

Sunny-Maati emerge as filmy duo 'Rockstar'

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RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

This year, singer-songwriter Ahmed Hasan Sunny chose to celebrate his birthday (March 26) by surprising his fans with some exciting news. He will be composing and writing songs for Shakib Khan's upcoming film, *Rockstar*. Fans will also get to hear him sing for the movie.

This project is extra special for Sunny, as his wife, Nusrat Maati, is writing the screenplay, and he shares a long-standing friendship with the film's director, Azman Rusho, a bond that dates back to their early music days. Sunny explains, "Rusho is my friend, and he reached out to me as a friend for *Rockstar*. We've been making music together for a long time. He did hip hop, I was into rock and underground music. We've had a long journey together."

Sunny recalls the moment Rusho called him about the project. "He said, 'Sunny, there's this film I'm doing with Shakib Khan. The movie is called *Rockstar*, and there's no one I can imagine to write the songs.' I was thrilled. Honestly, I never imagined I'd be part of a Shakib Khan film. I'm not a mainstream artiste, so this feels surreal."

He adds, "What touched me the most is that, out of all the people who could have done this job, Rusho thought of me. That really shows the kind of vision he has—and I'm so excited to be a part of it."

Ninety percent of the songs for *Rockstar* have already been recorded, with a total of 8-10 tracks in the film. Audiences can expect to hear a lot of artistes in the movie.

Sunny shares, "I wrote or composed all of the songs. I might sing one or two of them, maybe a few—I can't really say for sure. But Jahid Nirob is handling the overall music production. For all the songs—about eight, nine, maybe ten—I'm either writing the lyrics or composing the music. The rest of the songs might have lyrics by someone else while I compose the music. So, it's a mix: either I wrote, I composed, or did both."

He continues, "There's a romantic track too. Honestly, there's a lot of variety in this project. There are songs by different artistes, and you'll get to hear all of them. As I can't reveal much, I can only share what I'm allowed to. But yes—you'll find romantic songs, rock and roll, and even a folk-type track. There's something for everyone, really."



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Pulsiraat'

Adapted from *Men in the Sun* by Ghassan Kanafani, Prachyanat's *Pulsiraat* traces three displaced men chasing fragile dreams across a brutal desert. Under Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon's direction, the production confronts exile, survival, and human trafficking with stark urgency, turning migration into a haunting, politically charged stage experience.

DATE: SUNDAY | MARCH 29, 2026

TIME: 7 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE HALL, BSA

Paapa Essiedu as Snape in new 'Harry Potter' teaser: Fans divided



HBO has released the first trailer for its upcoming *Harry Potter* series, generating excitement while also sparking debate online. The controversy centres on Paapa Essiedu's casting as Severus Snape, with some fans questioning the decision based on the character's original description in JK Rowling's books.

While several viewers criticised the casting, others praised the teaser's darker tone and its closer alignment with the source material. Many noted that the extended format could allow for a more detailed adaptation of the books.

Reports also suggest Essiedu has faced racist abuse and threats online following the announcement.

The series aims to faithfully recreate the wizarding world, blending nostalgia with a fresh visual approach for new and longtime audiences.

'Domm' set for international premiere

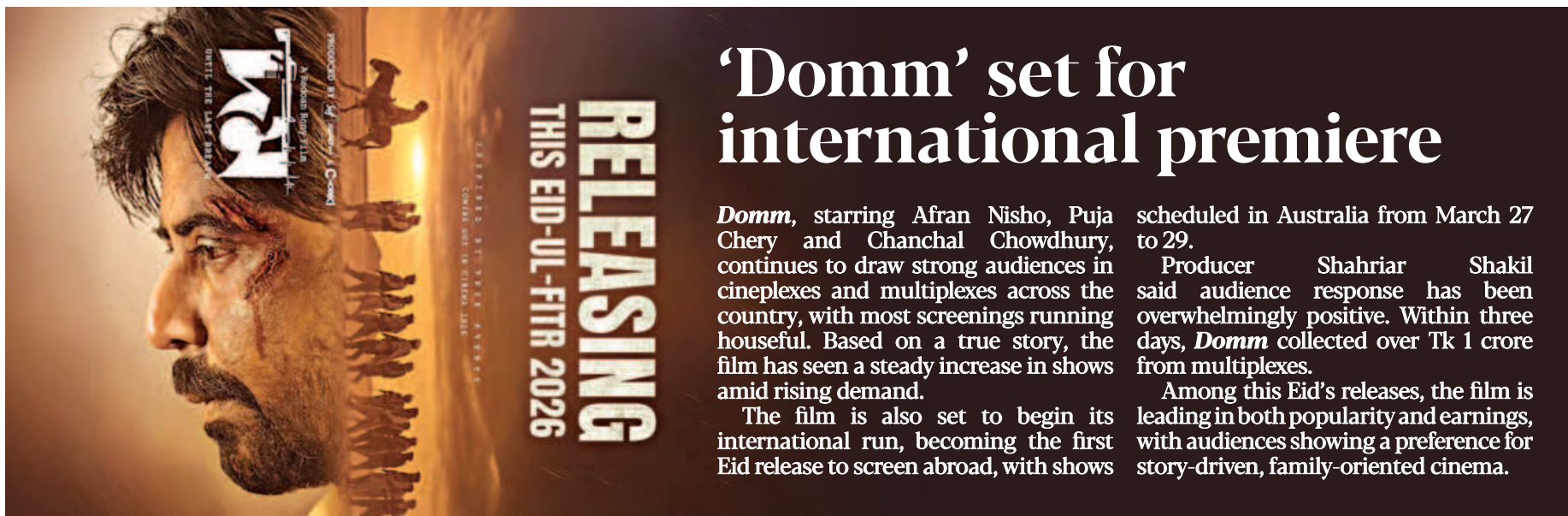
Domm, starring Afran Nisho, Puja Chery and Chanchal Chowdhury, continues to draw strong audiences in cineplexes and multiplexes across the country, with most screenings running houseful. Based on a true story, the film has seen a steady increase in shows amid rising demand.

The film is also set to begin its international run, becoming the first Eid release to screen abroad, with shows

scheduled in Australia from March 27 to 29.

Producer Shahriar Shakil said audience response has been overwhelmingly positive. Within three days, *Domm* collected over Tk 1 crore from multiplexes.

Among this Eid's releases, the film is leading in both popularity and earnings, with audiences showing a preference for story-driven, family-oriented cinema.



NEWS

Peace talks

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continue this conflict until energy prices reach uncomfortable levels," Mahony said.

The OECD yesterday cut its eurozone growth outlook and forecast higher inflation for 2026 as energy prices have skyrocketed.

The conflict has also weighed on German consumer sentiment heading into April, a survey showed yesterday, adding to the woes facing Europe's top economy.

France, which holds the G7 Presidency, will on Monday host a meeting bringing together the group's finance ministers, energy ministers and central bank governors.

"Pressure on energy prices, shipping flows and broader financial conditions remains one of the few meaningful sources of leverage (Iran) retains," said Saxo Markets' Charu Chanana.

"There is therefore little incentive to relinquish that leverage prematurely, particularly if market stress strengthens its negotiating position," she added.

The World Trade Organization chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala warned the global trading system is experiencing the "worst disruptions in the past 80 years".

Nepal panel

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Lekhakh and the then police chief Chandra Kuber Khapung responsible and said they should be prosecuted. None of them could be immediately reached for comment.

If prosecuted as recommended by the panel, and found guilty by the court, all three could face up to 10 years in jail.

But legal experts said the government must hold criminal investigations before formally charging them in court.

"It is not a charge sheet and they cannot be jailed on the basis of this report," said Dinesh Tripathi, a senior independent lawyer.

"There has to be a criminal investigation by police ... The government can file the case in the court only after that," he said, adding that the process could take at least a couple of months.

Analysts say whether or not to take forward the recommendations is the responsibility of Shah, 35, and his Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

Violence against journalists in DR Congo rising: RSF

AFP, Kinshasa

Journalists have faced increasing violence and pressure amid the escalating conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said yesterday.

The Rwanda-backed M23 armed group has seized large swathes of territory in the eastern part of the DRC since 2021.

The region is rich in natural resources and has been ravaged by conflict for the past 30 years.

The M23, known for its silencing of dissenting voices, captured the major cities of Goma in January 2025 and Bukavu in February 2025, setting up a parallel administration in those areas.

"All of the journalists in eastern DRC interviewed by RSF report that since the capture of Goma in January 2025, their working methods have radically changed," RSF said.

"At least eight journalists have been detained by M23 or by the military intelligence services of the regular army for several days," RSF added.

Request has been made

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However, Philip Sangma, who was arrested for allegedly helping the two accused flee in the Hadi murder case, has been sent to judicial custody by a court order.

Faisal and Alamgir were detained on March 8 in the Bangoon area near the Bangladesh-India border by the West Bengal Police's Special Task Force.

After being arrested on charges of illegal entry, the two were taken on a 14-day remand for questioning. When they were produced before the court after the remand ended, the court on March 22 ordered that they be sent to judicial custody for 12 days.

While being taken to court that day, Faisal told reporters: "I did not do this. I was not involved in these acts."

When journalists asked whether he had been framed, he avoided answering the question, the report said.

Referring to the events of 1971,

Two journalists were locked up by M23 in containers converted into jails, where up to 80 detainees are crammed together, according to a report published by RSF on Tuesday.

The M23 has also imposed "ideological training" on at least four journalists, censored programmes on local radio stations, and forced certain shows or talking points onto them.

Meanwhile, the government has accused journalists "of belonging to the M23 camp and its ally, Rwanda", the report said.

The DRC's High Council for Audiovisual and Communication (CSAC) has controlled the narrative on the war and "regularly takes decisions that increasingly resemble censorship," RSF said.

The capture of Goma also "marked an intensification of disinformation" by both sides, the NGO added.

Around 90 journalists from the South Kivu and North Kivu provinces were forced to flee their homes between 2023 and early 2025, according to the National Union of the Congolese Press.

Salahuddin said the first massacre of March 25 began at Rajarbagh Police Lines, which paved the way for the declaration of independence.

Ziaur Rahman, then a major, revolted in Chattogram after learning about the atrocities and later announced the country's independence from the Kalurghat Radio Station on March 27, calling for global support.

Remembering fallen police personnel, Salahuddin said the sacrifices at Rajarbagh marked the beginning of the call for independence.

He also described the resumption of the Independence Day parade after several years as a positive development and expressed hope that democratic practices would continue in line with the aspirations of the martyrs.

On police reform, he said discussions are underway with several developed countries for technical support, training and capacity building.

College student shot dead

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of helmeted youths arrived on three motorcycles, Prothom Alo reported. Identifying themselves as police, they chased Hamza.

As he ran towards the bank of a nearby canal, the attackers at one point shot him in the head and fled the scene.

Addl SP Shamim said the body was sent to Bagerhat District Hospital for autopsy.

Contacted, Bagerhat Superintendent of Police Mohammad Hasan Chowdhury told The Daily Star that Hamza was an accused in a murder case, and police are also looking into that matter.

Govt approves

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Resources Division to meet emergency fuel needs.

The high-powered panel approved, in principle, the direct procurement of 100,000 tonnes of diesel from AP Energy Investments Ltd through direct purchase. It also approved the purchase of 200,000 tonnes of diesel from Superstar International (Group) Ltd under the same method.

Ex-DGFI chief Mamun Khaled on remand

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Faruqi alleged that shots were fired at protesters on Khaled's orders.

He also questioned Khaled's role during the 2007-08 army-backed caretaker rule, accusing him of detaining and torturing political leaders and businesspeople.

Faruqi further alleged Khaled's involvement in enforced disappearances and torture at secret detention facilities known as "Aynaghar", politicising the DGFI, and playing a role in evicting former BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia from her cantonment residence.

Defence counsel Nazrul Islam Khan sought bail, arguing Khaled had no involvement in the killing.

Speaking in court, Khaled denied the allegations, saying he had no authority during the July 2024 protests and was living as a civilian in DOHS at the time.

"I was in favour of the July

UN declares African slave trade humanity's gravest crime

AFP, United Nations

The UN General Assembly on Wednesday designated the transatlantic African slave trade as "the gravest crime against humanity," despite opposition by the United

States and some European countries.

In a move advocates hailed as a step towards healing and possible reparations, the resolution was adopted to applause by a vote of 123 in favor, three against and 52 abstentions.

Liberation War

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liberation forces could rise again if people remain inactive.

He also said various benefits and welfare measures for freedom fighters were introduced during the tenure of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The minister also said fuel, which used to last two days at the pumps, is now running out within just two hours. "Where is this fuel going? No one will be allowed to siphon it off," he said, urging the administration to remain vigilant on this matter.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Aminul Islam, the event was also addressed by Police Superintendent Saiful Islam Santu and district BNP

vice-president and convener of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal Azizur Rahman Dulal.

Deputy Director of Local Government Division Kamrul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Ganapati Roy, Sirajganj Municipality administrator Shahadat Hossain, Civil Surgeon Nurul Amin, district BNP general secretary Saidur Rahman Bacchu, former commanders of district and upazila freedom fighter commands, women freedom fighters, and officials of different administrative bodies were present.

Freedom fighters were accorded a reception and honoured with crests at the programme.

uprising," Khaled told the court.

He also defended his past role, claiming no enforced disappearances took place during his tenure and that he had cooperated with relevant commissions investigating such allegations.

Khaled further said that he joined the Forces Signal Intelligence Bureau of the DGFI in 2007, which primarily handled communications, and later took over broader responsibilities within the agency.

"I personally called the judges in all the cases in which the Prime Minister [Tarique Rahman] was granted bail at that time. Clearances were given from our side in each of those instances," he said.

After hearing both sides, the court rejected the bail plea and granted a five-day remand for interrogation.

Khaled served as a director of DGFI from December 2007 to December 2010 and as the director general from

June 2011 to March 2013.

Detective Branch officials said he is being questioned over multiple allegations, including enforced disappearances, illegal detention facilities, surveillance of opposition figures, and financial irregularities linked to the Jolshiri housing project.

The disappearance of BNP leader Chowdhury Alam during Khaled's tenure is also under scrutiny.

DB earlier arrested another key figure of the caretaker government, Lt Gen (retd) Masud Uddin Chowdhury, in a separate case involving human trafficking and document forgery.

Though arrested in different cases, intelligence sources said both are being interrogated over their roles during the 2007-08 caretaker period.

DB chief Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that the two are being questioned over the cases against them, while other allegations are also being examined.