

Tasnia Farin returns to OTT with dark comedy 'Dakatiya Bashi'

Tasnia Farin is set to return to OTT after a brief break with ***Dakatiya Bashi***, a Chorki original series directed by Imraul Rafat.

Farin plays Camellia in the dark comedy, marking her first experience with comedy in a series. She said she wanted to explore something different from the thrillers and murder mysteries common on OTT platforms.

Chorki announced the series on November 10, sharing photographs of Farin in bridal attire, holding a pistol alongside armed co-stars.

Written by Nazim Ud Daula, the cast includes Arfan Mredha Shiblu, Ishtiak Ahmed Rumel, Partho Sheikh and Sharaf Ahmed Zibon.

Rafat promised layered storytelling, twists and cliffhangers in every episode. The series is expected to premiere on Chorki soon, with a release date unannounced.

'Konna' from 'Jinn 3' crosses 100 million YouTube views



Konna, a song from the Bangladeshi horror film ***Jinn 3***, has surpassed 100 million views on YouTube. Released on Jaaz Multimedia's channel on March 17, 2025, it crossed 10 million views within 20 days.

The song features Nusraat Faria and Sajal in a colourful, festive sequence. Written by Robiul Islam Jibon, it was composed and arranged by Imran Mahmudul, who also sang the duet with Dilshad Nahar Kona.

Its popularity extended beyond cinemas, with the track becoming a fixture at weddings, gaye holud ceremonies and other celebrations. Jaaz Multimedia previously described it as a song for all Bangla-speaking people.

Directed by Kamruzzaman Roman and co-produced by Impress Telefilm, ***Jinn 3*** opened in cinemas during Eid ul Fitr last year across Bangladesh.

'The River Script' flows through the canvas at Dhaka Gallery

ANIKA TAHSIN HAFSA



PHOTOS: **NUSRAT RUSHA**

A river is never just a stretch of water. It carries memories, shapes landscapes, sustains livelihoods and quietly witnesses the rise and decline of civilisations. For multidisciplinary artist Rashid Khan, however, a river also exists within the human mind, carrying emotions, experiences and stories that often remain unspoken. This idea flows through his latest solo exhibition, ***The River Script***, which explores the deep connections between rivers, people and their surroundings.







As visitors enter Dhaka Gallery in Banani, fishing nets hanging from the ceiling and a traditional bamboo fish trap, known as a "chai", bring elements of river life into the gallery. These details set the tone for an exhibition where the river is not merely a subject to be observed, but a presence woven into everyday life.

The exhibition was inaugurated on November 5 at Dhaka Gallery, in the presence of former Dhaka University professor AHM Mustafizur Rahman, artist Mohammad Moniruzzaman, actresses Ashna Habib Bhabna and Sushama Sarker, among others. It features nearly 60 paintings by Rashid, created using acrylic on canvas and paper, charcoal and mixed media.

The works explore rivers through different perspectives, moving between memory, nature, human emotion and environmental concerns. In ***The Golden Aura***, golden tones and fragmented forms evoke sunlight falling on water, while ***The Clouds of Bliss*** explores the movement of water vapour into clouds, blurring the boundaries between the river and the sky.

In ***Lines Embark***, blue skeletal lines suggest the movement of a river as it winds through the landscape, drawing attention to the relationship between water and land. ***Enter the Unseen***, meanwhile, presents the human body as dissolving into the river, suggesting a shared existence between people and nature.

Not all the works offer a peaceful view of rivers. ***Dark Circles of Entrapment*** draws attention to pollution and the damage caused by human activities. The painting depicts the effects of plastic waste on aquatic life, including fish trapped in polluted waters. Through such works, Rashid also raises questions about what people have given back to the rivers that have sustained their lives and communities for generations.

His interest in rivers is rooted partly in childhood memories. Rashid recalls travelling between his maternal and paternal grandparents' homes, crossing the Panguchi River on journeys that could take around two hours. Those experiences shaped his understanding of rivers as more than geographical features.



"I believe everyone has a river in their life. It may inspire us, move us emotionally or offer us peace during difficult times," he says.

Artist and art writer Javed Jalil curated the exhibition, bringing together Rashid's paintings and ideas around a shared exploration of rivers. "We wanted people to discover their own river," he says.

The exhibition also hosts daily evening sessions titled ***Nodi Alap***, featuring music, literary readings, storytelling and discussions centred on rivers and river culture. A bilingual publication, ***Nodilipi: The River Script***, has also been released alongside the exhibition, bringing together Rashid's paintings and poetry with writings by Javed Jalil.

Through its varied works and accompanying programmes, ***The River Script*** invites visitors to look beyond rivers as landscapes and consider the memories, emotions and lives they hold. The exhibition remains open until November 15, daily from 3:00pm to 8:00pm at Dhaka Gallery, Banani.

NEWS

Police stop

FROM PAGE 12

raised at a meeting of the district law and order committee, where the superintendent of police expressed objections to such programmes and instructed the relevant authorities not to grant permission for them.

He added that Habiganj-3 lawmaker and parliamentary whip GK Gouse had also instructed the administration to remain vigilant about organising such musical programmes and rural folk music gatherings across the district.

At the committee's monthly meeting on Sunday, Gouse said the winter season was generally free of storms and rain, allowing religious programmes such as waz and tafsir gatherings to take place more frequently in the region.

He urged the authorities responsible for granting permission to ensure that such events did not create social tensions or involve any misinterpretation of religion.

He also said local residents did not favour rural musical programmes and urged the administration to prevent such events across the district, particularly in areas where he had received electoral support.

"I would request that such rural music programmes, whether during urs or on other occasions, not be held in the area," he said.

He also called for vigilance to prevent incidents of fighting among young people and other undesirable activities at such gatherings.

The Daily Star tried to reach GK Gouse by phone several times for comment, but he did not answer.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi has protested the administrative committee's decision.

In a joint statement, the organisation's acting president Mahmud Selim and general secretary Amit Ranjan De said the decision amounted to state endorsement of an ongoing conspiracy against healthy and constructive cultural practices in the country.They demanded that the decision be withdrawn immediately.

Harrison wins

FROM PAGE 12

becoming the oldest winner in the literary award's history at age 81.

Harrison's 13th novel follows Phillip Tennent and his elderly aunt Marnie on England's south coast years after social order has broken down and mysterious entities known as the iGhetti have arrived.

The Booker judges unanimously selected the 198-page book, saying it "turns you upside down, raises a wry smile and, surprisingly, given the subject matter, leaves you with a twinge of optimism."

The victory was the first Booker Prize for Harrison, whose career as a novelist and critic spans six decades and includes acclaimed science fiction and fantasy works. His win also marks a rare triumph for speculative fiction.

Mary Beard, chair of the judging panel, described the book as "the politics of now seen through the lens of the future", saying it depicts a society grappling with a catastrophe its inhabitants do not fully understand.

Accepting the £50,000 ($67,235) prize at a ceremony in London, Harrison said literary awards remained important in a "landscape of industrialised fiction."

Dhaka seeks '$250m' ADB loan

FROM PAGE 12

subject to technical studies, project preparation and consultations with potential Korean partners, he said.

An approval date for the full package has yet to be agreed and will depend on project readiness and the approval processes of the government and the ADB, he said.

The proposed investments build on the ADB's technical assistance for Bangladesh's digital economy, which includes feasibility studies, institutional capacity building and preparation of future projects, Zhang said.

He also said that the Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) had expressed interest in this regard, creating an opportunity to explore cofinancing.

The existing ADB-Korea framework includes a sovereign co-financing programme through 2027, covering information and communications technology, although financing for the proposed AI-related investments in Bangladesh remains to be agreed.

Zhang identified several other promising opportunities during the Seoul discussions, where potential cooperation with LG AI Research and Furiosa AI could support the development of Bangla-language models, AI computing and the upgrading or repurposing of existing national data-centre capacity.

Bangladesh highlighted the potential of developing a dedicated Large Language Model (LLM) for Bangla, drawing on regional models such as EXAONE, developed by LG AI Research, a subsidiary of South Korea's LG Group.

The delegation also explored using specialised chips developed by Furiosa AI to make AI processing more cost- and energy-efficient, as well as leveraging NAVER's expertise to build and manage data centres and cloud infrastructure.

The proposed native AI model aims to improve data processing and digital service delivery across the public and private sectors.

Locally adapted AI could support healthcare, education, agriculture and public services, while helping businesses improve production, logistics and market access, Zhang said.

Partnerships among Korean companies, Bangladeshi universities and technology villages could also strengthen practical training, research and startup development, enabling businesses to move into higher-value activities beyond garments, he said.

Cooperation could further strengthen cybersecurity, data governance and responsible AI adoption. The ADB's Korea-backed Center for AI Innovation and Development could contribute technical expertise, project design and talent development, he added.

"The objective is to build lasting capabilities in Bangladesh -- connecting infrastructure and technology with local skills, institutions, and practical applications that benefit people and businesses," Zhang said.

Korea's technology, industrial experience and financing could help Bangladesh translate its young workforce and digital ambitions into higher productivity, skilled employment and a more diversified economy, he added.

FIRST IGND OUTREACH

ADB officials described the Seoul visit as the first international outreach to attract investment in Bangladesh's Integrated Growth Network Development (IGND) initiative.

The visit would connect Bangladesh's ambitions with Korea's financing, technology, and industrial strengths, they said.

The government-owned initiative, supported by the ADB, aims to strengthen connectivity, build resilience and expand economic opportunities.

It envisages around $80 billion in investment over 20 years, with the ADB committing up to $5 billion over five years to catalyse further public and private investment.

Bilateral partners and businesses will be crucial to its success, ADB officials said, highlighting the importance of the Seoul discussions, including those on AI.

Laws don't allow

FROM PAGE 12

"If Sheikh Hasina genuinely wants to return to Bangladesh, our clear advice is that she should submit an application to the Indian government, requesting her extradition to Bangladesh under the existing extradition treaty. That would be the proper course for her," Aminul told reporters on the tribunal premises.

He explained that under the Bangladesh Passport Order, 1973, passports cannot be issued to individuals convicted of offences involving moral turpitude who have been sentenced to at least two years' imprisonment within the preceding five years. Besides, the law also mandates the seizure of passports under such circumstances.

Because Hasina stands convicted and sentenced to death for crimes against humanity, she falls squarely within this prohibited category, Aminul said, ruling out the issuance of any new passport or travel document.

"If the state or the government issues a passport or travel pass to a convicted person, it would be a mockery to the trial."

About the issue, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, yesterday said the extradition of Hasina was a legal matter that would be addressed through the appropriate legal process.

"And obviously, for travel of people, you need a travel document," he said in response to a question at a biweekly press briefing in New Delhi.

These remarks follow reports that London-based law firm Matrix Chambers sent an email to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on November 9, requesting the issuance of a new Bangladeshi passport and national ID card for Hasina. Her passport and NID were revoked during the tenure of the interim government.

Aminul questioned Hasina's sincerity regarding her return, noting she had ample opportunity to appear and defend herself during the proceedings but chose to remain abroad. He added that she also failed to file an appeal within the mandatory 30-day statutory window following the verdict.

The ICT sentenced Hasina to death on November 17, 2025, for crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 mass uprising. The full judgment was published on January 13.

"Hasina's only remaining option now is the execution of the verdict," Aminul said, dismissing speculation that she might attempt an unannounced return to fuel political instability.

He urged party activists not to be misled by rhetoric surrounding her return and reiterated that established diplomatic and legal channels remain the sole course of action.

Clarifying the matter at the Secretariat, Adviser Zahed said the application was invalid on procedural grounds.

"A law firm sent a letter requesting arrangements to issue a passport for Sheikh Hasina. However, a passport application must be made by the individual concerned, and Sheikh Hasina herself has not submitted any application. So, this discussion is no longer necessary."

He stressed that the lack of a passport will not impede her return, as Dhaka has already initiated formal extradition proceedings. India has informed Bangladesh that it is reviewing the legal aspects of the request.

"There is a legal framework to extradite a convicted individual from India to Bangladesh. Therefore, there are no legal barriers to bringing her back."

Citing article 47 of the constitution, Zahed added that individuals convicted of crimes against humanity do not retain fundamental rights.

In another development, a video clip circulating on social media shows Ranjit Sarkar, former lawmaker from Sunamganj-1 and a leader of the Awami League, whose activities are now banned, entering Bangladesh via the border and holding a rally in his area.

Responding to a query from a reporter, Zahed said there is no scope to hold any programme under the AL banner since its activities are banned. However, if he is on bail, that means he can hold any other kind of meeting or rally.

"Now, I'm not sure whether the meeting was an Awami League programme."

The reporter then told the adviser that the meeting was held using a banner and setting up a pandal.

The adviser then said, "If that is the case, it is certainly a violation of the law, and I assure you that action will be taken regarding this."

Isolated incidents do not signal security decline

FROM PAGE 2

the home minister being far more active when it comes to constitutional amendments than in ensuring law and order," he said.

Rejecting the allegations, Salahuddin blamed "fallen fascist forces" for attempting to destabilise the country through disruptive programmes announced from across the border, including a purported strike yesterday, largely confined to social media.

He alleged that associates inside the country were regrouping with encouragement from those abroad, questioned their legal status and political activities, and vowed to expose their local accomplices.

Salahuddin said seven crude bomb explosions had occurred nationwide, with four suspects caught red-handed.

"A cocktail explosion on the roof of a vehicle near the Business Faculty of Dhaka University in the dead of night does not mean that Bangladesh's law and order situation has deteriorated."

He argued that torching one or two abandoned or unattended buses at night or early morning did not indicate political instability.

Responding to media reports of worsening security, he said such assessments required comparative statistics.

He also alleged that a foreign-devised plan, backed by substantial resources invested domestically, had sought to destabilise the garment sector, the country's largest export earner, but the government had foiled it.

He praised law enforcers for exercising restraint despite repeated provocations intended to trigger excessive force.

"We are committed to ensuring that no conspiracy or blueprint aimed at destabilising the country is implemented," he said.

He warned that the "fascism" overthrown in the mass uprising would not be allowed to return through vested interests, vowing to expose any such attempts.

Iran behind cyberattacks on fridges: France

AFP, *Paris*

France's foreign minister said yesterday that Paris ruled out "nothing" to respond to a major cyberattack on hundreds of supermarket fridges in October that it has blamed on Iran.

Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told FranceinfoTV that Iran's ambassador would be summoned and European-level sanctions would be sought.

"I can also tell you that we rule nothing out and will take all measures -- including those we may not disclose publicly -- that we deem proportionate and necessary to deter any further attacks," he added.

The goal, Barrot said, is "to deter anyone who might be tempted, in Iran or elsewhere, to do it again".