officer demanded money, saying, "You've done politics and made money for years; now face the consequences."

Apel is a former vice-president of the Netrakona district unit of banned student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League.

He was beaten continuously for around two hours, his wife told ASK.

During a jail visit, ASK representatives spoke with Apel, who said that while he was on remand, SI Fazlul, constable Ashraf, and another officer wearing glasses hung him in the police quarters and beat him.

When contacted, the police station's Officer-in-Charge Kazi Shah Newaz declined to comment.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Administration) Rezwan Ahmed said, "The allegation is under investigation. SI Fazlul Karim has been withdrawn from the police station and attached to the district police lines."

Use SMG burst-fire

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firing shotgun, two teargas guns, and for the team in charge, a 9mm pistol.

The commissioner also ordered that permanent checkpoints be increased from seven to 13.

Asked about the wireless order, the CMP commissioner told The Daily Star, "These [SMGs] are not for unarmed civilians. We will not use SMGs on anyone who does not have a weapon."

"This directive is meant for armed terrorists – those carrying weapons. In my area [Bayezid's Chalitatali], they came in and committed murder. I don't

want them to have the audacity to do this again. These armed terrorists enter Chattogram city to carry out such acts. This measure is being taken so that they won't even dream of attempting it," he said.

Answering another question, the CMP commissioner said, "I assure you this is not aimed at Awami League men who stage quick marches or flash processions in the city. We will arrest them and hand them over to the court as per the law. I didn't tell officers to use SMGs on unarmed AI people. Don't misinterpret this."

Ctg police yet to make headway

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A day after Sarwar's murder, armed men shot and injured a CNG auto rickshaw driver in the same area, heightening panic among residents.

Several CMP officials said that no precautionary or preventive measures were taken after these shootings. Two former police officials, who recently left CMP for another unit, said that in similar past incidents, large-scale block raids were immediately conducted, but no such response was seen this time. Such inaction risks further emboldening the attackers to operate with impunity.

BAKALIA DOUBLE MURDER

On March 29, two men were shot dead in a brazen attack on a private car in the city's Bakalia area. Police said that the now slain Sarwar was also inside the car during the attack but had then somehow managed to survive.

The victims, Bokhtiar Hossain, 30, and Md Abdullah, 32, were both identified as known followers of Sarwar.

According to the murder case filed by the victims' families, the double murder was rooted in a feud between Sarwar and Chhoto Sazzad.

Feroza Begum, mother of one of the victims, filed a case with Bakalia Police Station, naming Chhoto Sazzad, his wife Tamanna Sharmin (as an instigator), and seven others as accused.

Two weeks before the double murder, Chhoto Sazzad was arrested in Dhaka. In response, his wife Tamanna posted a video on social media threatening reprisal against those she believed responsible for his arrest. She was later arrested in June in the Bakalia double murder case.

Investigating Officer Mozammel Haque, inspector (investigation) of Bakalia Police Station, said, "We've arrested 10 suspects, including four named in the FIR, and recovered a

foreign-made pistol. Three suspects were directly involved in the killings. Multiple raids have been conducted to catch the rest and recover the remaining weapons."

MURDER OF JCD ACTIVIST

On October 27, Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal (JCD) activist Md Sazzad, 22, was shot dead in the city's Bakalia Bogor Beel area amid clashes over tearing down political banners.