

BAFTA 2026 'One Battle After Another' dominates



PHOTOS: REUTERS

The Cast and crew of One 'Battle After Another' pose with their awards at BAFTA

Hamnet and Josh Safdie's *Marty Supreme* earned 11 nominations each, setting the stage for a highly competitive race.

One Battle After Another emerged as the night's biggest winner, taking home Best Film and Best Director for Paul Thomas Anderson. The film also won Adapted Screenplay, Cinematography, Editing, and Supporting Actor for Sean Penn, cementing its status as the most celebrated film of the evening.

Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* made history with three wins, becoming the most awarded film by a Black director at the BAFTAs. The film secured Original Screenplay, Supporting Actress for Wunmi Mosaku, and Original

In the technical categories, *Frankenstein* stood out, winning Costume Design, Makeup & Hair, and Production Design. Jessie Buckley won Leading Actress for *Hamnet*, while Robert Aramayo claimed Leading Actor for *I Swear*. Aramayo's victory was a highlight of the night, as he also took home the EE Rising Star Award, triumphing over contenders including Timothée Chalamet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Sentimental Value made history as the first Norwegian film to win a BAFTA, taking home Best Film Not in the English Language, while British international feature Oscar submission *My Father's Shadow* won Outstanding British Debut.

The ceremony featured several memorable performances, including Jessie Ware's emotional rendition of Barbra Streisand's *The Way We Were* during the In Memoriam tribute. The segment honoured icons such as Diane Keaton, Terence Stamp, Catherine O'Hara, Rob Reiner, Gene Hackman, Robert Duvall, Tom Stoppard, Brigitte Bardot, Lalo Schifrin, Michael Madsen, Val Kilmer, and Indian actor Dharmendra.

India had a strong presence at this year's BAFTAs, reflected both in its representation on stage and among the winners. Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt made her debut as a presenter, greeting the audience with a warm *Namaskar* before announcing the winner for Best Film Not in the English Language.

A significant highlight came with the Manipuri film *Boong*, produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani and directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi, which won Best Children's & Family Film. Accepting the award, Devi spoke about the ongoing unrest in Manipur and expressed hope for peace.

[Read the full winners list online](#)



Robert Aramayo celebrates his Leading Actor win

Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners' made history with three wins, becoming the most awarded film by a Black director at the BAFTAs. The film secured Original Screenplay, Supporting Actress for Wunmi Mosaku, and Original Score for Ludwig Göransson.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 79th British Academy Film Awards took place at London's Royal Festival Hall on 23rd February (Bangladesh time), marking one of the key milestones in this year's awards season. Hosted for the first time by Scottish actor Alan Cumming, the ceremony brought together leading figures from British and international cinema to honour films released in 2025.

The evening combined established names with emerging talent, reflecting both the strength of the UK industry and its growing global reach. With several closely contested categories and a wide spread of nominations, this year's BAFTAs highlighted a competitive field and offered early signals ahead of the Oscars.

Leading the nominations, Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another* received 14 nods, followed closely by Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* with 13. Chloé Zhao's



Wunmi Mosaku glows with her Supporting Actress award for 'Sinners'

Score for Ludwig Göransson. Coogler also became the first Black winner in the Original Screenplay category, using his acceptance speech to inspire aspiring writers. "For all the writers out there, when you look at that blank page, think about the people you love, or anyone in pain you relate to, and let that love drive you," he said.

NEWS

Gas blast during sehri

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Shakhawat's son Shawon, 17, and daughter Umme Ayman, 10; Suman, 37, and his son Anas, 7, and daughter Ayesha, 4; and Shipon, 32, were also badly burnt.

The victims are originally from Barura upazila in Cumilla. They were first taken to the Burn and Plastic Surgery unit at Chattogram Medical College Hospital and were later referred to Dhaka.

Nur Jahan Begum Rani died on the way to Dhaka, confirmed Md Jamsheed, a family member.

Dr Rafique Ahmed, head of CMCH burn unit, said all patients had inhalation injuries along with burns. "Shakhawat, Rani, and Pakhi suffered 100 percent burns."

The atmosphere at the burn unit was heavy, filled with the sharp scent of antiseptics and the steady hum of monitors.

The injuries were severe: victims suffered burns that went deeper than the skin, while inhaling superheated air and toxic gases left their lungs badly damaged.

For the children, Umme Ayman and Ayesha, the trauma was both physical and psychological, lying in a ward surrounded by family members too injured to comfort them.

From his hospital bed, Shakhawat briefly spoke to reporters.

"We were sitting at the dining table after sehri and waiting for Fajr prayer," he said weakly. "Suddenly, there was a loud bang, and fire blew the door open in an instant."

Fire Service officials suspect a gas leak as the primary cause of the blast but said they can confirm only after a full investigation.

"When gas accumulates in a closed space, even a small spark — from a light switch, refrigerator, or lift — can trigger an explosion," said Khalilur Rahman, senior station officer at Halishahar Fire Service.

The explosion occurred around 4:30am. Five firefighting units rushed to the spot and managed to control the blaze around 5:30am.

Police cordoned off the six-storey building as a safety measure. Neighbours gathered in small groups, shaken by the incident, which has renewed concerns over residential safety and gas line maintenance in densely populated areas.

During a visit, the correspondents found that the front doors of all the flats from the second to the fourth floor were blown to pieces following the shockwave of the blast. The elevator doors had also fallen apart

on those floors. Each floor contains four flats.

Upon entering the flat from which the explosion originated, as confirmed by CCTV footage, there was visible fire damage in the dining area and the bedrooms. Household items were found scattered around the kitchen. Due to the intense heat, the ceiling fan and other furniture in the apartment had melted.

Building owner Didarul Alam, a US expatriate who was staying at a different block, said the building was constructed 16 years ago with a pipeline gas connection, and the line is fully functional.

He does not believe the gas leak came from the pipeline, insisting that he kept it properly maintained.

SM Shakhawat Hossain, assistant explosives inspector at the Department of Explosives, Chattogram, told The Daily Star that his team visited the site to investigate the origin of the blast.

He also confirmed the blast originated from the second-floor flat. "Primarily, we assume that there was a gas leak and it accumulated inside the flat for a long time. Later, a spark or fire set off the explosion," he said.

Four hacked

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Khalil's wife, Monjura Begum, alleged that around 50 to 55 men from the rival group attacked their house before dawn.

"After having sehri, we were preparing to sleep when 50 to 55 people from Tarapur village, belonging to former chairman Khayruzzaman Khayer Molla's group, attacked our house with local weapons," she said.

"They dragged my husband Khalil Sheikh and son Tahajjat Sheikh out of the house and hacked them repeatedly with sharp weapons. They also hacked Ferdous to death before leaving."

During the clash, Osikur Fakir from the rival faction was critically injured and taken to Narail district hospital, where he later died.

"Operations are underway to arrest those responsible for the killings. Whoever is involved in this incident will not be spared," said SP Shikder.

Oli Miah, officer-in-charge of Narail Sadar Police Station, said the process to file a case over the incident was underway.

Additional police have been deployed in the area, and patrols have been strengthened to prevent further violence. The situation remains tense but under control, he added.

2 held over rape

FROM PAGE 2
We later found her around a kilometre away from our home in an orchard near where the incident occurred."

After being rescued, the victim was taken to Tazumuddin Health Complex. As her condition deteriorated, she was later moved to Bholu 250-bed General Hospital.

Senior consultant at the hospital Dr Suraiya Yasnoor said, "We have received a rape victim who was bleeding profusely and sustained severe injuries to her genitals. We're providing her with necessary treatment."

Contacted, Bholu's Superintendent of Police Md Shahidullah Kawsar said, "We've spoken to the victim. She told us she was gangraped and gave us three names. The victim's father filed a case naming those three as prime accused. We've already arrested two, and efforts are underway to arrest the others, who are currently on the run."

He added, "The victim appeared slightly intellectually disabled. She can, however, speak and was able to identify the culprits."

Iran vows 'ferocious response'

FROM PAGE 16
represented by envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Reuters yesterday reported that Iran has indicated it is prepared to make concessions on its nuclear programme in talks with the US in return for the lifting of sanctions and recognition of its right to enrich uranium, as it seeks to avert a US attack.

Both sides remain sharply divided — even over the scope and sequencing of relief from crippling US sanctions — following two rounds of talks, a senior Iranian official told Reuters.

Analysts say the move suggests Tehran is trying to keep diplomacy alive and stave off a major US strike.

The official said Tehran would seriously consider a combination of sending half of its most highly enriched uranium abroad, diluting the rest and taking part in creating a regional enrichment consortium, an idea periodically raised in years of Iran-linked diplomacy.

Iran would do this in return for US recognition of Iran's right to "peaceful nuclear enrichment" under a deal that would also include lifting economic sanctions, the official said.

In addition, Iran has offered openings for US companies to participate as contractors in Iran's large oil and gas industries, the official said, in negotiations to resolve decades of dispute over Tehran's nuclear activities.

"Within the economic package under negotiation, the United States has also been offered opportunities for serious investment and tangible economic interests in Iran's oil industry," the official said.

The White House did not respond immediately to queries on the issue.

The fear of an imminent conflict has also prompted several foreign countries to urge their citizens to leave Iran. India yesterday joined Sweden, Serbia, Poland and Australia in calling for its citizens — estimated at 10,000 in the country by the foreign ministry — to leave Iran.

President to convene first session of 13th JS on Mar 12

FROM PAGE 16
session of the new parliament within 30 days of publication of the gazette of the parliamentary election results.

He does so in accordance with the written advice of the prime minister.

The gazette of the MPs elected in the 13th Jatiya Sangsad election held on February 12 was published on February 13.

The national election was held in 299 of the 300 parliamentary seats. Results have been announced for 297 seats.

Of them, BNP won 209 seats, and three of its alliance partners won three seats. BNP candidates were also leading in the two seats where results remain suspended.

On the other hand, Jamaat-e-Islami won 68 seats; its 11-party alliance partner, the National Citizen Party (NCP) won six seats; Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis won two seats; and Khelafat Majlis won one seat.

Islami Andolan won one seat, and independent candidates won seven seats.

As the speaker of the 12th Jatiya Sangsad, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury reportedly resigned from the post, a senior BNP leader is expected to preside over the first sitting, said an official of the parliament secretariat.

Immediately after the House goes into its maiden sitting, the speaker and deputy speaker will be elected, and they will be sworn in by the president.

After the speaker and the deputy speaker are elected, the session is likely to be adjourned for 15 to 20 minutes for their oath-taking.

The new speaker will then preside over the session.

The Business Advisory Committee of the new parliament will also be formed at the first sitting with the new speaker as its head.

The committee will decide the tenure of the inaugural session and other businesses of parliament.

The main task of the treasury bench in the first sitting is to place those ordinances before the House which the government wants to turn into law.

The interim government promulgated or amended a total of 130 ordinances during its 18-month tenure.

The standing committees on different ministries are likely to be formed during this session.

President Shahabuddin will also address the first sitting of the session in line with the constitution, according to sources at the parliament secretariat.

The cabinet will approve the speech, and MPs will discuss the president's speech.

At the first sitting, the House will also adopt an obituary motion.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Alo'

Amid blackened walls and melted machinery, artist Mahbubur Rahman's *Alo* transforms the fire-scarred premises of Prothom Alo into testimony and resistance. Visitors walk through ruin and reflection, confronting violence against journalism while witnessing art insist on memory, accountability, and light returning after devastation and silence toward collective courage and renewal together again.

DATE: THURSDAY-SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 19-28, 2026

TIME: 11:00AM-1:00PM AND 3:00PM-5:00PM

VENUE: PRAGATI INSURANCE BHABAN, 20-21, KARWAN BAZAR



Bratya Basu plans film with Mosharraf Karim and Chanchal Chowdhury



Indian filmmaker and politician Bratya Basu has expressed interest in bringing Bangladeshi actors Mosharraf Karim and Chanchal Chowdhury together for a future film. Basu, who previously directed Mosharraf Karim in *Dictionary* and *Hubba*, has recently wrapped shooting for *Shekhor*, starring Chanchal. According to the actor, the director hopes to collaborate with both performers in a single project and may also appear on screen alongside them.

Chanchal shared that discussions began during the shooting of *Bonolota Express*, where he reunited with Mosharraf Karim after years. He also highlighted the importance of renewed cross-border collaborations to expand Bengali cinema's global reach.