

'Priyotoma' leads, 'Shurongo' impresses, 'Prohelika' stands firm

A great Eid for films

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ZAHID AKBAR

This Eid saw five film releases across 171 halls, single-screen and multiplexes included. The films that were released are, *Priyotoma*, *Shurongo*, *Prohelika*, *Casino* and *Laal Shari*. Since the release day till Eid day-3, *Priyotoma* has been leading the Eid race throughout the country, followed by *Shurongo* and *Prohelika*.

Directed by Himel Ashraf, Shakib Khan starrer *Priyotoma* has been released across 107 cinema halls across Bangladesh. The film had gone houseful since its release day and is still continuing to do so. It has been doing especially well on single-screens,



Afran Nisho at a showing of "Shurongo".



Bubly attends the premiere of "Prohelika".

with no tickets left in multiplexes. The film is dominating both the screens with audiences even turning back due to lack of tickets.

On the other hand, released in 28 halls this Eid, is Afran Nisho's *Shurongo*. Marking his debut on the silver screen, the film has been directed by Raihan Rafi. Initially, the film had 18 shows across all branches of Star Cineplex which has now increased to 30 shows due to audiences' demand. The audience is wholeheartedly accepting Nisho's step into the silver screen.

Chayanika Chowdhury's directorial *Prohelika*, has also been doing well in multiplexes. Although every show is going houseful, the film has only been released across eight cinema halls. It has been estimated that the Mahfuz-Bubly starrer will bring in more audiences in the coming weeks.

Shobnom Bubly's other film, *Casino*, has also been released in 16 halls across the country. Directed by Saikat Nasir, the film has been going houseful in many theatres, expecting to be released in more halls in the coming week. Nirab Hossain plays the male lead in it.

"*Priyotoma* has been doing really well here, despite the weather. We're happy that people are flocking to see the film and suspect that it will increase in the upcoming weeks,"

said Tofazzal Hossain, manager of Jessore's Monihar hall.

Mymensingh's Chhayabani hall's Saikul Islam spoke to The Daily Star, "People are ignoring the rain to see *Priyotoma*, this is amazing. At this rate, the shows will increase and it will even outperform *Leader: Amie Bangladesh*."

Star Cineplex's senior manager Mesbah Uddin Ahmed also shared similar observations, praising the audience turnout for *Priyotoma* and *Shurongo*. He then further added, "We always want Bangla movies to do well. We usually investigate which Bangla film is doing well in different branches of Star Cineplex. That doesn't mean that we're not eager to bring in more Bangla films. If the films do well, we will offer more shows. Similarly, among Eid releases, *Prohelika* and *Casino* have also been performing splendidly."

Priyotoma director Himel Ashraf had been taken aback by the adoration it has received. He informed The Daily Star, "Everyday, the film has almost 450 shows across the country. Yesterday, almost 350 halls were houseful. That was excluding the people who had watched the film standing or sitting on tools."

"One show in Madhumita or Monihar cinema hall equals five shows in any multiplex," he said, adding that his film was an ordinary man's film, a film for everyone.

Renowned actress Mita Chowdhury no more



She passed away on June 29 at her residence in London at 8 pm. The news was confirmed by her daughter, Naveen.

She had been suffering from cancer, and was undergoing chemotherapy. Mita Chowdhury began her career as an actress during her school years at the age of nine. She had been acting since 1968, and participated in many television dramas and theatre works.

Starting with the play *Story of King Minus*, which was a parody of the Greek myth of *King Midas*, she became an iconic figure in the drama and theatre world of Bangladesh. Throughout her acting career, she starred in films like *Made in Bangladesh*, *Maya Boishommo* and *Ghulam*.



Oscar-winning actor Alan Arkin dies at 89

Alan Arkin, a versatile and prolific American actor who thrived in both comic and dramatic roles and won an Oscar for playing a heroin-using grandfather in the 2006 film *Little Miss Sunshine*, has died at 89, Variety reported on Friday, citing a statement from his family.

Arkin appeared in scores of films, was nominated for an Academy Award four times and won a Tony Award, Broadway's top honors, in 1963 for his first major stage role in Carl Reiner's *Enter Laughing*.

NEWS

DSA continues to stifle freedom

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MSF criticised the arrests made in these cases and highlighted the lack of fair trials and evidence.

The organisation argued that the arbitrary abuse of this law serves as a tool to prevent and intimidate individuals from expressing their opinions and silences everyone.

Abuse of digital security laws, blocking the exercise of constitutional rights to investigative journalism and expression, continues, said MSF. It unequivocally demanded the immediate repeal of the Digital Security Act, the report added.

The report also drew attention to the alarming mistreatment of journalists.

In June alone, at least 11 journalists faced harassment, threats, torture, and even murder while carrying out their professional duties. The tragic killing of journalist Golam Rabbani in Jamalpur was specifically mentioned.

MSF emphasised that obstructing the work of journalists not only goes against ethical norms but also curtails their constitutional right to freedom of expression.

Furthermore, MSF expressed concern regarding the rising number of deaths in custody.

In the previous month, 16 individuals lost their lives while under the custody of prisons, while an additional two died while in the custody of law enforcement agencies.

In May, 11 prisoners died while in jail.

The report shared the distressing case of lawyer Runa Laila, who suffered severe physical abuse in Gazipur Women's Central Jail over Tk 7,400. Habildars Fatema and Nasima led the incident, it said.

The MSF report additionally highlighted the death of Alal Dewan, a caretaker of a house in Turag, while in police custody.

Moreover, during June, a total of 29 unidentified bodies, including two teenagers, 11 women, three elderly individuals, two middle-aged individuals, and 11 young people, were discovered in various parts of the country.

Fatima Yasmin appointed

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of the finance division, will be one of six vice-presidents at ADB.

Her appointment at ADB was made through a competitive process, said a finance ministry official.

This will be the first instance of a Bangladeshi finance secretary, and also a female Bangladeshi official, joining a high-ranked position in ADB.

She will be responsible for managing the newly created Sectors Group and the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department under ADB's new operating model.

She has more than 32 years of broad development experience, including in macroeconomic management, public sector and fiscal policy reform, and trade and poverty reduction in government and international organisations.

Fatima, a career civil servant and the first female finance secretary

Papia tortures woman

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When she regained her senses, she was beaten up again until she went listless.

The victim's whole body has large patches of blue-purple bruises, saw our correspondent. She is currently on oxygen support to help her breathing.

ATTEMPTED COVERUP?
Karim alleged that he went to visit his sister last on June 22 and waited for three hours after which he was told he would not be allowed to meet Runa.

He still waited around and talked to inmates coming out of the jail on bail. They told him what had happened to his sister.

He went to the prison again the next day and the jail authorities refused to let him see his sister again. They referred him to the Deputy Jailor Jannatul Tayeb.

"I asked her about my sister but she said that nothing happened to her. She, however, refused to let me see her," wrote Karim.

Tayeb agreed to let Karim talk to Runa over the phone and later in the day, he got a call from a woman claiming to be Runa. "It was not my sister. The deputy jailor was trying to deceive me," wrote Karim in the complaint.

of the country joined the finance division as senior secretary in July last year.

Prior to this position, she served as secretary of the Economic Relations Division, vice chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau, and director general of the Institute of Public Finance.

She joined the Bangladesh Civil Service in 1991.

She worked for various ministries including the Finance Division and Economic Relations Division of the finance ministry, and ministries of agriculture, women and children affairs, and defence.

She also worked for ERD for a substantial period with the World Bank, United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and Islamic Development Bank.

Outside government, she worked for Asian Development Bank, European Union, and the UN's International Jute Organisation.

He submitted the recorded call as evidence.

Karim then filed the complaint with the DC stating, "They may have even killed my sister inside the prison."

Two days after his complaint on June 27, Runa was given bail and she got out on June 28.

Runa had to be hospitalised immediately, her family said.

When asked about Papia, Senior Jail Superintendent (acting) Obaidur Rahman of Kashimpur Women's Central Jail said, "The woman secretly sneaked in Tk 7,400 into the prison. When the matter was found by habildars Fatema Begum, the victim misbehaved with her. Some of the other inmates got angry and slapped her. Later she was given first aid. Those who slapped her have been punished according to jail rules."

Obaidur said "A three-member investigation committee has been formed to probe the incident of torture."

The DC of Gazipur said Additional District Magistrate Humayun Kabir has been asked to probe the matter.

Papia and her husband are accused of laundering Tk 3.23 crore. The couple was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in September 2020 while trying to leave the country.

Brilliant Bangladesh go down fighting

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against their vastly superior opponents till the final whistle. And had luck been on their side, they might have taken the game into the shootout.

The country's football, which is now a pale shadow of its past vibrant self, hardly draws a crowd. Even when the national team features in any international event, not many take the trouble to tune in to a TV set after having watched those lackluster performances and chronic defeats for years.

Against this backdrop and the financial scandal that recently rocked the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the stunning performance of the men's team in Bengaluru, the capital and largest city of the southern Indian state of Karnataka, showed some light at the end of the tunnel.

The profile of the SAFF Championship – an age-old battle for the South Asian nations – improved greatly this time around with the introduction of two Middle Eastern nations.

It also gave teams like Bangladesh an opportunity to rub their shoulders against quality oppositions. Kuwait, who played in the 1982 World Cup, are currently ranked 141st in the FIFA rankings. Lebanon are ranked 102nd. Among the South Asian nations, India, which won the SAFF Championship a record eight times, have the best FIFA ranking at 100th.

Bangladesh are 192nd in the latest

FIFA rankings, but they performed far better throughout the tournament than those rankings suggest.

The charges Javier Cabrera improved with every passing game since their Group B opener against Lebanon which they lost 2-0. They kept the Lebanese at bay till the 80th minute before a fatal defensive error cost them the game.

Their next two group-stage games against fellow South Asian rivals Maldives and Bhutan were spectacular come-from-behind scripts that ended in identical 3-1 wins.

And their semifinal against Kuwait was just not another game between David and Goliath.

Kuwait might have had the better share of possession and had more shots at goal, but the game was never a lop-sided affair.

Bangladesh could have taken the lead in the second minute of the pulsating encounter had young forward Sheikh Morsalin not fired the ball straight at the Kuwait goalkeeper from a one-on-one situation.

A skilled and technically superior Kuwait side pressed hard for a goal in the first half, but most of their attacks were negotiated by a stubborn Bangladesh defence. And anything that crossed that defensive wall was taken care of by an ever-alert Anisur Rahman Zico, who stood under the bar like a rock. Kuwait made five changes in the first 45 minutes in

a desperate attempt to make the breakthrough but to no avail.

Bangladesh got a golden opportunity to end the evening's duck in the second half, but Rakib Hossain's beefy right-footer from an acute angle bounced off the cross-bar.

After an absorbing 90 minutes, Kuwait got the all-important goal when their overlapping right-back Abdullah Alblooshi found enough space to gallop down the right-hand box before drilling a low right-footer into the far corner of the net.

But Bangladesh were not ready to die without a fight. They pushed hard in the last 15 minutes for an equaliser but were denied by the Kuwait custodian Abd Al Rahman Kameel, who somehow parried off a low drive from Rakib in the dying minutes to set up Tuesday's final against defending champions India, who beat Lebanon 4-2 in tiebreaker in the second semifinal later in the day.

It was Bangladesh's third meeting with Kuwait. The last time the two teams met way back in the 1986 Soul Asian Games, Kuwait cantered to a 4-0 win against a Bangladesh team that had many star players of that time when domestic football was very popular.

For the record, Saturday's defeat was Bangladesh's third in a row against Kuwait. But even in defeat, this performance will arguably go down as one of the best in the annals of the country's football history.

Third death anniversary of Latifur Rahman

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director of Mediaworld, the company that owns The Daily Star, and chairman of Mediastar, which owns Prothom Alo. The newspapers are the leading English and Bangla dailies in the country.

A respected figure in the global business community, Latifur single-handedly built Transcom Group, one of the biggest and highly respected business houses in the country, with his hard work, perseverance, and entrepreneurial skills.

Born in Jalpaiguri on August 28, 1945, he began his education at St Francis School and then went to St Edmund's School, Shillong, in 1956. He also studied at St Xavier's College in Kolkata.

In 1966, he started working as a trainee at his family-owned W Rahman Jute Mills in Chandpur. The jute mill was the first to be owned by a Bangalee in the erstwhile East

Pakistan.

He became an executive and worked there until 1971. But the government nationalised the mill in 1972 and Latifur found himself in a very difficult situation. The family also owned some tea estates in north-eastern Bangladesh but after the independence the price of produce was less than the production cost.

But he did not give up hope. The same year, Latifur came across a Swiss company and started a trading business. There was no looking back after that.

He established Transcom Group in 1981. It is now one of the country's largest conglomerates, with operations in the areas of manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, electronics, beverages, media, consumer, food, and insurance.

Latifur was a member of executive board of ICC-Paris, Bangladesh Better Business Forum, Advisory Committee on World Trade Organisation, and

Brac's governing body, and the VP of ICC Bangladesh.

He was also president of the MCCI, Dhaka for seven terms and of Bangladesh Employers' Federation.

Latifur was also chairman of the Bangladesh government's Trade Body Reforms Committee and a member of Bangladesh Bank's executive board.

The business icon was an honouree of "Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012" and was awarded Business Executive of the Year 2001 by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh. He was also honoured with the "Saarc Outstanding Leader" award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Latifur Rahman and Shahnaz Rahman's children are Simeen Hossain, Shahzhen Huq, (late) Shazneen Rahman, and late Arshad Waliur Rahman.

A prayer for his departed soul was held at his Gulshan home yesterday.