



SHUVOO— OISHEE starrer 'Noor' set for OTT release

Arifin Shuvoo and Jannatul Ferdous Oishee starrer film *Noor* is now set for an OTT release. According to sources, *Noor*, originally made for a theatrical release, is currently in its final stages of preparation for streaming. The trailer is expected within the next couple of days. The film is slated to premiere on the Bioscope app either on November 28 or in the second week of December.

Directed by Raihan Rafi, *Noor* initially began production under Shapla Media. In June 2024, the project was reportedly acquired by a new production company, Quiet & Set, which explored various release strategies, holding several meetings with the director, cast, and producers. The final decision favoured an OTT release.

The first line Inside '22' exhibition

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

22 creators, one mentor with a vision to see beyond perfected pieces. We are used to seeing final artworks—paintings, frames, and films that appear whole and effortless. We see the final conclusion of an artist's tangled mind. But only an artist knows the tangled path behind them: the first spark of inspiration, the hesitation between decisions, the unexpected details that emerge unplanned, and the relentless revisions that eventually shape what we admire.

On November 21, La Galerie at Alliance Française de Dhaka opened its doors to the public for the inauguration of *22 — Step Inside the Making of*



a Dream. The exhibition, which runs from November 21 to November 29, invites visitors into the intimate and often unseen beginnings of animated storytelling—before the polish, before the frames move, before the films exist.

"22" marks the conclusion of the Animation Short Film Development Workshop, held during the June–August 2025 session. Twenty participants enrolled through an open call, while two were selected for their merit and creative footprints. Guided by filmmaker Afroza



PHOTO: COURTESY

Hossain Sara, they shaped 22 distinct development-stage animated concepts.

Sara, director of the internationally recognised short film *Song of Whales*, designed the workshop as a reflective, process-driven space. She encouraged participants to look inward, to locate the personal truths at the heart of their stories.

"My question was: what did I do right to get international attention, and what did I do wrong that still leaves me unsatisfied?" she reflects while talking to The Daily Star. "I tried to pass on everything I learned—successes and mistakes alike."

Across 20 sessions, the participants explored the foundation of animation development: truth-based ideation, scriptwriting, pitching materials, storyboard, style exploration, character and world building, concept art, production strategy, budgeting, and the small but essential skills that help a story take root.

"The participants surprised me with their ability to broaden their horizons in every class," she says. "The 20 sessions flew by, leaving behind a mark of self-acceptance through the stories they crafted."

Although each participant completed all required components, the exhibition curates their work by highlighting individual strengths—whether in character design, visualisation, sketchbook ideation, or

conceptual foundations. "The aim is to highlight what they can already do beautifully while making them aware of where they need support," Sara explains. "Animation thrives in teamwork."

Walking through La Galerie, visitors encounter ducklings searching for belonging, intergenerational secrets, psychological spirals, mythic dreamscapes—each expressed through rough sketches, colour tests, visual notes, and early compositions.

Participant Rakeeb Razzaq speaks fondly of Sara's mentorship, "I think Sara apu is one of the coolest filmmakers around here. We learned so much about direction, production, timeline, scriptwriting, storyboards, and many more, which helped us a lot. She was always there, sharing her experiences and helping us find our stories. A very cool person with lots of knowledge."

Viewers lingered over sketchbooks and pinned drawings, imagining the animated worlds they might become.

"They're enjoying the little sparks," Sara says. "Even though many works are just rough sketches, they're connecting because each carries the heart of a story."

As *22 — Step Inside the Making of a Dream* continues till November 29, it stands not as a gallery of completed films but as a testament to how imagination begins—tentative, vulnerable, intimate, and full of possibility.

Singer Badhon Sarker Puja ties the knot



Singer Badhon Sarker Puja has gotten married. Her groom's name is Shuvangker Sen. The couple tied the knot on Monday.

Confirming the news of her marriage to The Daily Star, Puja said, "We've known each other and been friends for the past year. Our families arranged our wedding. Please keep us in your prayers."

Shuvangker Sen is a model and a working professional.

Badhon Sarker Puja

has made a name for herself with her popular songs which includes *Tumi Dure Dure Ar Theko Na, Chupi Chupi, Tomar Amar Bhalobasha*, amongst others.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



'Poetry: What Burns Inside?'

Thaahor invites poets and enthusiasts to an evening where memories, emotions, and untold stories find voice. Through slam and open mic performances, participants explore the power of words, bridging personal truth and shared experience in a warm, reflective space celebrating the art of poetry.

Date: Saturday | November 29, 2025

Time: 4:30 pm onwards

Venue: Banani

NEWS

11 Tangail BNP leaders submit resignations

FROM PAGE 12

President Abdul Mannan; BNP member Ashraful Alam; Gajaria Union BNP President Abdur Rauf; and Bahuria Union BNP General Secretary Latif Mia.

Those who did so yesterday are Shahjahan Saju; Gajaria Union BNP Member Secretary Md Mojibur Fakir; Gajaria Union Jubo Dal Convener Md Robiul Awal; Jubo Dal Member-Secretary Md Biplob; the same union's Ward-9 Jubo Dal General Secretary Shamim Ahmed; and Dariapur Union Jubo Dal Senior Joint General Secretary Sajidur Rahman.

Ahmed Azam Khan, a vice chairman of the BNP's central committee, previously contested elections from the same constituency in 2001 and 2008 as a BNP candidate but was defeated both times.

According to the letters, addressed to the president and general secretary of the party's Tangail district unit, they resigned voluntarily out of dissatisfaction with what they described as arbitrary decisions by the party nominee. The letters also mentioned political harassment

and obstacles to carrying out party activities as reasons for their decision.

The protesting leaders further alleged that Ahmed Azam Khan held several secret meetings with local Awami League leaders and activists in an attempt to secure their votes. Many of those Awami League figures are accused in cases filed over attacks on students during the anti-discrimination movement, they said.

Contacted, Abdul Based said his decision to resign stemmed from several issues.

"One of them is that Ahmed Azam Khan humiliated us by rehabilitating men from the Awami League and other parties," he said.

He added that Azam Khan, last Wednesday, threatened and verbally abused district freedom fighter commander Khaleq Mandal, sparking protests across the district.

"A person who can humiliate freedom fighters cannot be a man of ideals," he said.

"We noticed that Azam Khan prioritised Awami League leaders and activists in hopes of securing votes, instead of valuing our own party

workers. He gave them front-row seats in party programmes. When we protested, he threatened to expel us," he added.

Shahjahan Saju said the nominee's actions have humiliated BNP activists, who have endured oppression over the last 16 years under Awami League rule.

"We demand the cancellation of Ahmed Azam Khan's nomination. If that does not happen, more than two hundred BNP and affiliated organisation leaders will hold a press conference and resign within a day or two. Many have already submitted their resignation letters to me," he said.

The Daily Star could not reach Ahmed Azam Khan for comments. His phone remained switched off, and attempts to contact him through close aides were unsuccessful.

However, he told Prothom Alo that a conspiracy was being orchestrated against him.

Hasanuzzaman Shahin, president of BNP's Tangail district unit, told The Daily Star that he had not yet received any resignation letters.

Referendum to feature coloured ballot

FROM PAGE 12

The government on November 13 decided that the national election and the July charter referendum will be held on the same day.

Upon receiving the government's directive to hold a referendum, the EC began exploring measures to ensure both votes run smoothly.

Bangladesh has held three referendums so far. Those in 1977 and 1985 were widely seen as attempts to legitimise the military regimes of Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, while the 1991 referendum marked the country's return to parliamentary democracy.

The first two referendums were held under the Referendum Orders of 1977 and 1985 and the third under the Referendum Act of 1991.

Elaborating on the ordinance, Nazrul said that the returning officers, assistant returning officers, presiding officers and polling officers appointed by the commission for the parliamentary elections will also serve in the same roles for the referendum.

The laws and regulations governing entry into polling centres

and maintaining order during the parliamentary elections will equally apply to the referendum.

After the close of voting, the same procedures as in the parliamentary elections will be followed. The election officials will count the ballots.

If, for any reason, voting is hampered and the presiding officer finds that voting cannot proceed, he or she may suspend the polling.

The EC, if satisfied that the results from other polling centres are sufficient to determine the outcome of the referendum, will only then order re-polling in those affected centres.

"Suppose there are 100 polling centres and voting could not take place in 20 of them. If the Commission determines that even without considering the results of those 20 centres, the outcome of the referendum can be decided based on the results from the remaining 80 centres, then no re-polling will be ordered in those 20 centres," Nazrul said.

Asked whether the referendum question addressed the notes of dissent issued by the different parties during consensus talks, Nazrul said the decision

was taken in a way that it would not be unbearable for any party and it was not taken against any political party.

"Political parties or others may interpret the matter in their own way but the government has made its decisions according to its own perspective. Every word has been clarified and how it is interpreted is up to them."

Asked how voters would cast their votes if there were agreement on two issues and disagreement on two others, he said that everything has been considered in the referendum.

Voters will cast their votes based on the four proposals presented: those who agree more strongly will vote "Yes", while those who disagree more strongly will vote "No".

A massive and extensive awareness campaign would be conducted for voters' education, he said, adding that the programme will begin in the next two to three days.

The EC has made extensive preparations and the government will also carry out campaigns to ensure that every citizen understands the matter clearly.

5 hurt as cops disperse BCS protesters

FROM PAGE 12

Inspector Faruk, in charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost, confirmed that five injured exminees were brought to the hospital.

Humayun Kabir, a protesting candidate, termed the exam schedule "unfair".

"Usually, students get at least six months to prepare for the written exam after the preliminary results are published. But this time, our results were published on September 28, and

the written exam is scheduled for November 27, leaving us with only two months to prepare for the test," he told The Daily Star.

The candidates have been protesting in Shahbagh for at least a week. Since Saturday, the movement has spread to other parts of the country.

In Mymensingh, demonstrating students blocked railway tracks at Jabbar Mor on the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus around 5:00pm. The blockade

continued until the filing of this report at 8:30pm, said Md Akhtar Hossain, OC of Mymensingh Railway Police Station.

In Rajshahi, protesters blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in front of Rajshahi University from 4:00pm to 7:30pm.

The 47th BCS written examinations are scheduled to begin on November 27 across centres in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, Rangpur, and Mymensingh.

CAAB ignored the fire risks for years

FROM PAGE 1

The committee confirms that the fire began from an electrical short circuit, dismissing speculation that the incident was planned or an act of sabotage. Instead, it points to years of ignored safety rules, the unprotected storage of flammable and dangerous goods, and repeated failures by CAAB.

Biman, Customs, and courier agencies to ensure even basic fire safety in the cargo complex.

After Disaster Management and Relief Adviser Faruk E Azam handed over the report, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy that the blaze started from electrical arcing and subsequent short circuiting inside the courier shed.

"The committee found 48 iron-grilled offices of various courier agencies in the shed, none of which had any fire alarm, smoke detector, sprinkler system or hydrant. Flammable products, including polythene-wrapped cloth rolls, chemicals, compressed perfume and body spray bottles, electronic goods, batteries, and pharmaceutical raw materials, were piled there without any compliance or caution," he said.

He added that the fire began in the extended north western section of the courier shed, between cages used by DHL, RS, and SRK — a conclusion

supported by specialists from Turkey, BUET experts, fire professionals, and CID forensic analysts.

According to the report, smoke was first spotted around 2:15pm by Ansar member Ismail. CAAB's first fire engine arrived at 2:22pm and the second at 2:25pm, while the first unit from Uttara Fire Station reached at 2:50pm.

The report reveals widespread breaches and structural failures across the cargo village. The section where the fire originated was not built according to the approved design. About 400 tonnes of goods are stacked daily in the apron area, blocking access for fire service vehicles. There is no permanent fire station at the airport, despite its critical importance. Flammable and dangerous goods continue to be stored without safeguards, and imported cargo is handled without proper systems.

Firefighters faced severe operational barriers: obstructed access due to piled-up cargo, no hydrants, inadequate water and foam, locked iron grills, unknown chemicals in the shed, structural collapse, falling debris, and a fully developed fire burning at more than 1,500°C.

The committee notes that roughly 75 percent of the burnt goods were auctionable items that should have been stored elsewhere but were stacked inside the shed.

Warning that similar disasters may recur without urgent reforms, the report assigns primary responsibility to CAAB for structural and safety failures, saying it did not enforce fire safety or ensure compliance with the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) in the leased courier and cargo sheds. Biman Bangladesh Airlines also failed to ensure protection within its leased areas, while courier agencies did not install fire safety systems. Customs House, Dhaka, is faulted for not removing auctionable goods to a safe location.

To prevent future catastrophes, the committee proposes creating a separate operator or authority to run and maintain airport operations, leaving CAAB to focus solely on regulation. It recommends limiting Biman's role to flight operations and assigning ground handling to a CAAB-appointed skilled operator.

Other measures include strict adherence to ICAO and BNBC standards, urgent approval of the fire safety plan, construction of a specialised fire station, relocation of dangerous goods warehouses, and separate storage for auctionable items. The committee also urges regular fire drills, a digital cargo inventory system, and firefighting, rescue, and first-aid training for at least 18 percent of staff in every airport department.

Amid fire, comes an unnamed hero

FROM PAGE 12

belongings. May Allah bless him for his courage and compassion."

The fire had started around 5:15pm. The fire service dispatched 21 units in phases and brought the blaze under control around 10:30pm.

Hundreds of homes were gutted in the fire, including those of Bokul and her teenage rescuer.

For nearly 26 years, Bokul has lived in the Korail slum with her five children.

Her husband, Billal Hossain, left

17 years ago. At the time, all of her children were very young.

In order to sustain her family, Bokul worked as a day labourer in Banani