



Ananda Cinema hall.



Chayabani, Mymensingh.



Lion Cinemas.

# The state of Eid cinemas

Due to the release of so many films, more than 100 halls, that were previously closed, were reopened during Eid—outside the existing 60 halls in the country.

SAHID AKBAR

Unlike the previous Eid, this one was quite special for the Bangladeshi film industry, as a total of eight films were released in theaters. The movies released were: *Leader Amie Bangladesh*, *Jinn*, *Kill Him*, *Paap*, *Shotru*, *Prem Pritir Bandhan* and *Adam*.

Due to the release of so many films, more than 100 halls, that were previously closed, were reopened during Eid—outside the existing 60 halls in the country.

Since its release, the Shakib Khan and Bubly starrer, “*Leader Amie Bangladesh*”, has been attracting a large audience. The film was released in 100 theatres across the country, the highest number from these eight films. Due to its popularity, Blockbuster Cinemas (Jamuna Future Park) increased the number of shows



PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

the box office. Some shows have even been running houseful in the theatres for the seven other films.

The Bappy starrer film, *Shotru*, directed by Suman Dhar, was released in 24 cinema halls. The film is doing well on single screens outside Dhaka. Some of its shows even went houseful. However, the film is not doing well at the multiplexes. Now, we have learned that *Shotru* will be released in even more single screens in the second week.

One of the most hyped films of this Eid was the Puja Chery and Sajal starrer, *Jinn*. Jaaz Multimedia’s horror project was able to generate a lot of curiosity among the audience, due to its unique promotional campaign. The film was released in 14 theatres this Eid, with some shows going houseful. Interestingly, it has been seen that this film is popular among female audiences.

*Local*, directed by Saif Chandon, was released in 11 theatres across the country. The movie stars Shobnom Bubly and Ador Azad in

the lead roles. The movie has performed well in multiplexes across the country since its release. The film’s production house said that more halls would be added in the second week of screening.

The Saikat Nasir directorial, *Paap*, starring Bobby and Ziaul Roshan, was released in eight theatres. The storyline and performance of Ziaul Roshan were appreciated by the audience. Although, due to the lack of promotion by the production company, the film was unable to attract the audience.

Another highly anticipated film this Eid was Ananta Jalil’s *Kill Him*. The film was released in 11 theatres. Directed by Mohammad Iqbal, *Kill Him* portrays Ananta Jalil in the role of an agent. This movie has also been performing well in multiplexes.

“All of the films released this Eid have been performing well at the box office. If this continues, then the films will also do good in the second week. From these eight movies, two or three will become superhits, I hope. Screenings of *Leader Amie Bangladesh*, *Jinn*, *Kill Him*, *Local*, *Adam* and *Paap* are going houseful here. I believe that Bengali cinema will turn around if it continues like this,” shared Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Manager, Media and Marketing Department, Star Cineplex.

“We have been getting a very good response since Eid. People are coming here since Eid day to watch Shakib Khan’s *Leader Amie Bangladesh*. I believe the film will continued to do well in the future. The rest will be clearer next week,” said Iftekhar Uddin Naushad, owner of Modhumita Cinema Hall.

Meanwhile, 7 out of 8 movies released in Lion Cinemas in Old Dhaka. Here, *Leader Amie Bangladesh* and *Jinn* have been doing well. *Kill Him*, *Local*, and *Paap* are also running fairly well.

## Netflix to invest massively in South Korea for TV shows, movies



Netflix announced that it will invest USD 2.5 billion in South Korea over the next four years to produce Korean TV series, movies, and unscripted shows, more than doubling its previous investment in the country since 2016.

The announcement came following a meeting between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos. Yoon arrived in Washington for a six-day state visit on Monday.

*Squid Game*, a 2021 release, remains Netflix’s most-watched series of all-time, having racked up 1.65 billion hours of streaming in the first 28 days.

## Oni Hasan drops biggest guitar collab in Bangladesh

On Monday, Oni Hasan delivered on his promise of bringing us the ‘biggest Bangladeshi guitar collaboration’ during Eid, as he dropped a 23-minute-long video on his YouTube channel.

The video titled, *The Biggest Bangladeshi Guitar Collab Song -I*, featured a total of 32 guitarists, all of whom played over different sections of the same backing track. While some of the bigger names like Shishir Ahmed, Raef Al Hasan Raza, Ershad Zaman, Iqbal Asif Jewel, Saadi Muktafi, etc. had some fantastic shredding for us fans, the lesser known guitarists from YouTube and the local community also delivered amazing performances.

The video even featured Nafisa Khanam Nitu, a female guitarist from Chattogram who is also a guitar instructor at Guitar Hall - School of Music.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## BORO HARVEST

## Labour crisis worries growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Crisis of hired farm labourers is hampering Boro harvest in many areas of the district.

As a result, farmers in different upazilas of the district are facing huge difficulty in harvesting their ripe paddy for want of adequate number of labourers.

Meanwhile, finding no other alternatives, many growers and their family members are working for harvesting Boro crops from the field.

“Now, one has to pay Tk 800 plus lunch as daily wage to hire a farm labourer,” said farmer Ali Azam Sheikh of Kadamtala village in Sadar upazila.

Another grower Abdul Hakim from the village said nowadays a man can earn over Tk 1,000 daily by driving a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

So, many day labourers now prefer to drive auto-rickshaw instead of selling their hard labour in the crop fields, he added.

Moreover, due to shortage of labourers those who are available charging higher wages.

Other the hand, many day labourers said they are compelling to charge higher wages due to the price hike of daily

essentials.

Day labourer Safayet Hossain said, “At present, we are facing serious difficulty in managing our family with the poor income.”

Farmer Mostafa of Jujkhola village said now they have to pay Tk 8,000 to take lease of one bigha of land.

One has to spend Tk 3,000 to plough one bigha land, Tk 1,000 for seeds, Tk 5,000 for sapling plantation, Tk 6,000 as fertiliser and pesticide cost and finally Tk 6,000 for harvesting the paddy, added Mostafa.

Usually, on an average, a farmer gets 40 maunds of paddy from one bigha land.

“This year we are expecting to sell Boro paddy at Tk 1,200 per maund,” another grower Abul Kalam said.

According to Pirojpur Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), this year a total of 32,396 hectares of land have been brought under Boro cultivation, compared to 26,070 hectares last year.

Contacted, Pirojpur DAE Deputy Director Mohammad Nazrul Islam Sikder said the quantity of cultivable land has increased as many barren lands have been brought under Boro farming this year.

## 2 arrested

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Cox’s Bazar Sadar Model Police Station around noon yesterday.

She accused four named and around 60 unnamed people.

Police did not disclose the motive behind the killing or disclosed the identities of the other accused.

Before daybreak on Sunday, the crew of a boat noticed part of a sunken boat during low tide near Sonadia island. The fishermen then towed the boat ashore and found the bodies in the storage meant for fish.

The sunken boat’s owner Shamsul was a resident of Hariachara Chonkhola area of Moheshkhali, police said.

But the boat did not have a name and it was not enlisted with Cox’s Bazar Fishing Boat Owners’ Association, said Delwar Hossain, the general secretary of the association.

Unnamed boats are often used for robbery in the seas, Delwar added.

Of the 10 bodies, six were identified and handed over to the families. Four unidentified bodies are at Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue.

## Belafonte

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calypso singer and actor

spent part of his childhood in Jamaica before returning to New York – a binational upbringing that shaped his musical and political outlooks, and saw him campaign tirelessly for racial equality.

Belafonte’s calypso, the genre of Caribbean music that drew from West African and French influences, saw him skyrocket to fame in the midst of post-World War II prosperity and suburbanisation.

## DMP to bring capital under CCTV coverage

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from these CCTVs, the DMP officials said.

Hafiz Akhter said DMP is planning to tag this technology with the national emergency number 999 to provide prompt service.

The officials said there is no specific time frame as it is a voluntary public-supported project.

Barrister Sarwat Siraj, secretary general of Gulshan Society, told The Daily Star that the number of petty crimes like mugging in the Gulshan area has come down dramatically after the police-led CCTV initiative.

The cameras also help a lot in solving crimes, she claimed.

“If anyone reports or seeks our assistance after any criminal incidents, now we can locate the place of occurrence, mark the spot by the CCTV footage, and inform police about it. And we have instances of

solving crimes through the process,” she added.

Asked, the DMP officials claimed there are no legal issues regarding privacy as these CCTVs are installed only in the public areas.

Barrister Sarwat agreed and said they are getting requests from the community to install more CCTVs to secure the whole society.

DMP officials say the initiative has been inspired by successful experiments abroad like that in the United Kingdom.

In India, installation of CCTV cameras across the city has helped Delhi police to solve more criminal cases, they said, citing Indian media reports.

The initiative comes as crimes in Dhaka city are on the rise.

The database of the DMP headquarters shows mugging cases almost doubled in the last two years. Around 165 mugging

cases were filed in 2022 compared to only 88 cases in 2021.

Besides mugging, a total of 173 murder cases, 27 dacoity cases, 713 burglary cases, and 172 pornography cases were filed in 2022, while the figures were 166, 23, 643, and 117 respectively in 2021, the DMP HQ database shows.

A huge number of narcotics cases were also filed. The figure was 16,035 in 2022 while it was 16,213 in 2021.

Acknowledging the data, Hafiz Akhter said new technologies and approaches are needed to tackle the changing crime patterns.

He said the CCTV network will also help to identify the criminals who flee the capital after committing a crime.

The DMP has already installed CCTVs at all 14 entry and exit points of Dhaka city, according to

officials of the DMP HQ.

According to DMP Headquarters sources, the central monitoring system of DMP now has around 680 CCTVs at 221 points in Dhaka city. There are also 625 CCTVs in Dhaka South City Corporation areas at 199 locations, they added.

Dr Tawohidul Haque, assistant professor of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star that the cameras would help the law enforcers.

“But we have to remember that professional criminals also know how to commit crimes by dodging surveillance,” he said.

Along with increasing digital surveillance, police need to perform their duty with integrity and professionalism to improve the situation, he added.

Dr Tawohidul also emphasised on the need for creating awareness among the city dwellers.

## Govt moves

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including the South Asian ones, have been evacuating their citizens via the sea. There is a border with Egypt. We are trying to find the safest route,” he told this correspondent, adding that the arrangement will be finalised in a day or two.

Violence broke out in Sudan over a week ago between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces.

At least 427 people have been killed and more than 3,700 wounded, reports AFP.

Among the latest to die was the assistant administrative attache at the Egypt embassy in Khartoum, Egypt’s foreign ministry said.

The 72-hour ceasefire brokered by the US was agreed by the two factions.

## Let’s finish

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his age in order to win re-election, with 44% of Democrats saying he is too old to run, a Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Monday found.

Trump, 76, also faces concerns about his age with 35% of Republicans saying he is too old.

The poll showed that a majority of registered voters don’t want either Biden or Trump to run again.

While Biden’s approval rating is relatively low, his aides are confident he can beat Trump again. The Reuters/Ipsos poll showed him with a lead of 43% to 38% over his Republican rival among registered voters.



PHOTO: STAR

Growers in many areas are working for harvesting their ripe Boro paddy for want of farm labourers. The photo was taken from Jujkhola village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila.