

Two awards in two continents for Tama Mirza

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actor Tama Mirza continues to solidify her footing across Bangladeshi cinema and streaming platforms, pairing critical acclaim with commercial draw. Best known for her award-winning performance in ***Nodijon***, the popular actress has built a versatile filmography through high-profile feature films like ***Surongo*** and ***Daagi***, alongside critically received web productions such as ***Amalnama***.

Tama's work in ***Amalnama*** earned her Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2025—her second win for Best Actor (Female) at the ceremony. Within twenty-four hours of receiving the honour, the artiste boarded a flight to the United States to accept the Dhallywood Film and Music Awards 2026.

Reflecting on the recognition for ***Amalnama***, she noted the collaborative effort behind the project and its reception among viewers. "Winning an award for the film feels wonderful. Everyone who watched it offered warm praise and positive feedback. The character gave me immense scope to perform, and it turned out to be a truly special project."



PHOTOS: **STAR**

She credited director Raihan Rafi for shaping the project's vision. "Raihan Rafi chose a brilliant story and crafted it with immense care. His direction always brings something distinct, and in ***Amalnama***, he demonstrated that vision once again. I am deeply grateful to the audience and The Daily Star for this honour."

"Receiving two prestigious awards back-to-back feels incredible. I extend my sincere gratitude to the organisers of the Dhallywood Awards."

For the acclaimed actress, consecutive accolades serve as a reminder of the artistic standard expected of her as an actor. "As an artiste, there is an internal sense of responsibility to deliver quality work. I have done some strong projects, and moving forward, I want to sustain that standard. I intend to be selective and choose roles that offer genuine scope for acting. Hopefully, I can share news of exciting new projects soon."

Beyond her screen career, Tama has quietly stepped into a distinct professional realm. For the past few months, she has been working in the corporate sector as an Assistant Vice President in Brand and Communications at a private bank, balancing a full-time office schedule with her creative pursuits.

"I am thoroughly enjoying corporate life at the bank. It is a completely new world outside of acting. Following a routine, going to the office, and working with new colleagues feels refreshingly different. I hope to carry out this new role with the same commitment."



Matthew McConaughey to run for US president?

Matthew McConaughey has reignited speculation about a potential 2028 presidential bid after releasing a six-minute video urging Americans to embrace political independence ahead of the 2026 midterms.

Calling independence the original road rather than a middle ground, the Oscar winner argued that independent leaders could break congressional gridlock and hold major parties accountable.

While he did not formally enter the race or endorse any candidate, the message drew backlash from critics warning independent votes could split crucial electorates. McConaughey previously weighed a Texas gubernatorial run in 2021 before stepping back from public office.

The appeal comes as Gallup reports a record 45 percent of Americans identify as political independents.

'Michael' moves to Golden Globes drama slate

Lionsgate's attempt to position its Michael Jackson biopic, ***Michael***, as a musical or comedy for the 84th Golden Globes has been rejected.

The Golden Globes awards committee denied the studio's submission, placing the Antoine Fuqua-directed film into the competitive drama category. Under Globe rules, songs must actively advance the narrative—rather than serve as performance re-creations—to qualify as a musical.

Starring Jaafar Jackson in his acting debut, the film recently became the first biographical feature to cross $1 billion globally. Despite the procedural setback, the ruling does not affect co-stars Colman Domingo and Nia Long, as supporting categories do not split by genre. Nominations will be announced on December 7.



EVENTS

'Pohal Neya'



Alliance Française de Dhaka hosts ***Pohal Neya***, an immersive participatory exhibition by French storyteller Laetitia Troussel-Luber. Inspired by the shifting banks of the Padma and Ganges, the event weaves together clay workshops, mythic lore, and collective storytelling, offering an evocative exploration of memory, heritage, and human connection through shared art.

Date: Friday–Monday | October 23–26, 2026

Time: 3:00pm–9:00pm

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

NEWS

Cop among 4 held for bike hijacking

FROM PAGE 12

Police Lines, was detained after the victim traced his stolen motorcycle to a Facebook advertisement, said Khulshi Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Nasim.

Jinia Chakma, Bandarban additional superintendent of police (crime and operations), told The Daily Star that departmental action had been taken against Anik.

Mohammad Apu, 22, of Companiganj upazila in Noakhali, initially filed a general diary after the incident. Police later turned it into a case following Anik's arrest.

According to the case statement, Apu and his friends were travelling from Noakhali to Cox's Bazar on three motorcycles on the night of October 16.

Around 1:30am the following day, a car and two motorcycles blocked their way on Zakir Hossain Road in front of Foy's Lake Eye Hospital.

Several people allegedly took their motorcycle keys, beat Apu and threatened him with sharp weapons before forcing him into the car. They then drove away with his motorcycle.

After taking him around different roads, the suspects left Apu by the roadside in the Shershah area around 3:00am after taking his mobile phone.

The stolen motorcycle, a Yamaha sports bike on test registration, was worth around Tk 5.5 lakh, according to the case statement.

Later, Apu found a Facebook post from an account named Anik Das offering the motorcycle for sale. Posing as a buyer, he contacted the seller through Messenger and agreed to buy it for Tk 5.3 lakh, sending Tk 5,000 as an advance.

"Anik Das asked Apu to come to the police box in front of the Bayezid Link Road, where Apu informed the Khulshi police. Anik Das was subsequently arrested there with the assistance of Khulshi police," SI Nasim said.

Based on Anik's information, police arrested Wahid and Mohiuddin Selim in the BITAK Bazar area under Pahartali Police Station. They told police the motorcycle was with Wahed Nasir alias Diamond.

Police recovered it from a garage in Faiyaltali Bazar around 4:30am on Tuesday. Two other motorcycles were recovered from the suspects' possession.

Police are trying to arrest other alleged gang members and recover the private car used in the robbery.

Bus had no fitness clearance for 5 months

FROM PAGE 12

accident was simply the result of a momentary lapse in concentration," he said.

Sources in the transport sector said operating a bus on a 500-kilometre overnight route with a single driver was hazardous. They also said drivers sometimes took over from one another informally on long routes, increasing the risk of accidents.

Hayat said the committee would also examine the allegation about who was driving.

"Our preliminary assessment suggests the driver may have been drowsy, leading to a loss of control. We will reveal all findings regarding the cause of the accident after the final investigation concludes," he said.

Meanwhile, many of the at least 30 injured passengers were receiving treatment at hospitals in Rajshahi and Natore. No new deaths had been reported until the report was filed last evening.

Tokyo to push for re-inclusion of India in BIG-B

FROM PAGE 12

the initiative when circumstances become favourable.

"Now that the political situation has changed, Japan wants to revive its strategic vision for the region. BIG-B will feature in the upcoming highest-level talks," the official added.

As of February 2024, Japan had provided approximately 385 billion yen in development assistance to Northeast India, much of it for infrastructure and connectivity projects, according to the Embassy of Japan in India.

During a visit to India in 2023, then Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida expressed hope that Japan would work with Bangladesh and India to promote regional prosperity, harnessing the potential of the Bay of Bengal to make the region more stable and prosperous.

In December 2024, Japan's then ambassador to Bangladesh, Iwama Kiminori, said connectivity in the Bay of Bengal was essential to Japan's FOIP vision.

Speaking at an event in Dhaka, he said the Matarbari deep-sea port was being developed not only for bilateral use but also to connect Bangladesh with regional and global supply chains.

Trust and understanding between Bangladesh and India were crucial to achieving economic prosperity through regional connectivity, he said.

Relations between Bangladesh and Japan experienced some strain during the interim government's tenure, according to foreign ministry officials.

Japan's ambassador to Bangladesh, Saida Shinichi, sought meetings with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on several occasions but was unable to secure an appointment during much of the interim administration's tenure, they said.

Saida took charge on January 10, 2025 and made a courtesy call on Yunus two days later.

Meanwhile, it remains uncertain whether Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman will accompany Tarique on the Japan visit, scheduled from October 26 to 29.

Asked at a press conference on Tuesday whether the foreign minister would accompany Tarique, Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam said: "If his schedule matches, he will join."

Khalilur served as the interim government's high representative for the Rohingya crisis and national security adviser.

During the visit, the two countries are expected to elevate their existing strategic partnership to a comprehensive strategic partnership (CSP), The Daily Star has learnt from officials involved with the proceedings.

A CSP represents a higher and broader tier in Japan's diplomatic framework than a standard Strategic Partnership and encompasses a deeply multi-layered, expansive network of cooperation across almost all sectors.

At present, Japan maintains CSPs with ASEAN, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Laos to advance security, economic resilience, and a free and open Indo-Pacific.

In an announcement on Tuesday, Japan's foreign ministry said the visit is expected to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance coordination towards realising an updated FOIP.

Japan launched BIG-B in 2014 to promote industrial development and connectivity around the Bay of Bengal. The initiative was initially focused on the Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar corridor.

In 2023, Japan proposed a broader Bay of Bengal–Northeast India Industrial Value Chain Initiative to strengthen economic links between Bangladesh and northeastern India.

BIG-B rests on three pillars: industry and trade, energy, and transportation. It aims to encourage Japanese investment, support industrialisation and improve connectivity, linking production centres with regional and global markets through infrastructure such as the Matarbari deep-sea port.

Asked about Japan's proposal to develop Matarbari as a subregional hub at the press conference, Siam said Bangladesh's economic development goals were closely linked to port infrastructure.

"The ports should be ready to handle and enhance capacity for our future imports and exports. That is how the Matarbari project has emerged. If the port can handle more after meeting our demands, then we will think about it," he said.

BNP MP receives farming incentive cheque from PM

FROM PAGE 12

director of Rajshahi Sugar Mills Ltd, said farmers were selected based on the amount of companion crops, locally known as "sathi foshol", they grew alongside sugarcane. Those growing more companion crops were given priority, she said.

Contacted yesterday, Syed Shaheen Shawkat, BNP's central organising secretary (Rajshahi division), said Sayeed qualified as a registered sugarcane farmer, despite also being an MP.

"There is no reason to view his receiving the incentive negatively, as the scheme covers farmers who met the eligibility criteria," he added.

Shawkat said the initiative aimed to utilise the otherwise vacant land between rows of sugarcane by growing additional crops, including pulses, cabbage, potatoes, onions, ginger and garlic.

As sugarcane takes a long time to mature, farmers can grow short-duration crops in the intervening spaces and harvest two to three additional crops a year, boosting both their income and the supply of vegetables and spices, he said.

The unused land between sugarcane rows nationwide could amount to several hundred thousand acres, he added.

At Tuesday's event, 15 farmers were called onstage to receive cheques one by one after the prime minister inaugurated the digital disbursement process.

Sayeed, identified as a sugarcane farmer supplying Rajshahi Sugar Mills, was the first to receive a cheque, Shawkat said.

The Daily Star could not reach Sayeed for comment despite repeated phone calls.

In a Facebook post, Sayeed said sugarcane cultivation and supply had been a family tradition spanning generations, from his grandfather and father to himself.

He also said he had personally supplied hundreds of truckloads of sugarcane to Rajshahi Sugar Mills and would continue to do so.

He added that the mill authorities had the relevant records and documents to verify his claims.

Magura Jubo Dal leader found dead at bus counter

FROM PAGE 12

"politically motivated" cases over the past 17 years.

His brother Raj Mir alleged that Saker was shot dead in a premeditated attack stemming from political rivalry. "We want justice," he said.

Locals said they found Saker unconscious inside the Royal Express counter at Magura Bus Terminal around 6:00am and took him to Magura 250-bed Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Dr Mainul Hasan of the hospital's emergency department said Saker had died before being brought there.

"We found a puncture wound on the back of his head and informed police," he said.

The body was kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy.



Saudi-backed Yemeni government fighters fire a truck-mounted recoilless rifle during battles against Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis at the Jabal Han front west of the city of Taiz in Yemen yesterday. PHOTO: **AFP**