



International Workers' Day, or May Day, is celebrated worldwide on May 1st every year as an honour to the struggles and victories of workers who worked and sacrificed relentlessly in securing fair rights including the eight-hour workday, safe conditions, and decent wages. Although the historical roots of May Day lie in 19th-century labor movements in the U.S., especially the Haymarket Affair of 1886, it has become relevant across the globe, especially to countries like Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, May Day serves as a critical reminder of what labourers have to go through, particularly in the RMG sector, which employs millions and contributes to the economy through foreign exports but is plagued by unsafe conditions,

low wages, and long hours. More importantly, disasters like the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013 still echo the harsh realities that inspired May Day's origin. The underline is that May Day aims at fostering unity among workers, encouraging collective action and advocacy to pressurise policymakers for reforms. As Bangladesh's economy relies heavily on labor-intensive industries, the spirit of May Day remains deeply relevant, reminding us that hard-won rights must be protected and expanded.

Lastly, the voices silenced in 1887 still echo today:

"THE DAY WILL COME WHEN OUR SILENCE WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE VOICES YOU ARE THROTTLING TODAY."

"RISHKA FESTIVAL" 2025

A Cultural Uprising

Faria Tahsin Medha

As Dhaka beams with vibrant Baishakhi spirit, the Rishka Festival has emerged as a must-visit cultural haven. Organised by Rishka Connect, this one-of-a-kind celebration has masterfully blended Bangladeshi heritage with modern creativity, drawing crowds into a world of colour, craft, and community.

From rickshaw painting workshops to screen-printed Ghazi potchitra on gamchas, the festival reimaged traditions through the eyes of a new generation of creators.

Film lovers were treated to screenings of Pather Panchali, Matir Moyna, and at 3:00 PM, the nostalgic classic Beder Meye Josna hits the big screen.

Guests with the All-Access Pass explored mask-making, Ikebana, evocative theatre, and live concerts across all four days — each event curated to celebrate the timeless beauty of Bangla culture.

The festival ends on a high note tonight with a soulful acoustic performance by Firoze Jong,



promising a magical finale to this cultural extravaganza.



Rishka Festival has truly turned Aloki into a vibrant canvas of tradition, joy, and artistic expression — the perfect way to celebrate Pahela Baishakh. It reminded us that our roots can be reimaged, our traditions retold, and our heritage celebrated in ways that resonate with every generation. As the colours

fade and the music winds down, one thing is clear: Rishka has lit a spark — a movement of culture, creativity, and community that will keep shining far beyond Pahela Baishakh.



THE DIRE WOLF IS BACK ?

-Tasniya Hossain Asha

WINTER IS NOT HERE yet but certainly the dire wolf is. Geneticists at the U.S company Colossal Biosciences stated on April 7 that they “**remade**” the dire wolf, a species that has been extinct for about 13,000 years. This breakthrough was made possible by using DNA extracted from two dire wolf fossils, Colossal’s team made 20 targeted gene edits to the DNA sequence of a gray wolf, which shares a common ancestor with the dire wolf. Colossal Biosciences rewrote the genetic code of the common gray wolf to match it, and using domestic dogs as surrogate mothers. Although these three pups resemble dire wolves, they have a lighter coat and larger in size than gray wolves.

Many of us were first introduced to the name “Dire wolf” through a TV series named “Game of Thrones”. The DNA experiment later produced three pups named **Remus**, **Romulus** and **Khaleesi**. In Roman mythology, Remus and Romulus were twin brothers who later found Rome. That is where the names of the pups Remus and Romulus came from. And Khaleesi was named after “Daenerys Targaryen” although Dire wolf was the sigil of “House Stark” in the series. However, the pups are now being raised and nurtured in an undisclosed wildlife are in the US to protect the animals from prying eyes.



Rise & Growth of Islamic Financing in Bangladesh

Jarraf Rahman Rasha

Islamic financing, known as Shariah-compliant finance, is a financial system that adheres to Islamic laws and does not incorporate interests in any of the process of financing and rather focuses on the concept of profit-sharing. The pioneer of Islamic financing in Bangladesh is Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. which started its journey back in 1983. Although the current very recent scenario is quite different, as of March, 2024, Islamic banks held 26% of deposits and 28% of investments in the banking industry. The current infrastructure of Islamic financing in Bangladesh includes 10 full-fledged Islamic banks that operate with their expansive 1,672 branches across Bangladesh. Now, the key driver of this sector incorporates mainly Bangladesh Bank's refinance schemes for Shariah-based SMEs. As these Islamic banks specialize in SME banking, the sector has exponentially boomed over the last 5 years. One of the major impacts that Islamic financing has on Bangladesh's economy is rural financial inclusion. From farmers to small business owners, almost all of Bangladesh are connected through 4,000 Islamic agent banking outlets. Again, with FinTech investment platforms such as Biniyog.IO, iFarmer's halal investment schemes being on the rise clearly states the increasing demand of Islamic financing from investor's end in Bangladesh, as well.

BANGLADESH INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

UNLOCKING A NATION'S POTENTIAL

Md. Miftahur Rahaman

Bangladesh hosted the Investment Summit 2025 from April 7–10 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dhaka, to present the country as a promising destination for global investment. Organized by BIDA and BEZA, the event brought together top government officials, international investors, and business leaders. Before the main sessions, investors visited key industrial areas: Korean EPZ (Anwara, Chattogram), National SEZ (Mirsharai, Chattogram), and Bangladesh SEZ (Araihazar, Narayanganj). The summit officially began with a keynote speech by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, followed by panel discussions featuring global figures like Baroness Rosie Winterton, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, and Óscar García Maceiras. Breakout sessions covered key sectors such as renewable energy, digital economy and fintech, smart textiles, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, and logistics. Highlights included a World Bank report launch, a UNDP/ILO roundtable on ethical business, and a fireside chat with DP World. The summit led to **\$260 million** in new investments and six MoUs, including the Bangladesh–Netherlands Seed Partnership and a NASA collaboration. In response to investor concerns, the government promised a One-Stop Service and faster infrastructure upgrades. Bangladesh is open for business—and ready for the future.

The First FBS-Exclusive Band

ANTS ON THE RUN

-Tajkia Akter

The hums and rhythms of music seemed like an escape from the usual loop of dreary, monotonous academic life. In search of food for the soul, five enthusiastic students used to gather to practice music in the FBS Music Wing. For a show organized by DUBS (Dhaka University Band Society), they performed under the banner of a temporary band entitled "TEMPO."

Later on May 17th, 2023—The band "Tempo" was transmuted to **Ants on the Run**, the first fully FBS-homegrown band, with Nandito Banik as lead vocalist, Siam Mahbub as bassist, Safrat Alif and Ahon Aminul as guitarists, and Swatcha Jajong as drummer. As Mahbub put it, they "felt the bond together and the chemistry just clicked." AOTR represents fast-paced lives of the ants on the run for the cause of survival—yet managing to sit back for music, calm and recreation.

The band has two notable original soundtracks—"Baghbondi," regarding the complexities of fractured love, and "Mohanayok," about revolution. They also perform covers of Smells Like Teen Spirit, Bishakto Manush, Ekanto

Golaap, Another One Bites the Dust, and have created their very own fusion of multiple Bangla folk songs. Their music speaks of revolution, anarchy, love, and melancholy, inspired by Queen, Radiohead, Fossils, Nirvana, and Miles. AOTR is coursing through a tough schedule as the band is currently working on multiple tracks to release an album in near future.

The indie rock band has created a space for itself in the campus music scene, performing at FBS Music Wing events like the Falgun Festival and gaining recognition through electrifying performances at the Marketing Golden Jubilee, Rokte Ranga Bijoy Amaar (a Victory Day celebration), the DU 100th Batch Grand Meetup, Concert for the Cold-Stricken, and many more. Banik shared that their most memorable day was performing for a fresher's reception at Govt. Rupnagar Model School & College, then leaving immediately for the Marketing Jubilee, receiving energetic and wholehearted appreciation from both audiences—just like the band's purpose. Mahbub mentioned they were actually on the run, justifying the title "Ants on the Run".



Canva Sheets

—Tanvirul Islam

A Creative Disruption to Spreadsheet Productivity? Canva just shook up the spreadsheet game—bringing color, design, and a touch of AI to the table. Excel and Google Sheets have ruled this space for years, but Canva Sheets is here to do things differently. It's not just about rows and columns anymore; it's about making your data look good while still getting the job done. Think of it as spreadsheets, but with style.

Launched as part of Canva's Visual Suite 2.0, Canva Sheets brings spreadsheet functionality into the design world. It combines traditional data tools with AI features like Magic Insights and Magic Formulas. Want to generate a chart or analyze trends? Just type a natural language prompt. No complex formulas needed.

What makes it disruptive isn't just the features, it's the mindset shift. Canva Sheets turns spreadsheets from cold data grids into engaging, shareable visuals. It's aimed at marketers, small business owners, and creators who want to tell stories with their numbers, not just crunch them. And with full integration across Canva's platform, you can build reports, decks, and dashboards without ever leaving the suite.

Canva isn't trying to replace Excel for hardcore number crunchers. But for the rest of us? It's a creative leap forward. In a world drowning in data, making it look good and make sense might be the real productivity power move.

Where Innovation Meets Inclusion:

The Rise of Ed Tech in Bangladesh

—Fatema Tuz Zohora

In Bangladesh, where quality services like healthcare and education remain largely concentrated in the capital, stories of success from rural areas are rare, but deeply moving when they emerge. One such story was shared during the Bangladesh Startup Connect 2025, where Shahir Chowdhury, a founder of Shikho, spoke about a student from a remote village in Barishal. With little access to traditional resources, the student used online lessons to prepare for his HSC exams and ultimately earned a place at the prestigious Dhaka Medical College.

This was just one of many stories that reflect a quiet but impactful revolution in our education system. For decades, the system struggled to adapt, leaving many behind, especially in rural areas. But now, with over half of our population under the age of 25, the rise of EdTech is not just welcome, it's necessary. By blending technology with learning, these startups are making education more accessible and affordable to help these ambitious youth achieve great heights.

Yet, the potential of this sector remains largely untapped. Although part of a \$16 billion

market, EdTech startups have attracted just \$18 million in investments. Our Honourable Education Adviser stressed this gap, urging recognition and support for these innovators. Another prominent startup, 10 Minute School, also pointed out how technology can not only educate but also create jobs, helping to address the rising youth unemployment.

Recognition at the summit is a step in the right direction. A future awaits where education will no longer be limited by distance but powered by innovation, equity, and opportunity for all.

SHADOWS TO STEEL

A New Chapter in Assassin's Creed

- Ishrak Farhan Bhuiyan

Assassin's Creed Shadows takes players to an entirely new setting, blending the franchise's familiar stealth and action with the unique culture and landscapes of ancient Japan. From intricate combat systems to exciting stealth mechanics, the game offers a fresh twist on the classic Assassin's Creed formula. You'll be leaping across rooftops, sneaking through enemy lines, and engaging in intense sword battles with samurai-style precision

The story, centered around a complex web of political intrigue, betrayal, and warrior codes, adds depth to the gameplay. While some players have mentioned that the plot takes a while to build momentum, it's indeed filled with compelling characters and challenging decisions that keep you hooked.

The game also introduces some new mechanics, such as - a refined stealth system and a more personalized approach to combat, allowing for deeper tactical decisions. The design of the world, with its temples, villages, and forests, offers more than just eye candy - it's full of opportunities for exploration and discovery.

Assassin's Creed Shadows doesn't reinvent the wheel, but it introduces enough new elements and fresh challenges to keep both veterans and newcomers engaged. It's a thrilling addition to the series, with a unique take on history and gameplay.



THE HUNGER GAMES

DHAKA METRO EDITION

-Tajkia Akter

Surviving the daily rush in Dhaka, metrorail feels like a savior until the real struggle starts with technical issues to having a bit of a breathing space and the battle starts to feel like you're sucked into the world of 'The Hunger Games'. If you are a commuter of metro, **Congratulations!** You are chosen as a tribute.

1 The Quest for the Ticket

If you already got past the escalator sprinter, filmers and several-bag-holder aunties and thinking, "When does this game get good?" Well, now! It's rush hour and you're standing in the longest queue straightening your money hoping the machine accepts it or the clerk is quick enough while the MRT Pass tributes walk away smirking until their pass isn't topped up either.



2 The Boarding Battle

Reaching the right platform instead of the opposite one, you battle to board the first train that arrives. Once you do, personal space? A myth. The pole? Lifeline. You get elbowed or smacked by a corporate guy's backpack or stomped on until destined station arrives and people rushing in and out battles. Successfully scrambling out, with bags, shoes, 'dupatta' intact and reaching the appointment on time, Congratulations again, a Victor!

However, as a fan favorite, you're chosen for the next Hunger Games too and till the next game figure out the districts.

May the schedule and machines ever be in your favor!

VoB BULLETIN

7th Issue

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