



## WELL AND ALIVE

### Dhallywood films retain spot in halls



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ZAHID AKBAR

Following the release of 11 Dhallywood films for and on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, there have been changes in the line-up of movies still screened during the third week. Certain theatres have witnessed a decrease in screenings, while others have seen an increase. Additionally, there's been varied buzz surrounding different films, with some garnering more attention than others.

Nevertheless, even after premiering during Eid, *Rajkumar*, directed by Himel Ashraf and featuring Shakib Khan, continues to dominate the multiplex scenes. Multiple screenings of the film are running at full capacity across multiplexes, indicating its sustained popularity.

Star Cineplex officials have confirmed that *Rajkumar* has unflinchingly maintained its position at the top during the third week. Presently, the film is being screened in 82 theatres across the country. American actress Courtney Coffey stars opposite Shakib Khan in the movie, which also features Tariq Anam Khan, Mahiya Mahi, and several others. Arshad Adnan is credited as the producer of the film.

Gias Uddin Selim's directorial film *Kajol Rekha* is also successfully continuing its run across multiplexes for its third consecutive week. The movie drew inspiration from the

400-year-old *Maimansingha Gitika*, and consists of an ensemble cast featuring Sariful Razz, Mondera Chakroborty, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Iresh Zaker, Sadia Ayman, Azad Abul Kalam, Khairul Bashar, Sahana Sumi, and many more. Notably, the film has secured the third dominating position at Star Cineplex halls.

*Mona: Jinn 2* is currently being showcased in just four multiplexes. Produced by Jazz Multimedia, Suprovat takes on the mantle of the titular character in this production. The cast also includes Tariq Anam Khan, Ahmed Rubel, Deepa Khandakar, Ariana Zaman, Sazzad Hossain, Samina Bashar, Shehzad Omar, Rebeka Rouf, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, and many others. As per Star Cineplex officials, the movie now holds the fourth position in terms of popularity.

In its third week of release, the Sariful Razz starrer film *Omar*, directed by Mostafa Kamal Raz, is currently being screened in 26 theatres

nationwide. Alongside *Razz*, the film also stars Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Salim, Nasir Uddin Khan, and several others. At Star Cineplex, the movie is maintaining its hold at the fifth position in terms of popularity.

Directed by Mishuk Moni, the government-funded film *Deyalor Desh* continues its theatrical run in 11 cinemas during its third week. The lead roles are portrayed by Sariful Razz and Shobnom Bubby in this film.

*Lipstick*, starring Puja Chery and Ador Azad, was initially released on Eid in just seven theatres. However, in its third week of release, multiplexes have decided to quadruple its screening to 31 theatres. Directed by Kamruzzaman Noman, the movie also features Shahiduzzaman Selim, Misha Sawdagar, and Monira Mithu in prominent roles.

Moreover, during the third week of Eid, the movie *Maya: The Love* is being screened in certain cinema halls.



## Taylor Swift beats Beatles in race to 12th UK number one album



Taylor Swift's *The Tortured Poets Department (TTPD)* debuted at the top of the British music charts last Friday (April 26), outselling the entire top 10 combined.

This achievement also marks her as the fastest artiste to reach 12 UK number-one albums, surpassing The Beatles.

*TTPD* had the UK's biggest album opening week in seven years, tying Taylor Swift with Madonna for the most UK No. 1 albums by a female artiste in Official Albums Chart history.

## Guitar played by John Lennon and George Harrison up for auction



A rare Beatles guitar used by John Lennon and George Harrison during the recording of the album *Help!* will be auctioned soon by Julien's Auctions, based in California.

The acoustic Framus "Hootenanny" guitar, believed to have been lost for nearly six decades, was used by the band in 1965, and played a pivotal role in recordings, sessions, and performances of several beloved Beatles songs, including *Help!*, *You've Got To Hide Your Love Away* and *It's Only Love*, according to statements from Julien's Auctions.

The guitar's history leading up to the auction is as fascinating as its renowned past. After being played by Lennon, it was passed on to a friend and ended up forgotten in an attic for decades. Recently, CNN reported its rediscovery, nearly lost to time.

## NEW

### Asia swelters in extreme heatwave

FROM PAGE 12  
to avoid the heat in our neighbourhood," she said.

Global temperatures hit record highs last year, and the United Nations weather and climate agency said Tuesday that Asia was warming at a particularly rapid pace.

Extensive scientific research has found climate change is causing heat waves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

Myanmar has recorded temperatures that are 3-4C higher than the April average, its weather monitor said last week. And

yesterday, the national forecaster predicted temperatures in the central city of Mandalay could rise to 43C.

The ministry of water and meteorology in Cambodia warned that temperatures could also hit 43C in some parts of the country in the week ahead, while the health ministry advised people to monitor their health "during hot weather related to climate change."

Temperatures in Vietnam were also forecast to remain high during a five-day national holiday, with forecasts as high as 41C in the north.

Forecasters there said it would remain intensely hot until the end of April, with cooler conditions expected in May.

India's weather department said Saturday that severe heatwave conditions would continue through the weekend in several states, with temperatures soaring to 44C in some locations.

"I have never experienced this heat before," Ananth Nadiger, a 37-year-old advertising professional, told AFP from Bengaluru. "It's very unpleasant and it takes the energy out of you."

### Diplomacy ramps up

FROM PAGE 12  
al-Hattab said he found his one-year-old boy in the rubble after an Israeli air strike hit the Nuseirat refugee camp over the weekend.

The boy is being treated for a fractured skull, while his two-year-old daughter's face was "completely disfigured" in the strike, he told AFP.

Israel carried out air strikes and shelling in Gaza overnight, hitting three houses in the southern city of Khan Yunis, an AFP correspondent

said yesterday, also reporting strikes on Gaza City and Rafah.

The Israeli military said its jets struck dozens of "terror targets" including "launch sites, armed terrorists and observation posts".

Most of Gaza's population has taken refuge in Rafah, according to the UN, many in makeshift shelters after fleeing violence elsewhere.

Despite international outcry, Israel has vowed to invade the city, where Israel's military says Hamas is holding

hostages.

On the side of a tent in Rafah on Saturday, a Palestinian wrote a message to the thousands of protesters on US university campuses.

"Thank you, students in solidarity with Gaza, your message has reached," it read.

A heated rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday night was the latest held by protesters demanding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ensure the release of the hostages.

### PM returns home today after six-day

FROM PAGE 12  
negotiation of a free trade agreement (FTA) between Bangladesh and Thailand.

During the official luncheon hosted by the Thai PM, Hasina called her visit a milestone in bilateral relations between the two countries.

Besides, she paid a courtesy call on the King and Queen of the Kingdom of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at Amphorn Satharn Throne Hall in

Dusit Palace on April 25.

As part of her multilateral engagement, Hasina addressed the 80th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on April 25 at the ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok.

The five documents signed between Dhaka and Bangkok -- an agreement, three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and a Letter of Intent (LOI) -- are Agreement

on Visa Exemption for holders of official passports; MoU on Energy Cooperation; MoU on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters; MoU on Cooperation in the field of tourism; and LOI to commence negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the year 2024.

On April 24, the Bangladesh PM was accorded a warm reception amid a 19-round gun salute at the Don Mueang International Airport, heralding her arrival in Bangkok.

### 2 Bangladeshi men shot

FROM PAGE 12  
According to the victim's uncle Badrul Haque, Yousuf, the eldest of four siblings, worked at a private company in Dhaka before going to the US, where he joined a painting company.

Badrul alleged Yousuf was shot dead while painting the house of Babul Mia on Jenner Street.

"We were told that Babul got into trouble with local goons ... When these people attacked him that day, Yousuf tried to save him. The goons shot them both.

"We still can't believe he died this way. Every one of us, including his parents, are in shock."

The other victim, Babul Mia, 50, son of Abdul Aziz of Cumilla's Nangalkot upazila, went to the US after winning the DV lottery years ago, said Mohammad Sumon, councillor

of Nangalkot municipality's ward-4. Contacted, Babul's nephew Abdul Mazid said, "He had been living there for 31 years with his wife and seven children."

### One man dead after migrant boat sinks off Greek island

AFP, Athens

Greece's coastguard said yesterday it had found the body of a man believed to have drowned when a migrant boat sank near the island of Samos.

It said 25 people it described as "foreigners" were spotted on a "semi-submerged dinghy ... and rescued from the sea west of the South Aegean island".

They were transferred in good health to the port of Vathi, the coastguard added.

### Police shoot

FROM PAGE 12  
the incident. It has been asked to submit a report in three work days. Border guards have been deployed in the area. The situation is calm now."

The Daily Star could not reach the officer-in-charge of Birol Police Station despite repeated attempts.

### RHD asks

FROM PAGE 12  
used cannot withstand this extreme heat.

In many cases, sub-standard materials and poor construction work are responsible for the untimely road damage, they said.

RHD authorities, however, said thin layers of bitumen used for temporarily road repairs were probably causing the problem. They are also assessing whether climate change has a massive impact.



People demonstrate in support of Palestinians in Gaza near the Washington Hilton hotel in Washington, US on Saturday evening.

PHOTO: REUTERS