

# MET GALA 2026 turns red carpet into spectacle of fashion and art

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Met Gala 2026 unfolded in full spectacle mode, with the red carpet transforming into a high-energy showcase of bold fashion, headline-making moments, and viral-worthy arrivals. As always, the night blurred the line between entertainment and style, bringing out some of the biggest names in the industry.

With this year's theme Costume Art and dress code Fashion Is Art, celebrities embraced dramatic, statement looks that felt straight out of an exhibition. From sculptural silhouettes to theatrical detailing, the message was clear—go big or go home.



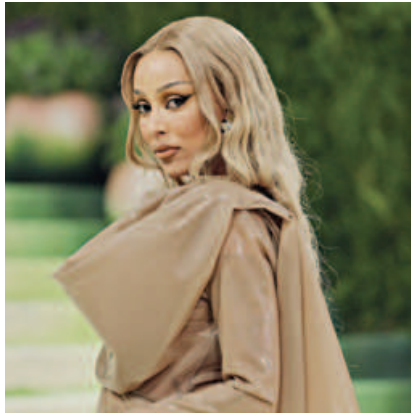
Karan Johar in regal splendour



Madonna's gothic grandeur



Katy Perry: Mirror mystique



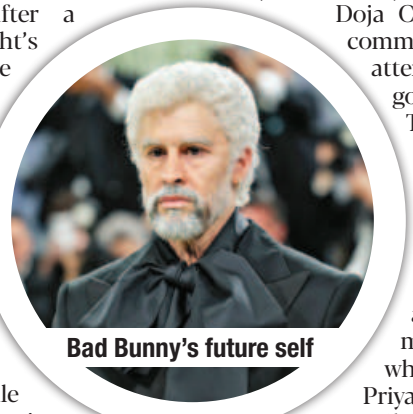
Doja Cat sculpted in latex

The look aligned closely with the Costume Art theme, reflecting the exhibition's focus on aging and evolving physical identity.

Doja Cat, part of the host committee, also grabbed attention in a draped latex gown by Saint Laurent. The design balanced a modest neckline with a daring thigh-high slit that extended to the waist.

On the Bollywood front, Karan Johar and Manish Malhotra made appearances, while regulars like Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone were notably absent this year. Johar, however, made a strong impression with his debut look.

Titled *Framed in Eternity*, Karan Johar's outfit featured a structured, power-shouldered vintage jacket paired with a sweeping, hand-painted cape stretching nearly six feet. He completed



Bad Bunny's future self

the look with multi-gemstone jewellery from his label Tyaani.

Johar revealed that his look was inspired by legendary Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma, calling the reference deeply personal. He noted that Varma's ability to capture emotion through art mirrors his own approach to storytelling in cinema.

Beyond the glamour, the Met Gala remains a major fundraiser for the Costume Institute. This year, it raised a record \$42 million, up from \$31 million in 2025, according to the museum's CEO Max Hollein.



Heidi Klum: Living sculpture

The accompanying exhibition further reinforces the theme by placing high fashion alongside iconic artworks. Pieces like a Saint Laurent design are displayed next to Irides by Vincent van Gogh, while a John Galliano gown for Maison Margiela is paired with an antique sculpture—highlighting the seamless dialogue between fashion and art.

## Multi-generational cast unites in Eid telefilm 'Zohra Begumer Icchapotro'

A new telefilm bringing together performers from four generations has wrapped filming in Dhaka. Titled *Zohra Begumer Icchapotro*, the project is directed by Arif Khan.

The ensemble cast includes veteran and



contemporary stars such as Ferdousi Majumdar, Afzal Hossain, Mamunur Rashid, Tauquir Ahmed, Deepa Khandakar, Rawnak Hasan and Zakia Bari Mamo.

A notable aspect of the telefilm is that the story and screenplay have been written by Tauquir Ahmed, marking his return to writing for television after a long hiatus.

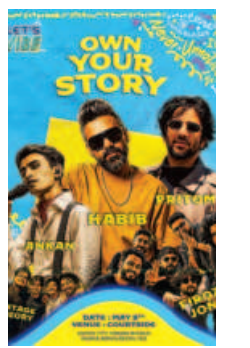
The telefilm also marks a significant return to television for Ferdousi Majumdar, which the director described as one of the project's highlights.

It is expected to be one of the major attractions of Channel i's Eid-ul-Azha lineup.

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### 'Let's Vibe: Own Your Story'

Some of the country's most popular contemporary acts share one stage in *Let's Vibe: Own Your Story*. Habib Wahid, Fuad & Friends, Pritom Hasan, Firoze Jong, Ankan Kumar, and Vintage Theory drive a high-energy set built on familiar hits and live performance, shaping an evening of collective sound and crowd-led momentum.



Date: Saturday | May 9, 2026  
Time: 5 pm - 10 pm  
Venue: Courtside, Madani Avenue

# NEWS

## Trade deal with US cannot be scrapped

FROM PAGE 16  
on Reciprocal Trade, known as ART, but inherited it from the previous interim administration.

The deal, he added, contains provisions for amendment should any clause prove harmful to Bangladesh's interests, which he described as a built-in "self-correcting element".

The reassurances came a day after a Prothom Alo report found a sharp imbalance in the 32-page agreement's language.

It stated that of 179 instances of the word "shall", which carries mandatory legal weight, "Bangladesh shall" appears 131 times.

"US shall" appears just six times. The word "will", which signals discretionary rather than binding action, appears just three times throughout the document.

Speaking to the media after meeting Lynch separately at the foreign ministry, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman did not dispute

the figures but urged a comparative reading.

Mentioning that Bangladesh accepted 131 "shall" obligations, he said Indonesia agreed to 231 such obligations in its deal with the US.

Welcoming discussions on the deal, he said, "We are not the only country to sign a deal. Other countries have done this too."

"When you read Bangladesh's agreement, read it alongside Indonesia's, Vietnam's, Cambodia's — then you will understand it better," he added.

Khalilur also pointed to the reciprocal tariff outcome the deal had delivered. Bangladesh secured a reciprocal tariff rate of 19 percent, one percentage point lower than Vietnam's 20 percent.

"Compare Bangladesh's agreement with the deals signed by others. You will realise what rate we received...; what purchase commitments we made versus others," he said.

Muktadir also spoke about the US's investigation into alleged forced labour and overcapacity.

The investigation involving 60 countries, including Bangladesh, focuses on whether these countries failed to impose and effectively enforce a ban on the import of goods produced with forced labour and whether it impacted US commerce.

The minister said that Dhaka has sought clarification before formally responding on the matter. "We have clearly conveyed that it would have been more positive if such an investigation had not been initiated under the existing agreement."

Rejecting claims of overcapacity and dumping, Muktadir stressed that Bangladesh imports most of its goods under strict international compliance, leaving no scope for labour law violations or child labour. Exports, particularly ready-made garments, are also produced in the same way.

## Some may have been complicit in crimes

FROM PAGE 16  
recent initiatives taken by several ministries and departments. Principal Information Officer Syed Abdal Ahmed was also present at the briefing.

The adviser, who holds the rank of a state minister, said some journalists are currently in custody on specific murder charges, while what occurred in July amounted to crimes against humanity — a systematic pattern that Sheikh Hasina had established long ago through actions such as enforced disappearances.

"Even before taking office, I had maintained that accusing the journalists of such activities [specific murders] was a mistake," he said.

Zahed said that during the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following

World War II, those who built narratives that facilitated killings were also tried and brought to justice.

Regarding journalists facing similar charges who have not yet been arrested, he said the government would take appropriate measures.

He also said that the prime minister assured leaders of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh that the government would do as much as possible in collaboration with the judiciary regarding the cases against journalists, as it cannot unilaterally interfere in judicial processes.

Zahed also said the government has taken an initiative to introduce electric buses to reduce fuel consumption, adding that the service will initially be launched for students.

"There remains concern over the situation in the Middle East and conditions could deteriorate at any time.... However, Bangladesh currently has sufficient fuel oil reserves.

"In the future, we will have to move towards electricity, and the duties on electric buses for students will be zero."

Regarding local government elections, he said the polls are expected to begin towards the end of this year and may take around 10 months to one year to complete.

He added that the government has no plan to abolish the upazila parishad. "Under Section 25 of the law, a Member of Parliament serves as an adviser to the upazila parishad and should therefore have an office there."

## 58 killings tied to Shapla Chattar

FROM PAGE 16  
command responsibility. "From the head of government to force chiefs and police commissioners, many may be involved."

He stated that deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina would be the principal accused, adding, "We have found her involvement, along with others."

Asked about sacked army officer and former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre Ziaul Ahsan, Aminul said Ziaul was directly involved and present at the scene.

The investigation, being pursued as a crimes against humanity case, is at its final stage. Families of all identified victims have been interviewed, and evidence has been collected for each killing.

"We are not going beyond what the investigation has established," Aminul said, responding to questions about higher casualty figures previously claimed in political statements.

The probe has examined the role of law enforcement agencies, ruling party activists, and the government.

"Certainly, law enforcement, the Awami League, and the government are within the scope," Aminul said.

He added that former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun had initially been considered an accused, but investigators later received information that he was abroad at the time, which is being verified.

Replying to another query, Aminul said the prosecution believes the incident may constitute crimes against humanity, citing elements of a "systematic and widespread attack" and "targeted killings" against a specific group.

On March 12, the ICT issued arrest warrants for Hasina, former home minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, former IGP Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, former DMP commissioner Benazir Ahmed, and Gonojagoron Mancha spokesperson Imran H Sarker over the killings.

Meanwhile, prosecution witness Shafiqul Islam, a madrasa principal and imam in Purbachal, yesterday completed his testimony before ICT-1.

He described his enforced

disappearance after being abducted in 2022 in a case involving 17 individuals, including former top officials and army officers, linked to a Task Force for Interrogation (TFI) cell allegedly operated under the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Shafiqul said he was picked up from Dhaka's Mohammadpur on January 13, 2022, and spent 38 days in secret detention at Rab-1 headquarters before being taken to Nilphamari. There, Rab showed him arrested in a false case, from which he secured bail after 16 months.

He recalled a Rab member telling him in Nilphamari, "Were you in Rab-1? No one returns from there! Allah has saved you and that's why you have come here."

With the help of investigators, he later identified the detention centre on the Rab-1 premises, noting he heard azan, vehicles, trains, and aircraft during his confinement.

Shafiqul claimed he was subjected to enforced disappearance and torture for speaking out against the Awami League over the killing of Hefazat supporters and demanding justice.

## Rohingya youth held over TTP link

FROM PAGE 16  
through social media and WhatsApp to carry out militant activities at home and abroad," the case statement read.

Investigators believe the group is run by two TTP leaders, with objectives including disrupting internal security, supporting terrorist activities, and inciting the Rohingya community through propaganda.

Teknaf police filed a case over Mahmudullah's arrest under the Anti-Terrorism Act yesterday.

Mahmudullah was produced before a Cox's Bazar court, which sent him to jail, Sub-Inspector Shuvo Mitra Talukder, the investigation officer, told The Daily Star.

Cox's Bazar Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Wahidur Rahman said, "He was arrested based on intelligence regarding his suspected links to TTP."

During preliminary interrogation, Mahmudullah confessed to maintaining contact with TTP members, according to the case statement.

Case documents note that his phone contained images and messages shared by the group, allegedly intended to incite militant activities. He also admitted to disseminating such content inside Rohingya camps with associates.

Investigators suspect Mahmudullah may have links to the student wing of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and possibly its armed wing.

Reports of Bangladeshi individuals joining TTP surfaced last year.

Intelligence officials said at least a dozen people have left Bangladesh to join the group, with three killed while fighting alongside TTP operatives.

## Govt plans polls to local bodies within a year

FROM PAGE 16  
force's modernisation.

Talking to reporters after the discussion, defence adviser Shamsul said DCs have been instructed to make the armed forces more people-oriented. He mentioned that the requirements, work procedures, and plans of the forces were shared with the DCs by the respective chiefs.

On foreign affairs, Shama Obaed Islam, state minister for the foreign ministry, stated that Bangladesh's foreign policy will remain unchanged regardless of which government comes

to power in West Bengal, India. She emphasised that Indian polls are its internal matter.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury urged the DCs to discharge their duties with honesty, integrity, and dedication in all spheres, keeping in mind their responsibilities towards the people, society, and state.

The DCs work as an effective bridge between the executive branch of the state and the common people, he said.

The chief justice made the remark while presiding over a "Courtesy Meeting and Special

Direction-Giving Session with all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners of the country" at the Supreme Court auditorium on the occasion of the DC conference yesterday afternoon, according to an SC press release.

The four-day DC conference, which began on Sunday, held eight sessions covering 14 ministries and divisions on its third day, yesterday. On the final day, today, nine sessions involving 10 ministries and divisions will take place. The conference will conclude with a dinner hosted by the prime minister.