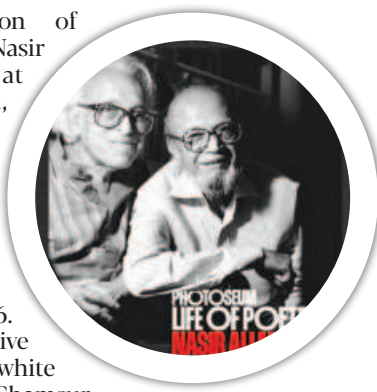


Nasir Ali Mamun's 66th solo exhibition opens at AFD

The 66th solo exhibition of renowned photographer Nasir Ali Mamun opens today at Alliance Française de Dhaka, featuring rare portraits and archival materials of two of Bangladesh's most influential poets.

Titled *Photoseum: Life of Poetree*, the exhibition will be held at La Galerie and continue until April 16. It brings together an extensive collection of black-and-white portraits dedicated to Shamsur Rahman (1929-2006) and Al Mahmud (1936-2019).

Marking the bicentenary of photography, the exhibition presents around 60 photographs alongside previously unpublished video footage. Through minimalist composition and striking use of light and shadow, the works highlight the poets' inner worlds. Notable guests, including Matur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo; Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet; artist Monirul Islam and Kamal Quadir are expected at the opening.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Raat Bhore Brishti'

Upstage stages *Raat Bhore Brishti*, a taut psychological drama tracing the fragile architecture of marriage. Through Monimala, Anshu, and Joy, the play dissects desire, doubt, and intimacy within middle-class life, confronting inherited moral codes while insisting, quietly but firmly, on the necessity of love, partnership, and survival.

DATE: FRIDAY | APRIL 3, 2026

TIME: 5 PM AND 7:30 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE HALL, NATIONAL THEATRE, BSA



Films should be rooted in original stories:

MOSHARRAF KARIM

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mosharraf Karim, widely admired across Bangladesh and beyond, continues to receive praise for his performance in the Eid release *Bonolota Express*. The film, directed by Tanim Noor, has emerged as one of the most successful releases of the season.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Mosharraf spoke about his career, the film's success, and his personal reflections.

Asked about the film's strong reception, he said, "Bangladeshi audiences want original stories. They consider such stories their own. Through original narratives, people can see reflections of their own culture." He added that years of working in television have taught him that audiences ultimately connect with stories rooted in their own realities.

Speaking about the film's success, Mosharraf emphasised teamwork. "We truly became a team while working on *Bonolota Express*. Everyone deserves credit—from the director to the writers, actors, and the entire crew," he said, noting that it was his first collaboration with Tanim Noor.

On the appreciation he has been receiving, the actor said, "I see it positively. I am happy and content. The audience's love means a lot to any artist." He also shared that praise from a senior colleague after watching the film felt as rewarding as receiving an award.

Reflecting on the source material, Mosharraf said he has long been an admirer of Humayun Ahmed's work. "I entered modern literature through his writings. His prose and dialogue are very powerful, and his short stories are especially dear to me," he said, adding that *Kichukkhon* carries a layered narrative within a simple journey.

On the trend of Eid-centric releases, he expressed optimism. "Things will improve gradually. We need more cinema halls. There should be mutual respect and understanding within the industry," he said.

Commenting on the variety

of films released this Eid, he noted that diversity is welcome, but stressed the importance of originality. "Whatever the genre, films should be rooted in original Bangladeshi stories. That is how we will move forward," he added.

Mosharraf also spoke about his recent visit to his village home in Barishal after many years. "There is no one living there now, but it is filled with memories. I bathed in the river near our house, where I spent my childhood. The feeling of returning cannot be fully described—it brings a sense of peace," he said.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF HOICHOI



Arifin Shuvoo earns praise from Indian media for 'Jazz City'

Arifin Shuvoo is gaining international attention following the release of his debut Bollywood series *Jazz City* on March 19. His performance has been widely praised by leading Indian media, with several outlets describing him as a standout lead and one of the series' strongest elements.

Publications such as The Hollywood Reporter India, The Times of India and Scroll highlighted his portrayal of Jimmy Roy, noting his emotional depth and screen presence. Other platforms, including Moneycontrol and NewsBytes, also credited his performance for keeping the series engaging.

Streaming on SonyLIV, *Jazz City* has topped trending charts since its release. The 10-episode series features Shuvoo performing in four languages—Bangla, Hindi, Urdu and English—marking a notable milestone for Bangla content on the platform.

NEWS

Office hours

FROM PAGE 1
for weddings or celebrations. Nasimul said, "We are considering how we can deal with the fact that our supply system has become insecure because of the Middle East war, and what measures we can take to handle the resulting price fluctuations."

The cabinet secretary said some government expenditure would be reduced for the next three months and that no new computer equipment would be purchased.

On educational institutions, he said the education ministry would start issuing separate instructions from Sunday after considering requirements at different levels so that academic activities are not hampered.

On Tuesday, Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milton said the government was considering combining online and in-person classes. He also said the authorities were thinking about six-day school weeks.

Nasimul added that the government decided to introduce electric buses as an alternative to the large number of vehicles used by government schools, which will be allowed to import electric buses without duty. Commercial electric buses would only have 20 percent import duty.

The cabinet also approved in principle an amendment to the Public Examinations Offences Act by revising parts of the 1980 law, so that offences committed in public examinations can be tried, he added.

Myanmar House

FROM PAGE 12
Aye, a regional MP from Karen state with the pro-military Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), and current Prime Minister Nyo Saw.

Democracy watchdogs have long warned that the new government will be a proxy of the military, which has ruled Myanmar for the vast majority of its post-independence history.

The generals loosened their grip for a decade-long democratic experiment beginning in 2011, allowing Aung San Suu Kyi to ascend as civilian leader and steer a period of reform as the nation opened up.

But after Aung San Suu Kyi trounced the USDP in a landslide in 2020 elections, Min Aung Hlaing snatched back power.

Tk 14,179cr sought for Family Card rollout

FROM PAGE 12
planned to evolve into a universal social identity card by 2030. The government also aims to raise social protection spending to 3 percent of GDP by 2028.

At present, 95 social safety net programmes are operated under 23 ministries, with an allocation of Tk 1.26 lakh crore in the current fiscal year, accounting for 1.87 percent of GDP.

HOUSING SCHEME

In the DO letter, the social welfare minister said the government's manifesto sets out a comprehensive plan to improve the living conditions of floating and internally displaced communities, including skill training, permanent rehabilitation, and mass housing for urban floating populations.

To this end, Tk 735 crore has been proposed to construct 500 square-foot flats for 5,000 families, particularly those living in Korail and other slums in the capital, according to the letter.

The letter highlighted a manifesto commitment to establish a "Special Children Welfare Fund" for disadvantaged and orphaned children. Under the initiative, the children would receive free education, stipends, and support services.

11-party to stage protest tomorrow

FROM PAGE 12
The opposition's protests come at a time when the government is already facing multiple issues, including the impact of the Israel-US war on Iran and a measles outbreak.

Talking to reporters, Jamaat leader Azad said the ruling party has taken a position against the referendum, which he described as unfortunate.

He alleged that this amounts to denying the commitments that led to the formation of the interim government and the subsequent election.

"The 15th amendment to the constitution, which scrapped the

Measures will be taken to create job opportunities and cover healthcare expenses for these children, said the DO letter as the ministry sought Tk 100 crore in the next fiscal year to launch the fund.

In addition, the ministry has sought Tk 600 crore to provide monthly allowances to orphans living in private orphanages.

According to the letter, Tk 280 crore was allocated in the 2025-26 fiscal year to provide Tk 2,000 per month to each of 1,16,666 orphans in private orphanages. However, the number of institutions and beneficiaries has since increased.

With a plan to extend the allowances to 2,50,000 orphans, an additional Tk 320 crore will be required, said the letter.

The social welfare minister also proposed an additional Tk 24 crore for the Sarkari Shishu Paribar, state-run children's homes that provide care, education, training, and rehabilitation for orphaned and fatherless children.

There are 85 such facilities in the country—43 for boys, 41 for girls, and one for both—in the district towns and some upazilas. The ministry sought Tk 74.16 crore in the next budget to run them, up from Tk 49.99 crore.

caretaker government system, had paved the way for authoritarian rule. During the tenure of Sheikh Hasina, it resulted in constitutional autocracy. The current government is following the same path."

Azad also spoke about the ongoing fuel crisis, accusing the government of providing misleading information. He added that despite claims of no shortage, fuel is not available at filling stations.

At the same time, he noted that the government's proposal to hold online classes three days a week to reduce transport costs contradicts its own assessment of the situation.

Malaysian govt

FROM PAGE 12
Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday Australia will provide up to A\$1 billion (\$693 million) in interest-free loans to critical businesses, including transport operators and fertiliser producers.

The support package comes as the Iran war disrupts global energy supplies, driving up prices and stoking concerns about availability in a country that imports more than 80 percent of its fuel.

The cheap loans will be offered to businesses considered essential to maintaining critical supply chains, helping them to ride out the immediate financial pressure, reports Reuters.

In China, several airlines, including national carrier Air China, said they will raise their fuel surcharges on domestic flights from Sunday as the war in the Middle East drives up oil prices globally, reports AFP.

Air China, China Southern and its subsidiary Xiamen Airlines said in statements that they will increase surcharges on flights of up to 800 kilometres (500 miles) by 60 yuan (\$8.70), and 120 yuan for longer flights. Spring Airlines and Juneyao Airlines also announced fuel surcharge hikes.

International flights will be subject to the system's calculations, according to statements issued on Wednesday that did not mention the conflict.

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is feeling the impact of the Mideast war, with the government saying "external conditions beyond our control" have forced a hike in fuel prices.

Carbon-negative Bhutan has aggressively promoted hydropower projects, earning substantial revenue by exporting electricity to energy-hungry neighbour India.

But the landlocked nation of about 800,000 people imports its fuel via India, and shortages of fuel have sparked long queues at filling stations in the capital Thimphu, AFP reporters saw yesterday.

Nepal has nearly doubled aviation fuel prices, officials said yesterday, raising fears of a fresh blow to its tourism-dependent economy.

"Aviation fuel prices have increased," Manoj Kumar Thakur, spokesman for the state-owned Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC), told AFP.

Measles has spread

FROM PAGE 1
of which 743, or around 31 percent, tested positive so far, said Halimur Rashid, director (disease control) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

However, a DGHS report said a total of 3,709 suspected measles cases were recorded from March 15 until 8:00am yesterday, including 685 reported in the last 24 hours. Of them, 585 cases were confirmed as measles patients.

A total of 27 suspected measles deaths were recorded, including four in the last 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, and of them, 13 are confirmed measles deaths, the report said.

But this newspaper got reports of 50 deaths in suspected measles cases and related complications until yesterday, including four suspected deaths in the last 24 hours.

Against this backdrop, the government on Wednesday announced plans to launch an emergency vaccination drive in high-burden areas from Sunday.

Officials of the health ministry, the DGHS, Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and civil surgeons held a series of meetings in the last two days.

As per the initial decision, the emergency drive will be carried out at heavy burden areas for two weeks, said Shahriar Sajjad, deputy director of the EPI.

The tenure can be extended, if necessary, he said, adding that 20 to 21 upazilas with a heavy burden of patients have been identified so far.

However, the target groups for the campaign have not been finalised yet, as differences have emerged between recommendations put forward by the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group and decisions from the health ministry, sources said.

Measles has spread suddenly and there had been little preparation initially, said Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday.

"However, within a short time, we are now fully prepared to prevent measles," he said at the inauguration of the training programme on the use of bubble CPAP in the treatment of respiratory distress due to measles-induced pneumonia at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute in the capital.

This training is aimed at scaling up the use of bubble CPAP, a low-cost and effective bubble CPAP oxygen delivery system developed by icddr,b, across the country.

Meanwhile, another suspected measles patient has died at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Mohakhali in the last 24 hours, raising measles-related deaths at the facility to 27, said superintendent Tanzina Jahan.

The hospital was treating 81 suspected patients yesterday, she added.

Another suspected measles patient has died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in the past 24 hours, taking the total suspected measles deaths at the facility to five, said the hospital's spokesperson Shankar K Biswas.

The six-month-old deceased, Abdur Rahman, of Chapainawabganj's Gomastapur upazila, died around 6:00am yesterday.

Seven-month-old Rahima Akter from Kawdia village in Tangail Sadar upazila died with symptoms of measles at Faridpur Medical College Hospital, marking the first such death reported in the district, said Faridpur's Civil Surgeon Mahmudul Hasan.

In Tangail, eight-month-old Saifal of Hatila village in Tangail Sadar upazila died on Thursday while undergoing treatment for measles at the 250-bed Tangail General Hospital, said the hospital's Deputy Director Khandaker Sadiqur Rahman.

Six suspected measles patients died at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, while five died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Four victims were from Chapainawabganj and one from Cox's Bazar, according to previous reports of the newspaper.

[Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Tangail and Faridpur contributed to this report]

Bangladeshi envoy

FROM PAGE 2
This will be the first high-level engagement between Bangladesh and India since the BNP assumed power, following a period of strained ties.

The foreign minister is scheduled to visit Mauritius after the India tour to attend the 9th Indian Ocean Conference.