

Juboraj Shamim heads to Moscow Int'l Film Festival with new film

Filmmaker Juboraj Shamim is set to return to the Moscow International Film Festival with his latest feature film, *Atal*. According to a recent press release, the film has been selected for the "Apocalypse Now" section of the 48th edition of the festival.

Previously, Shamim's debut feature *Adim* was screened at the 44th Moscow International Film Festival, where it received both the Special Jury Award and the NETPAC Jury Award.

Although *Atal* has not been selected for the main competition this year, Shamim confirmed that the film will compete in the NETPAC Competition category.

The 48th Moscow International Film Festival will run from April 16 to 23. Shamim and Naem Tushar are scheduled to leave for Moscow on April 16, with *Atal* set to be screened on April 19.



HORIZONS WITHOUT BORDERS Sabrina Islam's photography exhibition blends travel, memory and legacy



Sabrina Islam speaking amongst distinguished guests.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From the golden glow of sunrise over Mount Fitz Roy to the quiet romance of cypress-lined roads stretching across Tuscany, the Edge Gallery at Bay's Edgewater Tower unfolded as a window to the world—each frame opening onto a different horizon on Friday, April 10.

Curated by entrepreneur and photographer Sabrina Islam, the exhibition *Horizons Without Borders* brought together a striking body of work captured across continents. Her lens travelled from the vast plains of Mongolia to the vibrant streets of Manila, weaving a visual narrative that balances grandeur with intimacy, distance with detail.

More than a photography showcase, the event carried a deeply personal resonance, coinciding with the launch of her father, Golam Ahmed Khan's book *The Tartar Pipe*, creating a rare dialogue between image, memory, and text.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Sarah Cooke, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Bangladesh. Inside the intimate gallery, anticipation lingered as art enthusiasts, family members, friends, and members of the media gathered

closely, eager to experience the stories behind each frame.

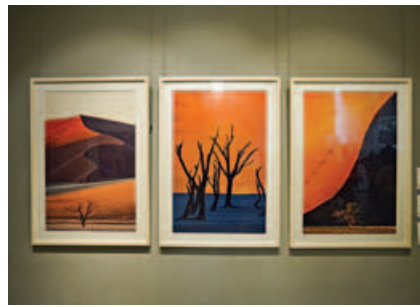
Speaking at the event, Cooke reflected on how the exhibition reaches beyond geography and aesthetics into shared human memory. Recalling her time in Tanzania, she said the images on display stirred personal recollections, noting that photography allows viewers to reconnect with places "through emotion as much as sight".



At the heart of the exhibition, Sabrina Islam offered a deeply personal reflection on her practice and emotional grounding. "This exhibition enunciates distance, light, and memory," she said, framing the showcase as both an artistic journey and an act of remembrance. She noted that its timing in April carries profound significance, marking both her father's birth anniversary and a moment of remembrance.



PHOTOS: ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY



She spoke of her father's literary imagination, recalling how he wrote *The Tartar Pipe* in 1944 while studying at Dhaka University. Though he had not travelled beyond Calcutta at the time, she reflected, his writing revealed a mind that moved freely across geographies and ideas. "He had not travelled beyond Calcutta," she said, "but how he thought of all these names and places in the play is just amazing."

Her journeys have taken her from the immense skies of Mongolia to the glaciers of Mount Fitz Roy, and across distant deserts, shores, and mountain waters. Each landscape offers its own balance of scale and stillness—each horizon carrying its own light.

Beyond the photographs themselves, the exhibition extended into an immersive experience. Several works featured QR codes that allowed visitors to access short video moments from Sabrina Islam's travels.



'Roid' set for Eid-ul-Azha release

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon is set to return with his new full-length feature film *Roid*, which has now secured its release window for Eid-ul-Azha.

The filmmaker confirmed that the film is fully prepared for release, with final planning and promotional activities currently underway. Production sources have also indicated that a full-scale promotional campaign will begin soon.

As part of the initial rollout, a song from the film—performed by Raju of the band Shohojia—is scheduled for release next week. The production company Bongo expects that the early promotional push will further build audience anticipation ahead of Eid.

Roid centres on an unconventional human relationship, exploring the life struggles of a mystic man and his mentally unstable wife. The lead roles are portrayed by Nazifa Tushi and Mostafizur Noor Imran, with Gazi Rakayet appearing in an important role.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Chaitra Sankranti and Bengali New Year 1433 celebration

A five-day cultural festival and fair marking Chaitra Sankranti and Bengali New Year 1433 will begin at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), bringing together folk traditions, music, and performance under one programme.

DATE: MONDAY | APRIL 13, 2026- FRIDAY | APRIL 17, 2026
VENUE: BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY



NEWS

Dovish budget

FROM PAGE 12

cushion the economy from the oil price shock triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran.

The development budget would be in the neighbourhood of Tk 300,000 crore, up from Tk 200,000 crore this year, as the new democratically elected government looks to jumpstart the economy after two years of political uncertainty.

The revenue collection target has been set at an ambitious Tk 690,000 crore, of which Tk 620,000 crore would be borne by the National Board of Revenue.

The revised budget for this fiscal year had set the revenue target at Tk 588,000 crore, including Tk 503,000 crore from the National Board of Revenue — projections that officials acknowledge will fall short. The budget deficit has been set at around 5 percent.

This is expected to deliver a GDP growth of 6.5 percent and contain inflation within 7.5 percent in fiscal 2026-27.

The interim government had set a GDP growth target of 5 percent and an inflation target of 7 percent for this fiscal year.

Israeli strikes

FROM PAGE 12

The nearby Al-Awda hospital said it had received one fatality and two wounded.

The Israeli military said it had struck "an armed Hamas terrorist cell", adding that militants had approached what is known as the Yellow Line and "planned to execute a terror attack against IDF troops in the immediate timeframe".

The Yellow Line is the de facto boundary dividing Gaza into two zones: one under Israeli military control and one under Hamas control. The military did not specify how many people were killed in the incident.

Israel and Hamas regularly accuse each other of violating the ceasefire, which came into effect after two years of war.

At least 749 Palestinians have been killed since the truce began, according to Gaza's health ministry, which is considered reliable by the United Nations. The Israeli army has reported five soldiers killed in Gaza since the start of the truce.

Ties with India

FROM PAGE 12

confidence. That's why I told my Indian counterparts we prefer to move surely, slowly but steadily, to build confidence between our peoples. It might take time, but that way it will be durable. We must not repeat past mistakes and must keep dialogue open under all circumstances — good or bad."

Amid the fuel supply challenges arising from the war in the Middle East, Khalilur emphasised cooperation not only in energy but also in other areas of common interest. He expressed satisfaction with India's assurance of increasing energy supplies to Bangladesh.

The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India expires in December, while the Teesta deal remains unsigned despite preparations in 2011 — issues that have raised concerns in Bangladesh.

Khalilur said the Ganges water is a matter of life and death, and Bangladesh seeks a new or revised treaty that meets essential needs.

"The risk of not sharing water appropriately means our livelihood and agriculture are affected, and climate vulnerability increases. An equitable, climate-proof arrangement will be one of the first tests of our reset," he said.

On climate challenges, Khalilur stressed long-term solutions: "People are people — whether in India or Bangladesh. They face the same crises. I see no option but to work together in good faith with eyes on the future."

He noted that Bangladesh resumed issuing all types of visas to Indians three days after the new government

took office and expects reciprocity. "People-to-people contact will sustain our relations. If they cannot reach us, you deny a vital source of trust and confidence."

Suspension of Indian visas had created humanitarian problems, he said, with Bangladeshis seeking medical treatment in Kunming, Bangkok, and Singapore. "I hope our Indian colleagues understand this and ease restrictions in the coming weeks."

The foreign minister also said Bangladesh faced propaganda from India after the fall of the Awami League and Sheikh Hasina's escape to India, which deeply concerned policymakers in Dhaka.

"The problem is that wrong narratives create perceptions stronger than reality. Let us ensure our narratives are not negative while we build confidence and trust."

Trump admin reveals plans for massive Washington arch

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump's administration on Friday revealed renderings for a colossal triumphal arch proposed for construction in Washington near some of the nation's most revered monuments.

At 250 feet (76.2 meters) it would pip Mexico City's Monument to the Revolution by 30 feet, making it the largest structure of its kind in the world, and knocking Pyongyang's Arch of Triumph to third place.

the total so far this year to 14,385. Confirmed cases stood at 2,489.

Health Secretary Md Quamruzzaman Chowdhury assured that the government has sufficient vaccine doses and logistics to carry out the planned drives.

"We have been working to contain the surge of measles," he told reporters after attending a programme marking World Parkinson's Day at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Dhaka.

Artemis astronauts return

FROM PAGE 12

ship off the Pacific coast near San Diego, where they all proved capable of walking unassisted.

Nasa administrator Jared Isaacman called the voyage "a perfect mission."

"We're back in the business of sending astronauts to the Moon," he said, and "this is just the beginning."

As the astronauts returned to Earth, their spacecraft reached maximum speeds more than 30 times the speed of sound, and faced searing temperatures around half as hot as the surface of the Sun.

The Orion capsule will now be painstakingly examined to assess how it fared.

US President Donald Trump

praised the astronauts for their "spectacular" trip and said he "could not be more proud" — while wasting no time in looking ahead to the eventual goal of sending missions even further into space.

"Next step, Mars!" he wrote on social media.

Artemis II was the inaugural crewed mission of Nasa's program aiming to install a sustained presence on the Moon, including the eventual construction of a base that could be used for further exploration, including to Mars.

From liftoff to splashdown, the trip clocked in at nine days, one hour, 31 minutes and 35 seconds — though Nasa rounds up and calls it a

10-day mission.

The four astronauts became the humans to travel furthest away from the Earth, at 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometres).

Nasa is hoping it can put boots on the lunar surface as soon as 2028 — the final full year of Trump's second White House term.

Experts, however, have voiced skepticism that the lunar landers being developed by SpaceX and Blue Origin, companies owned by billionaires Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos respectively, will be ready in time.

China, meanwhile, is forging ahead with its own effort targeting 2030 to put astronauts on the Moon.

Tk 506cr new unit remains

FROM PAGE 12

furniture and medical equipment have already been supplied to the hospital, but only a few tests — CT scan, MRI and X-ray — are currently being conducted on basement level 2 of the building.

All other floors and equipment remain unused.

During a visit to the new 15-storey building (including three basement floors) yesterday, this correspondent found some chairs and other furniture gathering dust on the first and second floors.

All rooms were ready, with the necessary signs already installed for different units. The toilets also had a functioning water supply.

Since its inception in September 2012, NINS, the country's only government run tertiary care neuroscience centre, has seen a steady and significant rise in the number of patients.

In the first nine months of last year, a total of 5.6 lakh patients received outpatient services, meaning around 2,050 people sought such care daily, according to hospital data.

Some 46,729 patients received emergency services in the first nine months, while 14,019 patients were admitted, the data shows.

The number of outpatients stood

at 6.01 lakh in 2024, compared with 3.6 lakh in 2023.

The hospital carried out a total of 3,047 major and 1,267 minor surgeries in the first nine months of last year, according to data. The numbers stood at 4,178 and 3,094 respectively in 2024, the data shows.

The hospital's bed occupancy rate has consistently remained at 100 percent.

"Patients come from across the country. In many cases, we cannot admit even urgent patients due to a shortage of beds. As a doctor, it is painful, but we have little option," an associate professor of the hospital told this correspondent yesterday.

In the last few months, they have raised demands in different forums for appointing doctors and other staff to make the new unit functional but to no avail, he said.

A medical technologist at the hospital said they have been carrying out a few tests in the new building (basement level-2) for the past three to four months so that the newly procured equipment does not become non-functional.

"No new manpower was appointed — we were recruited for the main unit and are now working here," he said, also requesting anonymity.

This correspondent visited the hospital on March 16 to speak with

its Director Kazi Gias Uddin Ahmed to know why the new unit could not be made functional.

His office referred this correspondent to Joint Director Badrul Alam Mondal, who declined to comment citing busyness.

When this correspondent went to their office yesterday, they were attending a discussion at the hospital marking World Parkinson's Day. They also did not respond to phone calls.

Health Secretary Md Quamruzzaman Chowdhury also took part in the programme, where several speakers, including Harun Al Rashid, president of Doctors Associations of Bangladesh (DAB), a pro-BNP doctors' organisation, demanded that the new unit of the hospital be made functional soon.

After the programme, the secretary, along with the top officials of the hospitals, inspected the new unit.

Contacted, Quamruzzaman said they were working to open the new unit within one month.

"Everything is ready — only the shortage is manpower. We have given administrative approval to hire staff under outsourcing, while we will also start posting doctors and other manpower soon," he told The Daily Star last night.