

George Martin confirms multiple ‘Game of Thrones’ sequels in development

George R R Martin has confirmed that the *Game of Thrones* universe is expanding, revealing at the 2025 Iceland Noir Festival that five to six new spin-offs – including at least one sequel – are now in development.

These projects come in addition to the ongoing prequels *House of the Dragon* and *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms*. While he did not clarify whether the sequels will be films or series, he noted that he is collaborating with multiple writers. The update has revived speculation about a potential Arya Stark follow-up, long requested by fans.

Martin also reiterated that three animated Westeros shows are in the works, underscoring HBO’s continued commitment to growing the franchise.



The girl in the video wasn’t me, news portals should be more responsible: OYSHEE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

An unfortunate incident took place at the Gazipur Shimultoli Small & Cottage Industries Fair, where a clash between visitors left the venue in shambles. At the centre of controversy was a video, supposedly featuring singer Oyshee Fatema Tuz Zahara, seen toppling a wall to ‘escape’. The video has been circulated widely, even on nationally renowned news portals and pages.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the singer confirmed that the girl in the video was not her. “I am astounded by how news portals could run the video without even verifying,” said the singer. “Our performance at the venue went very smoothly, and everyone enjoyed it. I do not know how the clashes at the venue started. To be honest, it was one of the best performances of my life.”

The singer expressed disappointment and discomfort at how the media is portraying the incident. “Some people are trying to politicise the incident, and it is very awkward that I am somehow in the midst of it. I kindly request my friends in the media to verify information before publication to avoid spreading confusion among the public,” she said.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?

EXHIBITION: ‘BREAK THE CIRCLE’

IUTPS brings together arresting global visions in its 12th edition, presenting 50 photographs and 7 photo stories distilled from 7,832 submissions. Curated by Jewel Paul, the exhibition reveals a refined tapestry of perspectives where emerging voices meet seasoned mastery, creating an evocative testament to the power and poetry of visual storytelling.

Date: Thursday-Sunday | November 27-30, 2025

Time: 12pm- 8pm

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA



Dharmendra passes away

STAR REPORT

Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra passed away yesterday morning at his residence in Juhu, according to reports by Indian news agency IANS.

He was 89.

The family has not yet released an official statement, but media reports say he had long been battling age-related health issues, including respiratory complications.

The legendary actor was cremated at Pawan Hans Crematorium in Mumbai, with family members and close friends in attendance.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on his official X account, wrote, “The passing of Dharmendra Ji marks the end of an era in Indian cinema.”

Born Dharam Singh Deol in a village in Ludhiana in 1935, and raised in Nasrali, Punjab, in a middle-class Jatt Sikh family, Dharmendra made his film debut in 1960 with the romantic drama “Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere”.

He established himself in the 1960s with films such as “Bandini”, “Aaye Milan Ki Bela” and “Khamoshi”, before earning acclaim for his performance in Chetan Anand’s war drama “Haqeeqat” in 1965. His breakthrough as a box-office star came with “Phool Aur Patthar” the very next year.

Over the next two decades, Dharmendra starred in some of Bollywood’s biggest hits, including “Mera Gaon Mera Desh”, “Seeta Aur Geeta”, “Chupke Chupke”, “Sholay” and “Yaadon Ki Baraat”.

Across a career spanning over 300 films, he proved his versatility in romance, action, comedy and thrillers, earning the title of the original “He Man of Bollywood” for performing many of his own stunts.

SEE FULL STORY ON THE DAILY STAR ONLINE

NEWS

Khaleda
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so far, she has been started on antibiotics,” Prof Siddiqui added.

In a message sent to The Daily Star around 9:30pm, another doctor from the medical board said, “Madam [Khaleda] has pneumonia. Treatment is ongoing. If there is no improvement, she may be taken to the CCU soon. Along with pneumonia, some other complications have arisen.

“Because of her age, she cannot receive all treatment at the same time even if we want to The doctors will keep her under close observation for the next 24 hours.”

Since returning home from London on May 6 after advanced medical care, Khaleda has been undergoing regular check-ups at Evercare Hospital.

Her family members, including Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman, are in close contact with her doctors.

Israeli drone attacks
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training exercise in the occupied Golan Heights, claiming to prepare itself for “a variety of scenarios” along the Syrian border.

In a statement, the army said it had started “conducting a Chief of Staff test as part of a headquarters exercise”, with the drill running from yesterday morning and for the next two days.

In a separate development, Iran yesterday slammed Israel over its killing of Hezbollah’s military chief, a day after the commander was targeted with a strike in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, reports AFP.

“The Iranian foreign ministry strongly condemns the cowardly assassination of the great commander of the Lebanese Islamic Resistance, the martyr Haytham Ali Tabatabai,” the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Senior Hezbollah official Mahmoud Qmati said Israel’s strike crossed a “red line” and that the group’s leadership was considering whether it would respond.

Israel said it assassinated Hezbollah commander because the group was rearming and regrouping. The US was informed of the attack.

57% of coastal homes
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technologies, credit, or climate-resilient public infrastructure.

The consequences are particularly severe for the poor and for agriculture-dependent families, who are losing land, crops, and income as salinity, flooding, and extreme heat intensify.

For the past 10 years, almost 75 percent of coastal residents in Bangladesh have reported experiencing flooding, which the report notes is lower than satellite-based estimates of around 90 percent.

The reported worst flood was about 40 centimetres deep, and it took about a week for the water to recede.

According to satellite data, in coastal Bangladesh, the average household was flooded 19 times during 2000-2018, or roughly once a year.

While Bangladesh’s investments in cyclone shelters and embankments have historically saved thousands of lives, the report warns that fiscal constraints are limiting the government’s ability to scale up infrastructure at the pace demanded by climate impacts.

The report argues that private-sector-led adaptation will be crucial, estimating that up to one-third of climate-related losses could be avoided if corporate firms can shift resources and investments more quickly in response to climate pressures. Improving access to credit, insurance, transport networks, and

digital connectivity is essential to enable that transition.

“Bangladesh’s resilience is being continually tested by evolving environmental challenges... more needs to be done,” said Jean Pesme, World Bank division director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

While speaking at the report unveiling event, he emphasised the need to expand early warning systems, social protection, climate-smart agriculture, and adaptation finance, including innovative risk-finance tools.

At a panel discussion, Prof Sharmin Neelormi of Jahangirnagar University said, “Climate-resilient infrastructures are now a critical issue, and our leadership must think seriously about how to address it.”

“In the Eighth Five-Year Plan, we placed strong emphasis on infrastructure, but with the Ninth Plan still on hold, many of these priorities remain unresolved,” she added.

Bangladesh needs nearly \$12 billion a year for adaptation and mitigation, but the government can provide only about \$3.5 billion, said Farhina Ahmed, secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

“The country also requires innovative financing and stronger private-sector participation.”

“Adaptation is often unattractive for private investors, so we must rethink how to mobilise financing. Each investment must generate multiple benefits,” she added.

New alliance set to launch
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trial of Sheikh Hasina.”

NCP’s Chief Coordinator (South) Hasnat Abdullah said, “The Jatiya Party functions as a political extension of the Awami League and India.”

He urged the EC to disqualify Jatiya Party from the election, saying that its participation would distort the electoral environment. “If the polls are affected, the government and the Election Commission will be responsible for it.”

Party officials said they screened over 1,000 aspirants in the past two days and have officially closed the process, and that aspirants who missed their turn or were not informed can now reach out through the party’s hotline.

SPs for all dists
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For the selection process through lottery, the PHQ, earlier in July this year, conducted an evaluation and prepared a list it deemed fit with priority for the 25th, 27th, and 28th batches of the police cadre.

Another PHQ source said that after the SP postings, the next step will be assigning officers in-charge (OCs) to police stations through a similar lottery process.

Lists of honest, neutral, and competent inspectors have already been collected from unit chiefs, and a “fit list” has been compiled.

At the same time, the process of clearing long-pending promotions of senior officers has also begun.

Earlier on Saturday, a special meeting was held at the home ministry to discuss policies related to police appointments and transfers during the election period.

During the meeting, a discussion arose regarding keeping the incumbent SPs working in their respective districts, while another group requested a total reshuffle. Amid the situation, the government decided to select SPs through a lottery system.

A senior PHQ official, requesting anonymity, said the lottery method was introduced to avoid any controversy surrounding election-centric policing.

“This will help ensure the deployment of neutral officers in the field,” he said.

Catalan nationalist titan goes on trial for corruption
AFP, San Fernando De Henares

Spain’s top criminal court yesterday opened a trial on corruption charges against ailing Catalan nationalist figurehead Jordi Pujol, a titan of Spanish politics following dictator General Francisco Franco’s death.

The trial of Pujol, 95, and his seven children for alleged criminal association and money laundering centres on the origin of the fortune of the man who led Catalonia’s regional government from 1980 to 2003.

Govt inaction risks fuelling
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In a joint statement, 258 citizens said that since the July uprising, a specific group has emerged as the “sole agent” of Islam, leading a purge to eliminate differing opinions and practices.

It demanded Sarkar’s immediate release.

The statement mentioned vandalism of over 200 shrines, exhumation and burning of a body, harassment of women over attire, and the disruption of cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has criticised the double standards of law enforcement agencies.

“While law enforcement arrested the baul singer very quickly after charges of hurting religious sentiment were made against him, the same law enforcement stood by silently when baul artistes were attacked in broad daylight,” read the statement issued yesterday.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said this reluctance could be interpreted as “unofficial approval” of the violence.

He also described the government’s recent cancellation of music and physical education teacher recruitment as evidence of “state appeasement,” fostering a culture of fear in which artistes are being forced into hiding.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), in its statement, said the attack violated articles 37 and 39 of the constitution, which guarantee freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

“Protecting the baul and other cultural-spiritual traditions is the constitutional duty of the state,” ASK stated, demanding a swift, impartial investigation and legal action against the attackers.

Meanwhile, eminent columnist Farhad Mazhar condemned the arrest of Sarkar and subsequent attack on baul artistes, saying such actions have nothing to do with religion.

He also announced that the next mega assembly of bauls, fakirs, and sadhus would be held in Manikganj, and he would be present there.

“Those who are beating up innocent bauls in Manikganj, I will be there. If you want, you can beat me too. I will take the beating. We do not

seek revenge, but you will be taught a lesson,” he said at a protest rally organised in front of Dhaka’s Jatiya Press Club.

“What you are doing in the name of Islam has nothing to do with religion. Those who oppress innocent people and resort to violence can never claim to be followers of the prophet (PBUH),” he said.

Farhad Mazhar urged all bauls, Sufis, and fakirs to unite. “I urge all of you to stand with us, because today a powerful religious-fundamentalist force is attacking our heritage. Stay with us and continue this struggle alongside us.”

He also said that Abul Sarkar had been active in the anti-fascist movement.

“From events at the Shaheed Minar to any protest gathering, there hasn’t been a single one where he wasn’t by my side. By arresting him, you have essentially arrested me. I will not accept this,” he added.

Warning those trying to destabilise Bangladesh for political gains, Farhad Mazhar said, “Such conspiracies never remain hidden forever.”

He also urged NCP, BNP, and Jamaat to oppose the injustices inflicted on the bauls, Sufis, and fakirs.

“If you do not protest against this oppression and side with the oppressor for votes, don’t expect the people to bring you to power. The July uprising was the struggle of the oppressed against the powerful,” he said, warning that neither god nor people will forgive them.

Yesterday, the Mymensingh district unit of Bangladesh Sufibad Oikya Parishad held a protest rally at the city’s Shaheed Firoz Jahangir Square, demanding the release of Sarkar.

CASE FILED OVER ATTACK

A case was filed with Manikganj Sadar Police Station yesterday over the attack on Baul artiste Abul Sarkar’s followers.

Officer-in-Charge of Manikganj Sadar Police Station, Md Kamal Hossain, said that Abdul Alim, injured in the attack, filed the case against unknown persons.

Police have launched a drive to identify and arrest those involved, he confirmed.