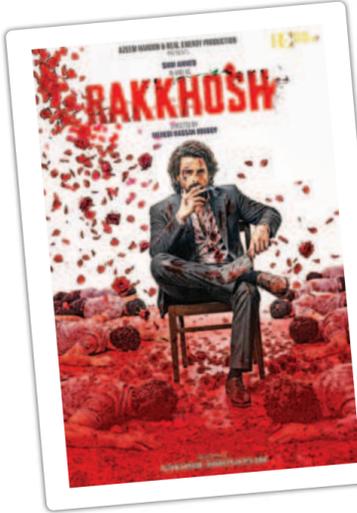


You haven't seen even 25% of 'Rakkhosh' yet: SIAM AHMED



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As Eid-ul-Fitr approaches, actor Siam Ahmed finds himself once again at the centre of audience anticipation with his upcoming film *Rakkhosh*. After the trailer sparked strong reactions online, the actor expressed gratitude for the overwhelming response while hinting that the film still holds many undiscovered layers for viewers. The film is directed by Mehedi Hasan Hridoy.

Reacting to the response, Siam said he is overwhelmed by the love. "I'm seeing all the appreciation very positively. I'm grateful to everyone. But I can say this much — audiences haven't even seen twenty-five percent of *Rakkhosh* yet. There are many surprises waiting. They will discover them once they watch the film in theatres."

When asked about the film's genre, Siam revealed that *Rakkhosh* is essentially a romantic story. "That's another surprise of the film. People are making different assumptions — some think it's an action film, while others are interpreting it in various ways. All the reactions are positive, but I would say it is a romantic film," he said.

Addressing his fans, Siam reflected on the journey of his career. "When *Poramon 2* was made, I was not a recognised face. It was the audience who brought me forward, showered me with love, and stood beside me in every success. I've always received their support whenever my films were released. I hope I will receive the same love for *Rakkhosh* as well."

Siam also revealed that he shot action sequences consecutively for ten days for the film. The fight choreography was handled by renowned Mumbai-based action director Ejaz Master. "Missing even a single day of shooting abroad means huge financial loss for the producer and director. So we kept going. During those days I got cuts and bruises and felt a lot of pain, but I never skipped a shoot. Instead, I kept preparing for the next scene. After the shoot, the way Ejaz Master and his team appreciated the effort is something I will never forget."

Speaking about director Mehedi Hasan Hridoy, Siam described him as extremely passionate about his craft. "Among all the directors I have worked with, he is one of the craziest when it comes to work. He has big dreams and works incredibly hard. While making *Rakkhosh*, we developed a great chemistry."

Siam also expressed happiness about several films releasing this Eid. "It feels great that so many films are coming out. They are all

our films — there's no division. My first film's co-star Puja Chery also has a film releasing this Eid — *Domn*, directed by Redoan Rony, who also directed my first drama. So we are all connected in one way or another, which makes me very happy."

Mentioning all the films releasing this Eid, Siam wished everyone for great success. "We are all part of the same family. My love and best wishes for every film releasing this Eid, including *Rakkhosh*."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



'Premer Golpo' featuring Roshan and Chamak to release on Eid day

A musical love story titled *Premer Golpo* is set to premiere this Eid-ul-Fitr evening on the official YouTube channel of Sun Production House. Sung as a duet by Dilshad Nahar Kona and Sheikh Limon, the song features lyrics, composition and music arrangement by Avraal Shair.

The video stars Ziaul Roshan and Rukaiya Jahan Chamak, whose on-screen chemistry drives the story.

The film was shot in the scenic locations of Niladri Lake and Tahirpur, adding visual beauty to the romantic storyline. Directed by Mahin Awlad, the musical film presents a romantic narrative where every moment reflects the emotions and longing of love.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Cox's Bazar Film Festival

The Cox's Bazar Film Club is hosting its first-ever festival for Independence Day. The two-day event will screen a documentary followed by feature films including *Chhayabrikkho*, *Jolrong*, *Dot*, *Behula Dorodi*, *Moynar Char*, and *Madhyobitto*. Organisers aim to revive communal film viewing in an era of mobile screens, with open-air screenings by the sea.

DATE: FRIDAY-SATURDAY | MARCH 27-28
TIME: 5PM ONWARDS
VENUE: LABONI BEACH POINT, COX'S BAZAR

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'Golmaal 5' announced with Akshay Kumar joining franchise



The makers of the popular comedy franchise *Golmaal* have officially announced a new instalment, revealing that Akshay Kumar will join the cast of *Golmaal 5*.

The announcement came on the birthday of director Rohit Shetty,

with a promotional video shared on social media. The clip features franchise regulars including Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Shreyas Talpade, Kunal Kemmu and Tusshar Kapoor, while also marking the return of Sharman Joshi to the series.

Akshay Kumar later appears in the clip, saying he is excited to join the "crazy family". Known for slapstick humour and eccentric characters, the franchise remains one of Bollywood's most successful comedy series.

NEWS

Local govt polls not BNP's priority yet

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upazila unit leader from Manikganj.

Grassroots leaders have begun contacting senior party figures in Dhaka, urging them to set a clear timetable for the elections so that local units can begin their preparations.

Some local leaders are also lobbying within the party to push the issue forward.

Senior leaders acknowledged the concerns but say the matter will be discussed formally in the party's policymaking forum before any decision is taken.

In the meantime, the BNP appears to be running many local government institutions by appointing administrators from its rank and file.

The government has already appointed administrators in 11 city corporations and 42 district zila

parishads across the country.

Until elections take place, most local government bodies — except union parishads — will be operated by administrators.

This arrangement will allow the government time to prepare properly for the elections, party leaders said.

Meanwhile, three standing committee members said that the party has been reviewing its performance after the national election. Some organisational weaknesses became visible during that process.

"Those will be corrected before the local elections — we do not want to repeat mistakes," said one of the standing committee members.

For that reason, the party leadership wants time to reorganise local committees and strengthen coordination between the

government and the party.

Meanwhile, the BNP-led government has not yet decided whether the upcoming local government elections will be held with party symbols or without party symbols.

On March 1, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmnel Masud said the Election Commission will begin preparations for local government elections after Eid-ul-Fitr.

The ordinance removed the provision for party nomination for mayoral posts, he told reporters.

"If the parliament approves it, elections will follow that system. If the law changes again, then the election system will also change," he added.

Currently, there are 12 city corporations, 330 municipalities, 64 district councils, 495 upazila parishads and around 4,570 union parishads across the country.

Govt asks banks to write them off

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owned banks.

The directive further states that once the government takes responsibility for the waived amounts, banks must immediately withdraw cases filed against the farmers and ensure that they do not face any harassment.

Banks will also have to report information on case withdrawals every month to the Financial Institutions Division through BB.

According to the directive, uncharged interest for the period after interest was imposed will be waived by banks subject to approval from their respective boards of directors.

The central bank will complete

audits of the relevant information in phases following due procedures. The final audited accounts will then be sent to the government in stages, based on which the government will pay the verified portion of the liabilities to the respective banks, the directive said.

It added that if, after payment, it is discovered that any bank has received more money from the government than its actual liability, the bank will be required to immediately refund the excess amount, along with interest if imposed by the government.

Around 12 lakh farmers are expected to benefit from the waiver.

In its first formal cabinet meeting in February, the government approved a proposal to waive agricultural

loans of up to Tk 10,000, including interest, as part of the ruling BNP's election pledge.

The waiver will apply to loans taken in the grain, crop, fisheries, and livestock sectors, in line with the government's election manifesto, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani told reporters after the meeting.

According to the BNP manifesto, the government will also pay one year's instalments of microloans taken by farmers from NGOs registered with the Microcredit Regulatory Authority.

The main objective of the initiative is to ensure social security for poor and marginal farmers and strengthen the backbone of the country's agricultural sector, Ghani said.

Jamaat gears up for local polls

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the field. Identifying nominees in advance is helpful."

'SECOND BATTLE'
Jamaat Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman has described the local government polls as the party's "second battle".

Addressing a programme in Sylhet on February 27, he said the party did not want to leave any local positions vacant and aimed to bring forward capable individuals, including those who had taken risks to stand by the party during the parliamentary election.

Preparations for local polls were also discussed at a meeting of Jamaat's central executive council at its Maghbazar headquarters the following day.

Party leaders say preparations for city corporation elections will be prioritised. Local units have been asked to send three-member panels of potential nominees for city corporation polls, with the central executive council set to make the final decisions.

For other local polls, Jamaat's 14 regional directors are expected to consult district and upazila ameer, secretaries, and key organisers to confirm candidates.

As per the law, elections to city corporations must be held within the 180 days preceding the expiry of their tenure. However, the five-year

term of Dhaka north and south city corporations ended in early June 2025.

At a programme at the Nirbachan Bhaban on March 1, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmnel Masud said local government elections would begin after Eid-ul-Fitr.

Following the fall of the Awami League government amid the 2024 mass uprising, the interim government removed elected representatives from district councils, city corporations, upazila parishads, and municipalities. These bodies have since been run by government officials on additional charge for around one and a half years, while administrators were also appointed to city corporations.

After assuming power, the BNP appointed new administrators to six city corporations in the first phase and to five more in the second phase. All appointees are BNP leaders.

At a press briefing on Saturday, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad criticised the move, saying that appointing administrators could delay elections and create "a new trap of conspiracy for election engineering", raising questions among the public.

A senior Jamaat leader said party figures who could not contest the parliamentary polls due to the alliance arrangement may get priority in the local government elections.

NON-PARTY SYMBOLS

In 2015, the AL government amended five laws to introduce polls with party identities and symbols at five tiers of local government.

After taking office, the interim government scrapped this provision for city corporation, district council, upazila parishad, municipality, and union parishad polls. An ordinance to this effect is expected to be placed in parliament, and if passed, local elections will no longer be held under party symbols.

Jamaat leaders support the change, arguing that local and national elections differ in nature and that the absence of party symbols would allow voters greater freedom in choosing candidates.

JU student

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"Initially, we suspect that she was murdered. An autopsy will be conducted, and we have already started an investigation," added the OC.

Meanwhile, police have taken Fahim into custody as the main suspect in the incident, Saidul Islam, OC of the Detective Branch (North) of Dhaka district police, told The Daily Star around 10:00pm.

"We are certain that Sharmin Jahan has been killed. At this moment, her husband is our main suspect. He is being interrogated in police custody."

to the Balrampur Sahapara area to launch the programme.

In its manifesto, the BNP has plans to excavate and restore around 20,000 kilometres of rivers and canals across the country.

Ministry officials said the programme is expected to significantly improve irrigation facilities by making better use of stored surface water, increasing agricultural productivity and creating employment opportunities for rural communities.

They also said the project will help

Govt appoints BNP leaders

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appointees are BNP leaders from central and district committees.

Of the total appointments, 11 administrators are central-level BNP leaders, while 31 are district-level party leaders.

A review of the political background of the appointees shows that around 19 percent had lost the Feb 12 election to Jamaat-e-Islami alliance candidates, while around 2 percent lost to rebel candidates from their own party.

Another 2 percent had withdrawn their nominations in favour of allied candidates, according to party sources.

BNP sources familiar with the process said loyalty to the party and participation in previous elections were important factors in preparing the final list.

reduce reliance on groundwater, which is depleting in many parts of the country.

Improved water management through canal restoration is also expected to help mitigate drought, flooding and waterlogging in different regions, officials added.

Meanwhile, Tarique's visit has created considerable enthusiasm among BNP leaders, activists, farmers and local residents in Dinajpur.

Soon after inaugurating the canal excavation programme, the prime minister will distribute Black Bengal

goats to five beneficiaries selected from a group of 25 recipients at the same event, said Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner Rafiqul Islam.

Later in the day, Tarique Rahman will visit the Faridpur graveyard in the Dinajpur district town, where he will pay respects at the graves of his grandfather, Md Iskander Majumder; grandmother, Taiba Majumder; aunt, Khurshid Jahan Haque; and other family members.

[Our correspondent from Thakurgaon contributed to this report.]