

## CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY'S 'SHEKOR' AND 'AZADI' SET FOR INDIA RELEASE

SHAH ALAM SAZU

Chanchal Chowdhury is one of Bangladesh's most celebrated actors. Every film he has appeared in has drawn widespread attention and praise.

Beyond Bangladesh, he has also made a mark in Indian Bengali cinema. Continuing that journey, he has now completed shooting two Kolkata productions, both of which are awaiting release.

The first film is *Shekor*, directed by Bratya Basu. The second is *Azadi*, directed by Suman Mukhopadhyay. *Shekor* is a literature-based drama, while *Azadi* tells a story rooted in the Partition of India.

"*Shekor* will release this year. *Azadi* will come out next year. That film will travel to major festivals," said Chanchal. Describing his role in *Shekor*, he said, "The film revolves around their two families. It is a deeply personal, domestic story." On *Azadi*, he said, "I play a police officer. It is an emotional story — a story of Partition. It will touch everyone who watches it."

Meanwhile, *Bonolota Express* continues its theatrical run and is still drawing enthusiastic crowds. *Dom* is also currently screening.



## Runa Laila, Bappa together in ghazal duet

Legendary singer Runa Laila and renowned musician Bappa Mazumder have teamed up for the first-ever Bangla ghazal duet.

The song, titled *Anayasha*, is written by Syed Galib Hasan. Runa Laila recently announced the project through a video message shared on

her verified Facebook page.

She praised Bappa as a highly talented composer, singer and music director, adding that collaborating with him enhanced the overall quality of the song.

Runa Laila also noted that this

type of Bengali ghazal experiment has not been attempted before, making the collaboration unique across generations of musicians.

The duet is set to be officially released on May 16, with both artistes seeking blessings and support from listeners.



## 'Eta Amaderi Golpo' to wrap up with 90-minute mega finale

The popular television drama *Eta Amaderi Golpo*, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, is nearing its conclusion, leaving audiences deeply emotional. The series will wrap up after a total of 52 episodes, with 48 already aired.

Director Raz has confirmed that the final instalment will be a special mega episode. The concluding episode will run for over an hour

and a half, offering an extended and complete resolution to the story.

The drama began airing on Channel i on November 5 last year, broadcast every Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 pm. In addition to television, each episode has also been released on Cinemawala's YouTube channel, gaining widespread popularity across both platforms.

## Sanjay Dutt confirms sequel to 1993 hit 'Khalnayak'

More than three decades after *Khalnayak* became one of Bollywood's most memorable films, Sanjay Dutt is revisiting its legacy with a sequel titled *Khalnayak Returns*.

The 1993 original, directed by Subhash Ghai and co-starring Jackie



Shroff and Madhuri Dixit, had cemented Dutt's portrayal of Ballu as one of Hindi cinema's most iconic anti-heroes.

The actor unveiled the first teaser of the new film on April 25, offering a darker, more rugged glimpse of Ballu. While details about the cast, director, and storyline remain undisclosed, the announcement has already sparked interest among fans of the original.

## Priyanka Chopra, Jet Li and Simu Liu to be honoured at Gold Gala



Priyanka Chopra will receive a major honour at the 2026 Gold Gala, joining fellow honourees Jet Li and Simu Liu. The announcement came from Gold House, which organises the annual event celebrating Asian Pacific and multicultural leaders.

The fifth edition of the Gold Gala will take place on May 9, where Chopra will be presented with the Global Vanguard honour. Li and Liu will receive the Gold Legend and Gold Mogul honours, respectively. Others being recognised include Charles Melton, Eileen Gu, and Revathi Advaiti.

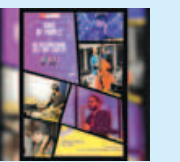
In its official announcement, Gold House described the gala as a global platform that has grown into a major cultural gathering. This year's theme, "A New Gold World", highlights the idea of collective progress and unity amid global divisions.

More than 650 leaders are expected to attend, with speakers including EJAE, Theresia Gouw, HUMAN MADE, Tejasvi Manoj, Jen Lee, and Brett Bolton.

### WHAT'S THE HAPS?

#### 'Kind of Purple'

International Jazz Day unfolds in the city with *Kind of Purple*, where improvisation leads and structure dissolves into exchange. Joy Goswami, Mohaimin Karim, Arjo Shrestho, Rahin Haider and Jishnu Haider come together for a set shaped by improvisation and ensemble play, moving between standards, open textures and spontaneous exchanges.



**Date:** Thursday | April 30, 2026

**Time:** 7:30 pm – 9 pm

**Venue:** Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

# NEWS

## At least 12 killed in lightning strikes

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Department (BMD).

Scattered showers were reported in Dhaka, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Sylhet divisions yesterday afternoon.

The heatwave had spread to 24 districts last week, with temperatures fluctuating between 35°C and 40°C. Dhaka's highest temperature during this period was 36.5°C, which dropped sharply once clouds and rain arrived.

Public life had become miserable due to the heat and load-shedding, making it difficult for farmers to work in fields.

"Relief has returned with the rain, but we are suffering losses due to hailstorms," said farmer Nabin Chandra Das of Rangpur's Mahiganj, adding that ripe paddy was damaged Saturday night.

The Met office forecast heavy rainfall in Rangpur, Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions, with moderate rain elsewhere, and nor'westers in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Dhaka within 48 hours.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) issued a flash flood warning for Sylhet's haor areas. The Department of Agriculture advised farmers to harvest Boro paddy quickly.

Our Sylhet correspondent reported farmers racing against time to harvest amid thunderstorms since Saturday evening.

On April 24, the Water Development Board in Sunamganj urged farmers to harvest as much paddy as possible

before April 28, citing BMD forecasts of heavy rainfall.

The FFWC also warned that water levels in the Surma, Kushiara, Bhugai, Kangsha, Dhanu and Baulai rivers may rise within three days and flow near danger levels.

### 12 KILLED

In Gaibandha, three people died in Dakshin Dhopadanga village, Sundarganj upazila, during a nor'wester. They were identified as Fuad Chowdhury, 33, Rafi Chowdhury, 12, and Mizanur Rahman, 20.

Gaibandha General Hospital RMO Asif-Ur-Rahman confirmed the deaths. Two others were also injured.

UP Chairman Md Mokhlesur Rahman Mondal said a cow nearby also died when the victims were struck while on a road near their house.

Another person, Manik Pramanik, 19, died at Phulchari upazila in the district while transporting corn in his horse cart. Manik's horse also died in the incident, said Phulchari Police Station OC Durul Huda.

In Bogura, Suman Mia, 35, died after being struck by lightning while trying to bring his goat back from a field in Muchkhali village, Gabtali upazila, Gabtali Model Police Station OC Rakib Hossain said.

In Natore, farm labourer Md Samrat Mia, 26, of Sirajganj's Nagardala village, died at Natore Sadar Hospital at 5:30pm while undergoing treatment for lightning injuries sustained in a field with over

20 others in the morning, Singra Police Station OC Rakibul Islam said.

In Panchagarh, tea worker Sarowardi, 21, was killed and two others, identified as Mostafa, 45, and Jaherul, 43, were injured in Atwari upazila's Sonapatila village while returning home after plucking tea leaves.

Atwari Police Station OC Motiar Rahman confirmed the incident. Dhamor UP Chairman Abu Taher Md Dulal said Sarowardi had married only eight days ago.

In Thakurgaon, Selina Akhter Laboni, 35, of Niamatpur village, was killed by lightning near a paddy field in Pirganj upazila in the afternoon, police said.

In Jamalpur, two people, identified as Hasmat Ali Hasu, 45, of Sadar upazila, and Marzina Begum, 22, of Melandah, died in separate incidents.

Hasmat was struck while returning home with cattle, said Sadar UNO Naznin Akhter. Three others — Anwar Hossain, 34, Shawon, 25, and Sukhi, 14 — were hospitalised after being injured in the same incident.

Homemaker Marzina was struck while preparing food in her courtyard; another woman, Shefali Begum, 28, was also injured, said Melandah Police Station OC Obaidur Rahman.

In Sirajganj, farmers Hossain Ali Sheikh, 25, of Raiganj upazila, and Abdul Hamid, 50, of Tarash upazila were killed in separate lightning strikes while working in their fields during a storm, police said.

## 16-yr-old at centre

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Investigators said members of the group communicated through Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, Session, and Telegram. They used pseudonyms to conduct activities aligned with what police described as extremist objectives.

The boy's phone also contained audio, video, images, and chat records that investigators say support Neo-JMB ideology. Screenshots of the materials have been collected and are being examined as part of the ongoing probe, according to the forwarding letter.

Intelligence sources said the boy studied up to class VIII. His father works in Oman. He lives with his mother and elder brother.

He went missing on September 20 last year, prompting his mother to file a general diary. Police rescued him from Gazipur weeks later, unaware of his alleged militant links.

Officials claim that he was introduced to Neo-JMB online, adopted pseudonyms, and even received bomb-making training from foreign experts. He uploaded a video to a private Facebook group, which drew concern from a foreign embassy in Dhaka.

Intelligence officials said he and others discussed possible attacks on Shia and Ahmadiyya mosques in the northern region and had been in contact with a dismissed army member regarding armouries in Savar.

His mother, however, insists that he is mentally unstable and denies any militant involvement.

"He used to watch Islamic videos,

but we all do. He plays with children of all faiths. I never thought he was involved in militancy," she told The Daily Star.

The Police Headquarters alert attached profiles of two alleged planners, Mohammad Rahed Hossain Mahed from Sylhet and Rakib Hasan alias Ubaida Al Usama from Savar, describing them as "extremely risky for the overall security of the country".

They warned that the group may carry out attacks on "important state installations," including the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Shahbagh intersection, places of worship, police and army establishments, and entertainment centres. It also listed armouries of security forces as potential targets.

Regarding the alert, CTTC Joint Commissioner Munshi Shahabuddin told reporters at a press briefing on Saturday that they received the information and their CTTC cyber intelligence team was working on it. "There is no reason to panic."

This warning stands in stark contrast to earlier assurances during the interim government.

On July 6, 2025, then home adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said, "There is no militancy in Bangladesh at present."

Days earlier, then Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali dismissed militancy as a problem, saying mugging was the main focus. He even alleged that during the Awami League's tenure, a "militant drama" was staged to justify the killings of young people.

## Iran FM back

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Association dinner in Washington, Trump said he did not think the incident was related to Iran but that it would not deter him "from winning the war".

US forces removed security equipment from the Pakistani capital, Pakistani government sources said, signalling that any US delegation was unlikely to return for talks soon.

After the latest diplomatic trip was called off, two US Air Force C-17s carrying security staff, equipment and vehicles used to protect US officials flew out of Pakistan, two Pakistani government sources told Reuters yesterday.

On Truth Social, Trump wrote that there was "tremendous infighting and confusion" within Iran's leadership.

"Nobody knows who is in charge, including them," he posted. "Also, we have all the cards, they have none! If they want to talk, all they have to do is call!"

On Saturday, Araghchi met Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir, a key mediator, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, before flying on to Muscat.

He is expected to go to Moscow after the talks in Islamabad.

Araghchi described his initial Pakistan trip as "very fruitful" but signalled scepticism over Washington's intentions. "Have yet to see if the US is truly serious about diplomacy," he said.

Pressure to end the war has intensified as the Strait of Hormuz — a vital oil and gas route — remains closed.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said they had no intention of lifting their blockade, which has roiled energy markets.

## Liberation War lensman passes away

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having himself been a child of partition when his family was uprooted from their hometown in what is now Pakistan. Rai worked at a furious pace, sending back images after images that the newspaper faithfully carried, making him a household name in India while unfolding the horrors that marked the liberation struggle.

However, his entire body of negatives from that period was lost and remained missing for decades until they were recovered quite by accident. This rediscovery eventually led to the publication of Bangladesh: The Price of Freedom, brought out to mark the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

Reflecting on the rediscovery, Rai said he had been deeply involved in documenting the suffering of

refugees, driven in part by his own experience. The negatives, he noted, had been stored away in a bundle and "never saw the light of the day" until they were found after nearly 40 years by his assistant while scanning archival material.

He also recalled that many international photographers, including Don McCullin, had documented the refugee crisis at the time, and he had even admired their work, largely forgetting his own. Upon rediscovering his photographs decades later, he realised that his work carried its own intensity and message, prompting him to share it with the public.

The photographs capture the refugee camps, the mass exodus, and the turmoil of the time, offering a powerful visual account of a defining moment in South Asian history. He also documented frontline

moments during the war, travelling with advancing forces and later witnessing scenes in Dhaka following the surrender of Pakistani troops on December 16, 1971.

He received the Padma Shri in 1972 for his powerful photography during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

Rai's photography is often described as a "visual record" of modern India. He captured powerful images after the Bhopal tragedy, one of the worst industrial disasters in history, according to NDTV.

He was known for his photography books. Some of his most popular works include *Raghu Rai's India: Reflections in Colour and Reflections in Black and White*.

In 2019, he won the Académie des Beaux-Arts Photography Award, one of the top international honours in photography.

## DU student found dead

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name of the teacher and another student.

Kazi Md Nasirul Amin, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said, "Sudip Chakraborty, an associate professor of the department, was arrested after the student's father, Golam Mostafa, filed a case of abetment of suicide with the station.

Police had earlier picked up the teacher and a classmate of the deceased for questioning.

"The student was released, as the deceased's family had no complaint against her," the OC said.

Meanwhile, Gulshan Division Deputy Commissioner M Tanveer Ahmed said the body was recovered from the residence and sent to the morgue at Dhaka Medical College for an autopsy.

The family suspects that the teacher

may have been in a relationship with her, he added.

Quoting family members, police said Munira used to sleep with the door open. After the Fajr prayers that day, family members noticed the door was closed and began knocking. As they received no response, they broke in and found her hanging body.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma, chairperson of the theatre and performance studies, said they were informed of the death yesterday morning, after which teachers from the department visited her family.

Teachers and students said that Munira left a note mentioning the teacher's name and asked that Tk 50,000 be given to him. She also wished the teacher and the student, who were detained for questioning, to stay well.

## JS scraps

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duty, VAT, development surcharge and import permit fees during the tenure.

The law further provided a similar perk five years after the first.

An MP was entitled to import another new car, SUV or microbus after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of last import on the same terms and conditions.

In the statement of objectives and reasons for the amendment, Asaduzzaman said that importing duty-free cars for MPs is inconsistent with BNP's commitment to serve the people and creates visible discrimination in tax obligations.

He added that, in light of current economic realities and the vision of the leader of the house, the duty-free car facility for MPs needed reconsideration.