

Runa Khan fronts psychological thriller 'Roktochaya'

Runa Khan is set to appear in the role of a police officer for the first time in her upcoming short film *Roktochaya*, directed by Ali Zulfikar Zahedi. Shooting for the project has recently been completed.

Describing the film, Runa Khan said *Roktochaya* is a female-centric psychological thriller. She plays Shivana Nasrin, a principled and outspoken police officer who remains steadfast in her sense of duty and integrity. "This is my first experience playing a police officer. The story shows a rise in crime in the city, and Shivana is given the responsibility of controlling the situation," she said.

Runa Khan also noted that the film reflects the social reality in which women in positions of authority are frequently questioned for their competence. "The same pattern appears in the story. Alongside that, the film highlights various inconsistencies and contradictions within our society," she added.



NEWS

BNP rebels rattling allies

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organisational action. "If anyone stays in the race by going against party decisions, the party may decide to expel them for life."

Under the alliance arrangement, the BNP did not field candidates in eight constituencies: Dhaka-12, Bhalo-1, Patuakhali-3, Sylhet-5, Nilphamari-1, Narayanganj-4, Brahmanbaria-2, and Brahmanbaria-6.

As part of its strategy, six leaders from allied parties joined the BNP and were given nominations in Jhenaidah-4, Habiganj-1, Cumilla-7, Kishoreganj-5, Lakshmipur-1, and Dhaka-13.

However, in Bogura-2, the BNP initially left the seat for Manna but later announced its own candidate, citing legal complications.

Sources said nine BNP leaders have already been expelled for submitting nomination papers in seats shared with alliance partners.

Allied leaders said the situation has reached a point where they have directly urged BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman to intervene, saying that rebels at the grassroots could damage the credibility of the alliance and affect results in multiple seats.

Saiful Haque, general secretary

I wanted to be like Shabnur: TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tama Mirza has carved a distinct niche for herself in the Dhallywood film industry. A versatile performer, she earned the National Film Award for her compelling role in the film *Nodijon*.

Recently, she has also garnered significant acclaim for her performances in web films, particularly earning praise for her chemistry with actor Afran Nisho. Audiences warmly received her work in *Daagi* and *Amolnama* last year.

As the new year begins, the actress is gearing up to start shooting two new films. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Tama opens up about her upcoming projects, inspirations, and personal philosophy.

What are you up to?

I have signed two new films – the shooting for one will begin soon.

I always try to associate myself with diverse work – and I'm excited because I won't be in my usual 'glamorous' look. This new year, I will be presenting myself in a new way.

Who is your inspiration in this industry?

Look, many actresses have graced Dhallywood over the decades. Shabana, Kabori, Babita – they are legends. Shabnur is the heroine of our time, so is Moushumi. They are dear to me, and I respect them very much.

However, it was seeing Shabnur that made me want to become a heroine. I dreamed of becoming an actress, as I was watching her films. I have watched so many of her movies – *Ananda Ashru*, *Char Shotiner Ghor*, *Mollabbari Bou*, and *Ke Oporadhi* are some of my favourites. Shabnur was the heroine in all four of these.

How much support did you receive from your family to become an actress?

To be honest, when I first started, my family suggested I do just one film. After acting in my first film, I thought, 'Let's do one more where I can present myself even better, something that satisfies my soul.'



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Essentially, I kept working in pursuit of that one good film. I am still waiting for a truly great project. Whenever I finish something, I feel like I need to do even better in the next one. That is how several years have passed on the silver screen. But, coming here, I have received the love of many people.

How happy are you with your work from last year?

I am elated. Last year, my film *Daagi* was released. This was my second film with Afran Nisho. *Daagi* received praise from everyone, and I received immense love from countless people for it; it truly touched everyone's heart.

Then again, I received praise and

love for my performance in the web film *Amolnama*. I played two completely different characters in these two projects. In *Amolnama*, I played a mother. I had to work very hard to portray how helpless a girl becomes in a specific situation. I prepared extensively on my own for that character, just as I rehearsed for *Daagi*. That is why I can say I am extremely happy with both projects.

How would you define 'love' in your life?

Love is essential in life. The kind of love that makes life beautiful and brings mental peace is necessary. However, the love that does not bring mental peace – there is no need for that.



Anil Kapoor buys copyrights for 'Nayak'

Actor Anil Kapoor has reportedly acquired the copyrights to his 2001 political drama *Nayak*, sparking speculation about a possible sequel nearly 25 years after the film's release. Media reports suggest the rights were purchased from producer Deepak Mukut, with Kapoor keen to retain them due to the film's personal significance.

Sources indicate the actor is also interested in producing a follow-up, believing the story still has strong potential, though no official confirmation has been made. Originally produced by A S Rathnam and directed by Shankar, *Nayak* told the story of a journalist who becomes chief minister for a day to challenge corruption. Despite mixed reviews initially, the film later achieved cult status, making a sequel an idea of growing interest among audiences.

Akshaye Khanna joins Rs 2,000-crore box-office club



Actor Akshaye Khanna has reached a rare box-office milestone, becoming only the second Indian actor after Shah Rukh Khan to cross Rs 2,000 crore in worldwide earnings within a single calendar year. Despite a career spanning three decades, 2025 has emerged as a defining phase for Khanna, who earned widespread acclaim for playing antagonist roles in two of the year's biggest Hindi films.

The streak began with *Chhaava*, directed by Laxman Utekar and starring Vicky Kaushal, which grossed Rs 809 crore globally. It was followed by *Dhurandhar*, directed by Aditya Dhar, where Khanna's performance stood out despite a star-studded cast. The two films together have taken his 2025 total to Rs 2,000 crore, placing him in an elite box-office club.

NCP aims

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Besides the 29 constituencies, negotiations are still under way for three seats -- Dhaka-9, Brahmanbaria-3 and Bagerhat-3. NCP sources said Javed Rasin, Ataullah and Molla Rahmatullah have been proposed for the three constituencies respectively, but differences persist.

Several NCP leaders said that beyond the confirmed allocation, the party is also negotiating for a further 10 constituencies, aiming to contest a total of around 40 seats.

Speaking to The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity, a senior NCP leader said the final number of seats would depend on whether Islami Andolan Bangladesh remains in the alliance. "If Chormonai does not remain, we will contest around 40 seats.... Negotiations are still ongoing. We hope to finalise our allocation before the alliance reaches its final settlement on January 19."

At a press conference last evening, Akther Hossain said discussions on the matter are ongoing with Jamaat-e-Islami. Meanwhile, NCP sources said its confirmed list of nominees includes several student leaders who played visible roles during the July uprising, alongside party organisers and professionals.

In the capital, NCP has confirmed several candidates beyond the opt-out seats. Tarek Mohammad Adel, who recently left the Jatiya Party to join the NCP, will contest from Dhaka-7, while Arif Islami has been nominated for Dhaka-18. Dilshana Parul and Nabila Tasnid will contest from Dhaka-19 and Dhaka-20 respectively.

Outside Dhaka, several candidates associated with the July movement and professional backgrounds have also been finalised. Sarwar Tushar is set to run from Narsingdi-2, while Bojabur Islam will contest from Chattogram-8.

Other confirmed candidates include Barrister Nurul Huda Junaid for Sylhet-3, Ali Naser Khan for Gazipur-2, Mahbub Alam Mahir for Lakshmipur-1, Sultana Muhammad Zakaria for Noakhali-2, Pritom Das for Moulvibazar-4, Saifullah Haider for Tangail-3, Ashraf Mahdi for Brahmanbaria-2, Likhon Mia for Sherpur-1, Molla Faruk Ehsan for Chuadanga-1 and Zarjis Kader for Natore-3.

Saif Mustafiz has been nominated for Sirajganj-6, while Abdul Ahad will contest from Dinajpur-5, Ariful Daria from Gopalganj-3, and Suja Uddin from Bandarban.

NEIR system to stay: govt

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the vandalism at the BTRC office, reduction of total taxes on mobile phone imports to 10-12 percent, permission to import used mobile phones and simplification of the handset import process.

The government launched the NEIR system on January 1, reducing duties on legally imported mobile phones from around 60 percent to 43.4 percent and allowing illegal handsets to be brought under a legal framework.

On the same day, mobile traders protesting the move attacked the BTRC office, an incident in which 45 people were arrested.

Fresh protests broke out yesterday, prompting police to disperse protesters from Karwan Bazar and other areas using batons, sound grenades and tear gas.

The attack on BTRC occurred on the same day Bangladesh announced its largest ever reduction in import duties on legally imported mobile phones in a single sector, Taiyeb said.

"Instead of welcoming an almost 60 percent cut in customs duty, they launched an attack on an important government institution -- this is

Multiple protests

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adding that several of them were detained while many took shelter in nearby buildings.

Members of the Bangladesh Army and Rapid Action Battalion were later deployed to prevent further unrest.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Tejgaon Division Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ibne Mizan said law enforcers had first

asked the mobile phone traders to leave the area. "As they refused, we used tear gas shells, a water cannon and sound grenades to disperse them.... The protesters later regrouped and attacked police by throwing brick chips. We chased them to the Motlib Plaza area."

He added that at least 10 people were detained. Mobile Business Community Bangladesh Vice President Shamim Mollah said 11 traders were detained from the spot.

Over a dozen people, including several police personnel, were injured during the clashes.

DC Mizan said the detainees would be questioned and, if found involved, they may be shown arrested in a case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station over vandalism of the BTRC building during their January 1 protest.

Meanwhile, Tejgaon College students blocked the Farmgate intersection around 10:00am, demanding justice for fellow student Sakibul Hasan Rana, who died on December 10, four days after sustaining injuries in an attack in the college dormitory.

The blockade brought traffic in the surrounding areas to a complete standstill.

Habib Rahman, a friend of the victim, said, "We are here because we want justice for Rana. Earlier, we withdrew our blockade after assurances from the authorities. But the identified killers are still roaming free."

Around 12:30pm, leaders and activists of Inquilab Moncho gathered at the Shahbagh intersection and began their "March for Insaf" programme, demanding the immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Sharif Osman Hadi.

Organisers said they marched through Dhanmondi-Jigatala, Shankar Bus Stand, Mohammadpur Bus Stand, Pallabi and Mirpur-10 roundabout before concluding at the BNS Centre in Uttara.

The protest programmes triggered widespread traffic congestion, with vehicles stranded at major intersections.

Throughout the day, traffic alert Facebook groups were flooded with posts by commuters asking about the gridlocks near Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Panthapath and Bijoy Sarani, while others urged avoiding certain areas.

Google Maps showed major roads around Farmgate and Karwan Bazar marked red, indicating heavy congestion stretching from Manik Mia Avenue to Bashundhara City and along Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

Contacted, Anish Kirtani, assistant commissioner (Traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Tejgaon Zone, said the protests disrupted traffic from 11:00am to around 3:30pm.

Samiha Alam, who was travelling from Mohakhal to Farmgate, said she was stuck near Bijoy Sarani for over an hour from around 12:00pm. Using an alternative route, she reached Karwan Bazar where she was stuck for another hour before returning home, unable to get to her office.

Another commuter, Rajib Ahmed, said he left Mohammadpur for Karwan Bazar around 10:30am in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw but got stuck at Khamarbari. The vehicle was later diverted towards Indira Road, where traffic remained gridlocked, forcing him to walk the rest of the way.

Rahat Islam, who usually travels from Bailey Road to Farmgate in 20 minutes on a motorcycle, said the same journey took him about an hour and a half as he was stuck near the Moghbazar flyover for a long time.

5 held for tying

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Some students noticed her and raised alarm, which led to her being held, he said.

When questioned, the woman told the madrasa authorities that she had come to admit her daughter. After being informed that the madrasa was only for male students, she allegedly changed her statement and said she had come to admit her son.

Suspecting that she was stealing, madrasa authorities and some local people decided to punish her by pouring water on her, police said.

Later, the woman was released. A video of the incident was circulated on social media afterwards.

To address concerns about unsold unauthorised handsets, the BTRC confirmed that IMEs of existing stock would be connected to the network upon payment of a nominal duty, even without documentation, and that ongoing imports would also be accommodated.

However, the BTRC clarified that permitting the import of used mobile phones does not fall under its jurisdiction and requires approval from the commerce ministry.

It warned that importing used handsets poses quality risks and could lead to consumer fraud.

Responding to public concerns, the BTRC explained that reports of multiple or unstructured IMEs are largely due to cloned, refurbished or used devices – precisely what the NEIR aims to prevent.

Issues such as multiple devices appearing under a single NID stem from historical data and are being addressed.

Delays in OTP delivery during registration are due to heavy traffic and are being handled in coordination with mobile operators.

The BTRC also assured users that all customer data under the NEIR system remains fully secure.