

11-film Battle Royale Who won?



ZAHID AKBAR
Eid marks a prime season for the film industry. Cinemas capitalise on the holiday spirit by premiering a host of new releases designed to cater to families and film enthusiasts, looking to enjoy their leisure time.
This Eid-ul-Fitr, an astounding number of films – totalling 11 – were released, offering a wide

selection for movie-goers. Already on its second day of release at Star Cineplex, the number of shows had increased from 13 to 17. The production company, Versatile Media, hopes to add even more shows next week.

Meanwhile, Sariful Razz stars in three films that have hit theatres. Amongst them are Gias Uddin Selim's *Kajol Rekha*, Mishuk Moni's *Deyaler Desh*, and Mostafa Kamal Raz's *Omar*. According to the hall reports, *Omar* is leading in multiplexes.

The film features Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nasir Uddin Khan, and others. In the second position is the government-granted *Deyaler Desh*. Performances by Bubby and Razz in the film are already being appreciated. The film might engage more audiences next week.

Gias Uddin Selim's *Kajol Rekha* is doing average business, as per hall reports. Those associated with the cinema have mentioned that it is expected to perform well next week. The film is based on the Mymensingh Geetika, which is nearly 400 years old. Apart from Razz, the film features performances by Mondera Chakroborty, Iresh Zaker, Sadia Ayman, Abul Kamal Azad, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, and Khairul Basar, amongst others.

Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, the

senior manager of media and marketing, Star Cineplex, told The Daily Star, "Amongst the three movies starring Sariful Razz, *Omar* and *Deyaler Desh* are doing quite well. Although *Deyaler Desh* started with more shows, it has now been reduced. Let's see what happens next week."

In addition, the audience at the multiplex has been fairly receptive to the Jaz Multimedia-produced film *Mona: Jinn-2*. Featuring Suprobhat in the leading role, the film includes Tariq Anam Khan, Ahmed Rubel, Deepa Khandoker, and Mahmudul Hasan Mithu amongst others.

One of the other released films *Lipstick*, directed by Kamruzzaman Roman, starring Puja Chery and Ador Azad, has been praised by audiences who have watched it.

Bubby's other film *Maya: The Love* was also released during the Eid festivities. Unfortunately, the film has not gained much attention since its release. One reason for this might be the limited number of theatres screening it. Directed by Jasim Uddin Jakir, the film also features Saimon Sadiq, Anisur Rahman Milon, and Roshan.

Moushumi, Omar Sani, and Zayed Khan starrer film *Sonar Char* was released in several multiplexes and single-screen theatres. However, the Jahid Hossain's directorial film is yet to make an impact among audiences. Additionally, two

films were removed from Star Cineplex's screening list on the third day of Eid, and another was removed on the fifth day, totaling three Eid releases that were eliminated from Star Cineplex.

The list includes *Green Card*, directed by Kazi Hayat and starring Kazi Maruf, and the government-funded *Ahare Jibon* directed by Chotku Ahmed. *Ahare Jibon* featuring Ferdous, Purnima, Suchorita, Misha Sawdagar, Kazi Hayat, Joy Chowdhury, and Mousmita Mou, depicts life during Covid times. However, both movies are still being screened at Lion Cinemas.

The third movie to be removed from Star Cineplex is Fuad Chowdhury's directorial *Meghna Konnya*. The film stars Qazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shatabdi Wadud, Samonty Das Shoumi, and Sajjad Hossain, amongst others.

Many involved in the film industry have expressed their opinions about the release of movies during Eid. Some argued that releasing 11 movies during Eid was not a good decision at all. It was a poor business decision to release more than four films during Eid. Some also criticised the release of three movies starring Sariful Razz during Eid, stating that it would have been better for the audience if only one of his movies was released during the festival.



'Adam' director Abu Tauhid Heron no more

Abu Tauhid Heron, the director of *Adam* (2023), passed away at the age of 38. The young filmmaker succumbed to a brain stroke at his residence in New Eskaton, Dhaka around 4 am yesterday.

Apurbo Rana, deputy secretary general of the Directors' Association, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

It is reported that Heron had contacted the caretaker of his house, informing him of the physical discomfort he was experiencing.

However, due to the room being locked from inside, he was unable to reach promptly. Upon subsequent assistance from neighbours who forced the door open, Heron was found in an unconscious state inside his room.

Heron, originally from Khalishpur, Khulna, directed the film *Adam*, starring Yash Rohan, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, Raisul Islam Asad, and Shahiduzzaman Selim in leading roles. Under his direction, the shooting of another film, titled *Wrong Road*, had recently been completed.

Jungkook returns to Instagram, surpasses 2.5m followers

In a heartwarming surprise, BTS star Jungkook, currently fulfilling his mandatory military service, made a return to Instagram, but not in the way fans might have expected. The Golden Crooner reintroduced himself to the social media platform on April 14, this time as Bam's dad.

The move delighted fans worldwide, sparking a surge in followers and speculation about Jungkook's possible break from military duties.

Jungkook, who had previously deactivated his personal account to focus on engaging with fans on Weverse, took a unique approach to reconnecting with his followers. He unveiled a brand-new Instagram account, dedicated solely to his beloved dog, Bam.

The account, under the handle @bowwow_bam, quickly amassed over 2.6 million followers within hours of its creation.



selection for movie-goers. Amongst them, the Shakib Khan starrer *Rajkumar* is predictably leading in earnings in its first week. Directed by Himel Ashraf, the film premiered in a record-breaking 127 cinemas and has been selling out in all multiplexes since its opening day. It is also performing strongly in single-screen theatres.

'Last Defenders of Monogamy' misses the mark

LUBABA MAHJABIN PRIMA

Once musician Xeler Rehman took a turn and decided to debut as an actor while also adopting a new look with straightened hair, that too for Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's project – it left netizens mesmerised. Moreover, the awestruck people were also eagerly awaiting her on-screen pairing with seasoned actor Chanchal Chowdhury.

Last Defenders of Monogamy set out to be one of the central attractions from the streaming platform Chorki this Eid-ul-Fitr, until its release. The plot centers around an extramarital affair between the leading characters Lamia, portrayed by Xeler, and Shafqat, played by Chanchal Chowdhury, even though Shafqat was established to have already been in a happy marriage.

The movie, however, strikingly shies away from nuanced portrayals of attraction and relationships. It showcased neither how the mutual attraction began, nor what the primary characters were seeking. The backstories of the characters were neglected, with audiences given mere cursory details about their marital statuses. Even if this was a deliberate attempt to create an impression of ubiquity, there was an undeniable dearth of motivation behind the characters' decisions.

The dualities of Chanchal's character were bereft of any depth, and one is left wondering about his psychology. While it was refreshing seeing men being open to expressing emotions, maybe it was stretched a bit too much, with the portrayals of unrealistic reactions in public spaces.

Xeler was rather good with her acting delivery, but her character lacked any pivotal backstory whatsoever. It should have been pertinent to highlight the motivation and reasoning behind the woman consenting to be a part of an affair, given women become extremely vulnerable in such situations, with risks of immense repercussions once such information gets out. But there is no insight into Lamia's life or even thoughts.

Even though Lamia and Shafqat supposedly bond over workspaces, the social and formal entanglements or ripple effects – that the characters could have caused or experienced

through their colleagues – are completely discarded.

In a way, children ultimately serve as the true defenders of monogamy.

The concept or foundation of a monogamous marriage can be said to be centered around rearing children as it is, they who become the sake for which a marriage persists. The film makes it a point to portray this concept significantly.

The movie hints at a generational gap and highlights the changing structures within a relationship. It leaves the audience wondering several questions surrounding the barrage of social changes impacting relationships. It makes one wonder if the new generation is more prone to open relationships. Or is simply cheating more prevalent while people at large cling to the traditional practice of monogamy?

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PHOTO: COURTESY



Artcell announces Canada tour for 25th anniversary celebrations

Artcell is set to perform in eight concerts across Canada in celebration of its 25th anniversary, organised by MNC Entertainment.

The band's drummer, Shaju, revealed that the band will stage eight shows in eight cities, including Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, and Halifax. Artcell will depart from Dhaka on April 29 to participate in the events,

with Cezanne joining them from Australia. They are scheduled to return to Dhaka on May 30 after concluding their shows.

Artcell has been actively engaging with audiences both in Dhaka and beyond, having performed at several concerts, including the recent Joy Bangla Concert held in March. Last year, in February, the band released their third album, titled *Otrito*.

