

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Hamin Ahmed becomes first Bangladeshi elected to APMA executive committee

Miles frontman to represent Bangladesh in Asia-Pacific music creators' alliance for the 2026–2029 term

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Hamin Ahmed, frontman of the legendary Bangladeshi band Miles and an advocate for music creators' rights, has been elected to the executive committee of the Asia-Pacific Music Creators Alliance (APMA) for the 2026–2029 term.

He is the first representative from Bangladesh to join the alliance's executive committee, marking a milestone for the country's representation in regional music policy and copyright advocacy.

"When I received the call from CISAC, I was elated. Representatives from over 20 countries are currently cooperating through this organisation, and I will put my best foot forward to ensure that our voice is heard," said the musician.

CISAC is the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers.

Hamin's election places a Bangladeshi music industry leader in a key regional forum dedicated to protecting songwriters' and composers' rights. Whether he will take on an additional leadership role remains under discussion.

"That is still an ongoing conversation. It is currently under discussion whether I will hold a specific leadership post or not," he said.

Hamin already serves as CEO of the Bangladesh Lyricists, Composers and Performers Society (BLCPS) and president of the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA). His election to the APMA executive committee is expected to strengthen Bangladesh's voice in discussions on intellectual property rights across Asia.

Established in November 2016 during the World Creators Forum in Beijing, APMA is a regional coalition of music creators and their representative organisations. It is affiliated with the International Council of Music Creators (CIAM) and CISAC, two international bodies dedicated to advancing creators' interests and rights.

"APMA works to address critical challenges such as unfair copyright buyouts, inadequate remuneration for private copying, and the value gap between the revenue generated by digital music platforms and the income received by creators," Hamin explained.

"The alliance also promotes awareness of creators' moral and economic rights and supports the development of collective management organisations in territories where such systems are still emerging."

These issues are particularly relevant to Bangladesh, where ensuring fair compensation remains an ongoing challenge—one that the Miles musician has been working to address for over a decade. Under Hamin's leadership, BLCPS is in the process of obtaining CISAC membership.

The current APMA committee brings together representatives from organisations involved in music rights and collective management across countries and territories including Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand.

For Bangladesh, Hamin's election offers an opportunity to expand its participation in global discussions that increasingly shape how music is created, distributed, licensed and monetised. As digital platforms continue to transform the industry, regional cooperation on copyright protection and fair remuneration has become vital to the livelihoods of songwriters, composers, performers and other music professionals.



Liberation DocFest Bangladesh to screen 17 documentaries

The 13th Liberation DocFest Bangladesh will run from October 29 to 31 at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka's Agargaon, featuring 17 documentaries under the theme ***Presence in Absence***.

Selected from 188 submissions, the films will screen in national and international competition sections and the Best of the Fest category.

One film in each competition section will receive Tk 100,000. A youth jury will also select a best film for a crest and certificate.

A seminar on documentary filmmaking as a classroom assignment in higher education will take place at 4:00pm on October 30.

Launched in 2006, the festival promotes films about liberation and human rights while encouraging young filmmakers and connecting local talent with international documentary cinema, organisers said.

RAZZ, TUSHI starrer 'Ice Cream' arrives on OTT 10 years after theatrical release

Ice Cream, starring Sariful Razz and Nazifa Tushi, arrives on Chorki at midnight, October 20, 10 years after its theatrical release.

Written and directed by Redoan Rony, the film opened in cinemas on April 29, 2016, marking the film debuts of Razz, Tushi and Uday.

Reflecting on the experience, Tushi said she entered the industry knowing little about filmmaking but wanting to act. Razz described ***Ice Cream*** as the foundation of his career, recalling rehearsals, nerves and Rony's guidance.

The cast also includes the late ATM Shamsuzzaman, Diti and Sayem Sadat, alongside Omar Sani and Nadia Khanam. Its soundtrack features vocals by Arnob, Armeen Musa, Sharmin Sultana Sumi and Minar Rahman. Rony also wrote the film's story, screenplay and dialogue.





EVENTS

'Listening Beyond Sight'



Reimagining the world through memory, sound, and sensory perception, Arif Abdullah's solo photography exhibition explores the challenges of traditional ways of seeing. The showcase invites audiences to discover how creative expression endures beyond sight, translating internal landscapes into compelling visual narratives.

Date: Friday – Tuesday | October 16 – 20, 2026

Time: 3:00pm– 9:00pm

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

NEWS

Religion is for the individual, state is for all

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security, while citizens also have a responsibility to look after one another and work together to take the country forward.

Recalling the Liberation War, the premier said people fought for the country's independence without asking whether their fellow fighters were Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists or Christians.

He said people also stood together, irrespective of religion, during movements to restore democracy and establish political and voting rights.

Referring to the mass uprising of August 5, 2024, Tarique said hundreds of thousands of people had taken to the streets without asking one another about their religious beliefs.

"People of all religions were there that day," the PM said, adding that the July Uprising Memorial, which he inaugurated at Osmani Udyan earlier in the day, commemorated people from different religious communities who sacrificed their lives for people's rights.

He urged people to remain united in working for the country's development, saying that everyone will benefit if Bangladesh and the lives of its people improve.

"When someone suffers, we don't look at their religion. Likewise, when people are doing well, we don't look at their religions. We see that you are human, and I am human," Tarique said.

Extending greetings to members of the Hindu community on Durga Puja, the PM described the occasion as a celebration of joy and togetherness.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Social Welfare Minister AZM Zahid Hossain also spoke at the programme.

From sports ground to 'drug den'

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an alternative, said the stadium had lost its former atmosphere. "There was a time when the stadium was full of excitement during cricket and football matches, but that scene has changed completely. The pavilion and washrooms have turned into dumping grounds and are choked with weeds," he said, adding that the lack of facilities was discouraging aspiring athletes.

Imran Hossain, a young footballer from Chandnighat in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, said the hard ground, overgrown grass, grazing livestock and lack of drinking water made regular practice difficult.

ALLEGATIONS OF DRUG USE AFTER DARK

Residents allege that groups gather in secluded corners of the stadium after sunset to consume and sell cannabis, Yaba and Phensedyl. Claims of theft and mugging have also discouraged people from visiting after dark.

"We cannot take our children to the grounds because we fear what might happen. The stadium is no longer a place for sports; it has turned into a marketplace for drugs," said Sanaullah, a Saudi expatriate, adding that those protesting against the alleged activities faced counter-threats. Residents have called for regular police raids and stronger action.

Liakat Ali, a retired army officer living nearby, said the activities had persisted for years after dusk. "Even during the day, 50 to 100 players can be seen here; however, they leave before evening sets in. Once the stadium becomes deserted, these illicit activities take over," he said.

A NATIONAL PROBLEM OF MAINTENANCE

The 18,000-capacity stadium reflects wider concerns over public sports infrastructure. The National Sports Council (NSC) has built 63 district stadiums and 125 upazila-level mini stadiums, with work under way on another 201.

Residents allege that groups gather in secluded corners of the stadium after sunset to consume and sell cannabis, Yaba and Phensedyl.

In March, The Daily Star reported that a sports facility in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila had turned into a marketplace, highlighting similar concerns about the upkeep of public grounds.

"We must think about why we build stadiums if there is no process for maintenance. We must think about open grounds rather than structures," an NSC official said, speaking anonymously.

The NSC reportedly allocated Tk 18 crore for nationwide repairs this year, Tk 4 crore more than in the previous fiscal year. However, much of the funding goes towards upgrading venues for international events. DSAs receive only Tk 3 lakh to Tk 4 lakh annually, which must also cover office maintenance, leaving little scope for major repairs.

AUTHORITIES ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED FOR RENOVATION

Syed Sipon, a stadium office assistant, said only two temporary staff members were responsible for upkeep and that a grass-cutting machine had been stolen.

Hanif Mohammad Khan Niyaz, member secretary of the Moulvibazar DSA, said the stadium urgently needed renovation and modernisation, adding that the association had informed the local MP.

Monwar Ahmed Rahman, a Bangladesh Cricket Board councillor, said some repairs had been carried out and the gates were now kept locked following earlier thefts. He said the stadium could host national and divisional competitions if its playing field, galleries and dressing rooms were renovated. Stolen electrical fittings and livestock entering the grounds remained concerns.

Deputy Commissioner Touhiduzzaman Pavel cited budget constraints as a barrier to improvements. Although his office had received no formal complaints about alleged drug activities, he said a team would investigate and relevant drug-prevention authorities could be involved.

BUILDING STADIUMS IS NOT ENOUGH

An NSC project report describes sports as vital to health, vigour, strength, discipline and character. Yet the stadium's deteriorating condition raises questions about whether public investment is delivering those benefits.

Without sustained maintenance, effective oversight and action on residents' concerns, the facility risks remaining underused rather than serving athletes and the wider community. The broader question is whether Bangladesh needs more sports grounds or better use of the facilities it has already built.

Fishermen attack MP in anti-hilsa fishing drive

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drive in the Zajira stretch of the Padma around 4:00am, with the local MP accompanying them. Before the operation, the MP had visited several riverside areas and held street meetings to raise awareness about protecting mother hilsa.

According to the fisheries officer, the team found fishermen gathered at Char Kolikal with boats, nets and other fishing equipment. When the drive began, the fishermen fled.

As the team attempted to seize nets, boats and other equipment left along the riverbank, a group of fishermen returned carrying brickbats, sticks and machetes and launched an attack.

The fishermen struck the team's boats with sticks and brickbats, injuring two people participating in the operation. The team was forced to retreat in the face of the attack.

Additional river police and two army teams later arrived at the scene and joined the operation. The attackers fled when the joint forces launched a fresh drive, the district fisheries officer said.

Asked why he joined the operation, MP Sayed Ahmed Aslam said he had received allegations that a syndicate was helping fishermen circumvent the ban on catching mother hilsa by influencing the administration and other authorities.

"Most of those fishing are not genuine fishermen but outsiders. I joined the drive myself to verify the allegations," he said.

The MP said he had joined the operation around 3:00am and that 41 people had been detained during raids in different areas. Although the detainees claimed to be fishermen, he said, the authorities had found no evidence to establish their identities as such.

A large number of those detained had come from other districts, he alleged, adding that a local syndicate had hired them to fish in the area.

He said specific allegations had been raised against the Majhirghat and Sureshwar river police outposts, with complainants claiming that the people involved had been allowed to fish after managing the relevant authorities.

The MP said he had asked the authorities concerned to investigate the allegations and take departmental action against those found responsible.

He added that his purpose was not merely to detain fishermen but also to counsel them and explain why they should not destroy the country's natural resources.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Saeed Ibn Reza of the River Police's Chandpur region told The Daily Star that 27 cases had been filed in the area over illegal hilsa fishing in the past 12 days.

He suggested that the allegations might have been made by the detainees, their relatives and family members because cases had been filed against those detained.

"I do not think there is any truth to these allegations. I am not aware of them," he said.

However, he said the river police would take departmental action if an investigation established the allegations to be true.

Following today's attack, the MP said the authorities would intensify their operations.

Kyiv got 'no early warning' from allies

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US Secretary of State Marco Rubio denied earlier yesterday that there had been any suspension of intelligence sharing with Ukraine, reports AFP.

"There has been no pause," Rubio told reporters in Uzbekistan when asked about Ukraine's claims, calling on Zelensky to "focus" on ending the war with Russia.

A Russian air strike killed a woman in Ukraine's Kyiv overnight while also hitting a subway station on the left bank of the capital city and damaging a 25-storey residential building, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram.

The attack, which also saw non-residential buildings and a medical facility hit, injured three other people in Kyiv, he said. A Reuters witness heard explosions in the city.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a summit next month with US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to negotiate an end to the four-year-old Ukraine conflict that would favour Moscow, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

The proposed summit comes amid warming ties between Trump and Putin especially after the US President announced a deal to buy Russian diesel and signed an order on Friday waiving key sanctions on Moscow.

Woman

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Police were initially told that Swarna had strangled her children before dying by suicide. Investigators, however, suspect that Shakil wrote a message on a wall, posing as his wife and claiming that she had killed the children, to mislead them.

Swarna and Shakil had been married for about four years and frequently quarrelled over family matters, the OC said.

The bodies were sent to the morgue of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsies.

Jubo Dal leader

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Moniruzzaman, former president of Narayanganj district BNP.Ripon was the supporter of MP Mustafizur.

The dispute intensified recently over whether certain names should be included in the guest list for a religious gathering, they said. Tensions flared between the two groups on Sunday night.

Ripon was chased by his rivals and critically injured with sharp weapons, said AHM Salauddin, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station.

Family members took him to a local hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

When contacted for comment, neither MP Mustafizur nor Moniruzzaman responded to our phone calls.

BNP leader Mahfuzur told The Daily Star that the killing stemmed from a dispute over political dominance.

"There had been tensions between the two groups before, and the conflict intensified recently over a waz mahfil," he said.

Victim's son Shawon filed a murder case with Rupganj Police Station yesterday evening, naming seven accused and 30-40 others who were not identified.

Bomb threat diverts Tel Aviv flight to Bulgaria

REUTERS, *Vienna*

A bomb threat forced an Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna to divert to Sofia late on Sunday, though a search found nothing dangerous so the plane took off again and flew onwards, the airline and Bulgaria's BTA news agency said.

BTA said the flight's crew reported receiving a bomb threat when the aircraft was approaching the Romanian border, and the Bulgarian Air Force scrambled MiG-29 fighter jets. Israeli newspaper Haaretz said the threat was "called in by an Austrian national who was not on board", without identifying its source.