



Imran–Nancy’s new song to pay tribute to Andrew Kishore

Imran Mahmudul and Nazmun Munira Nancy have reunited for a playback duet. Under the banner of Anupam Music, the two have lent their voices to a new track titled **Ami Pathore Phool Fotabo 2.0**.

Originally featured in the 1997 film **Shesh Thikana**, **Ami Pathore Phool Fotabo** gained timeless popularity through Andrew Kishore’s vocals, lyrics by Milton Khondokar, and music composed by Alam Khan. In the new version, the first two lines of the original have been used as a bridge, which inspired the title **Ami Pathore Phool Fotabo 2.0**.

Imran did the new arrangement, while Ahmed Rizvi wrote the lyrics. Recording for the song was recently completed at Imran’s studio.

The upcoming music video will also be a grand production. Director Soikat Reza will shoot the video in Malaysia. Although the shoot is planned for next month, the casting will be finalised beforehand. If all goes well, **Ami Pathore Phool Fotabo 2.0** will be released on Anupam Music’s YouTube channel at the very beginning of the New Year.

SUSHANTA GHOSH

A two-day group art exhibition featuring works inspired by poet Jibanananda Das’ depiction of nature concluded in Dhaka on Sunday evening. The show, showcasing paintings by 28 artists, was held at the Land Gallery in Lalmatia.

The exhibition was inaugurated on Saturday by eminent artist Shahid Kabir. Artist Abdul Mannan, artist Dr Kazi Mozammel Hossain were presented as chief guests, and Moinuddin Khaled and Shamsul Alam Azad were also presented as special guests at the opening ceremony.

The paintings—created in watercolour, acrylic, and mixed media—portrayed various elements found in Jibanananda’s poetry and nature imagery. Motifs such as the Dhanshiri river, the ‘chalta flower’, ‘bhorer doyel pakhi’, owls, ducks, dinghy boats, and verses from his poems featured prominently across the works. A total of 33 paintings by 28 artists were displayed.

Artist Abdul Mannan, one of the participants, said Jibanananda’s poems capture the timeless beauty of rural Bengal. “That eternal landscape is what we tried to portray in this exhibition,” he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Several artists painted their own interpretations of the Dhanshiri River. Artist Tapas Karmakar noted, “The poet wrote, ‘I will come back again to the Dhanshiri’s bank.’ That longing moved me to depict this river.”

The exhibition was organised by Charukola Barishal. Its coordinator, Sushanta Ghosh, said the show will later travel to Barishal. “Seventy-one years after the poet’s passing, this exhibition stands as our tribute to him,” he said.

In his inaugural speech, artist Shahid Kabir said, “The nature that Jibanananda brought to life through

his poems has been reimagined here by painters in their own colours and forms. This is our homage to the poet.” He added, “No destructive force can diminish the creative spirit of Bengal”

Another chief guest, artist Kazi Mozammel Hossain, said the exhibition not only expresses the artists’ admiration for Jibanananda Das but also brings forth the everlasting beauty of Bengal’s nature on canvas.

Eminent artist Chinmaye Sikder said artists paid their respects to Jibanananda Das.

‘Wicked: For Good’ breaks box office records

Wicked: For Good opened to \$68.6 million on Friday, including previews, putting the musical sequel on track for a \$151.5 million weekend—potentially the biggest debut ever for a Broadway adaptation and the second-largest in Universal’s history after **Jurassic World**.

The film outpaces last year’s first installment, which launched with \$112 million, and leads 2025 releases, though the total includes extended early-access events that began Monday.

Premium formats are driving revenue, with \$1.9 million from 4DX and ScreenX screenings. The PG-rated film earned an “A” CinemaScore amid strong but less ecstatic reviews. Meanwhile, **Now You See Me: Now You Don’t** is projected to reach \$37.1 million domestically, while Disney’s **Predator: Badlands** approaches \$76.5 million.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?

‘Helen Keller’

Swapnadal’s acclaimed monodrama returns for its 61st show, tracing Helen Keller’s journey from silence and isolation to global humanist voice. Featuring Juana Sobnom, the production explores defiance, intellect, and the moral urgency of empathy in a world still waging wars against difference.

DATE: TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 25, 2025
TIME: 7 PM - 8:15 PM

VENUE: STUDIO THEATRE HALL,
BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY



‘Squid Game: America’: David Fincher’s project set to begin filming



The pink-uniformed army is returning to screens in an American adaptation. Following Cate Blanchett’s cameo in the final season of **Squid Game**, David Fincher’s western version is moving forward, with filming reportedly beginning in February 2026.

The new series titled **Squid Game: America** will be disconnected from the original Korean series. The cast remains undisclosed, including whether Blanchett will reprise her recruiter role. Fincher is known for thrillers like **Gone Girl**, **Zodiac**, and **Fight Club**. The original creator Hwang Dong-hyuk confirmed the American version’s existence. The American version is projected for release in February 2028.

Since its 2021 debut, **Squid Game** became a streaming phenomenon, spawning seasons 2 and 3, and reality show **Squid Game: The Challenge**.

NEWS

Ex-OC Pradeep was mastermind

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file appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court within 30 days, challenging the HC verdict.

On June 2 this year, the HC bench delivered the verdict after hearing the death reference (trial court documents) and the appeals filed by the convicts challenging the trial court judgement.

In the judgement, the HC upheld the death sentences for Pradeep and Liaquat as well as the life imprisonment for six others handed down by the trial court in the same case.

The six are ex-SI Nanda Dulal Rakshit, former constables Sagar Deb and Rubel Sharma, and police informants Md Nezamuddin, Md Nurul Amin, and Md Ayaz Uddin. All eight convicts are in jail.

According to the HC verdict, Sinha arrived in Cox’s Bazar on July 2, 2020, with his associates Sahedul Islam Sifat,

Shipra Debnath, and Rupti to film scenic footage of hills, forests, and sea beaches for his YouTube channel “Just Go”.

On July 7, 2020, they moved into Nilima Resort and travelled around Cox’s Bazar, Teknaf, and Ramu to record videos. During this time, they learnt from locals about various illegal activities of then OC Pradeep and some of his subordinates, including extortion, enforced disappearances, and “crossfire” killings.

When Pradeep learnt this through his informants, he threatened Sinha in mid-July 2020 and instructed him to stop such activities and leave the area.

Despite this threat, Sinha continued his work. Thereafter, Pradeep, along with Nanda Dulal, Sagar, Nurul, Ayaz, and Nezamuddin, conspired to kill Sinha.

On July 31, 2020, Liaquat and Nanda Dulal, acting on information, positioned themselves at the Shamlapur APBn checkpoint on Marine Drive to intercept Sinha. When Sinha’s car arrived, they blocked the road.

On Liaquat’s orders, Sinha stepped out with hands raised. Liaquat then fired four shots at Sinha’s upper body, critically wounding him. As Sinha pleaded for water and air, he was abused, handcuffed, and assaulted.

Liaquat then informed Pradeep, who soon arrived with other officers. Pradeep verbally abused Sinha, kicked his chest, breaking his ribs, and pressed his neck with his boot until Sinha breathed his last.

The HC verdict said these actions are corroborated by multiple confessions, witness testimony, phone records, and the autopsy report.

Three hurt in attack

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Commissioner’s office premises, demanded exemplary punishment for Abul Sarkar.

At one stage, members of Touthidi Janata chased Sarkar’s followers and beat them up with sticks and hurled brick chips. Some of the victims jumped into the waterbody beside the stadium out of fear, the police official said, adding that law enforcers later rescued them and took them to Sadar Hospital for treatment.

No case was filed over the incident as of the filing of this report around 10:00pm.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Bangladesh and National Citizen Party strongly condemned the violence and expressed deep outrage over the ongoing attacks, arrests and persecution of bauls, Sufis and members of other minorities.

CPB, in a statement signed by its President Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandon and General Secretary Abdullah Kafi Ratan, accused the interim government of using police to support such attackers.

It said the government has neglected its commitment to creating a non-communal and equitable Bangladesh; it instead is backing far-right forces and pushing the country toward a crisis.

The party called upon the public to support the oppressed baul-fakir community.

In its statement, NCP said there might be differences in opinions and



PHOTO: STAR

A baul supporter rescued by police after being attacked yesterday.

ideologies, but such violence is in no way acceptable. “In the cultural and spiritual tradition of Bangladesh, the bauls, fakirs and Sufis have significant contribution, and it is our responsibility to preserve and protect this tradition.”

It demanded a probe into the attacks and that those responsible be brought to book.

Earlier, Udichi Shilpigoshthi, in a statement issued last night, strongly protested the arrest of renowned baul Abul Sarkar and the attack on his supporters.

In the statement, Udichi’s acting president Mahmud Selim and its general secretary Amit Ranjan Dey said that such persecution of bauls, who are bearers of Bengal’s long-standing non-communal spirit, is completely unacceptable.

Admin must be under our control

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when Shahjahan made the remarks.

The video of the speech went viral on social media yesterday.

Shahjahan said, “If the ameer of Jamaat were here, I would say that elections can’t be won only with people, the administration must be brought under our control ... I’m talking about each constituency ... Those in the administration must all be under us. They must stand up and sit down at our command. They will make arrests at our command and file cases at our command ...”

“In each of your constituencies, primary school teachers must speak for the daripalla [scale] symbol [Jamaat’s election symbol]. All teachers of higher secondary schools must speak for the daripalla ...”

Addressing a local leader of Fatikchhari, he said, “Police must follow you. The OC [officer in charge] must know your schedule in the morning and provide you with protocol.”

Polling time, booths likely to increase

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announce the election schedule will be fixed within two to three days.

The EC had earlier said it plans to announce the schedule in the first week of December.

Masud said the EC may need to increase the number of polling booths in the upcoming election. “If possible, voting hours may also be extended so voters have more time to cast their referendum ballots,” he said.

National elections typically run from 8:00am to 4:00pm without a break. The starting time may be brought forward in the upcoming polls, officials said.

For the election planned for February, the EC has designated 42,761 polling centres and 244,739 booths

nationwide -- one centre for every 3,000 voters, with one booth for every 500 male voters and 400 female voters.

Officials said these calculations were made only for the parliamentary election. If both votes are held together, the number of booths will need to rise, even if the number of centres remains unchanged, since casting two ballots will take longer.

Some commissioners also suggested deploying more polling officials to ease the ballot count.

Usually, the EC appoints one presiding officer for each centre, one assistant presiding officer, and two polling officials for each booth. These officials are also responsible for counting the votes.

Masud also said the commission

Citizens’ vigilance key

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She identified three essential components for successful democratic resilience. These are active youth engagement, cooperation across political parties, and efforts to combat abuse and harassment, especially targeting women, in digital spaces.

Youth make up about a quarter of Bangladesh’s population, she noted, and have historically played decisive roles in toppling governments and have huge potential in rebuilding communities.

Engaging them, she said, improves representation and cultivates the next generation of leaders.

On cross-party cooperation, Cecil said that despite intraparty violence,

political parties remain well placed to foster peaceful political participation and strengthen community ties. She cited examples of multi-party collaboration and prevention of violence against minorities in parts of Bangladesh.

Cecil raised concerns about targeted abuse against women in politics. A recent study showed that 76 percent of women MPs in the Asia-Pacific region reported online psychological gender-based violence.

Likewise, she said, although women played leading roles in the 2024 July uprising, female activists in Bangladesh now face coordinated smear campaigns -- a trend that threatens representation and quality

of democracy.

“Unfortunately, there’s no agreement on one effective solution, but it’s clear that we need a multi-prong approach, including legal measures and media interventions such as factchecking and increased accountability,” she said.

Nurul Kabir, editor of the New Age, said disinformation existed in the past, but technology has amplified its reach to an unprecedented scale, making fact-checking even more challenging for the media.

There are suggestions that newsrooms employ dedicated fact-checkers, he said, but ultimately, “every professional journalist should be a fact-checker,” he added.