

Eid offerings in cinema halls ONLY ONE HARD-HITTER?

As Eid-ul-Azha approaches on June 17, 2024, film enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the seasonal cinematic offerings. For cinema halls, this period is a vital one, as it brings a surge in audience numbers. Here are some eagerly anticipated films you can enjoy with your family this Eid

SAEED KHAN SHAGOR

Toofan: The main attraction

The spotlight this Eid will undoubtedly be on Shakib Khan's *Toofan*. Directed by Raihan Rafi and produced under the banner of Alpha-i, the film is set for a nationwide release on June 17, 2024. Shahriar Shakil is at the helm of production, with digital partner Chorki and international distributor Shree Venkatesh Films (SVF) from Kolkata.

Since the teaser dropped on May 7 on Chorki and SVF's YouTube channels, *Toofan* has become a hot topic across both Bengals. The teaser showcases Shakib Khan in a never-before-seen avatar. The film's action-packed look, atmosphere, dialogue delivery, and cinematography have captivated audiences throughout the teaser. Following this, the item song *Laage Ura Dhura* featuring Kolkata's busy actress Mimi Chakraborty and sung by Pritom Hasan, was released, gaining significant popularity. The song's lyrics, presentation, and the appearances of Shakib Khan, Mimi, and Raihan Rafi in a cameo have been widely appreciated.

The film boasts a star-studded cast from both Bengals, including Chanchal Chowdhury, Mimi Chakraborty, Jisshu Sengupta, Misha Sawdagar, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Shahiduzzaman Selim. Notably, it marks the return of Bangladesh's popular actress Masuma Rahman Nabila to the big screen after a long hiatus.

Despite some cinema halls expressing concerns over high rental fees making it difficult to screen the film, the majority of theatres that operate year-round are eager to book it. The issue was a hot topic at

the Bangladesh Film Exhibitors Association's annual general meeting, attended by over 60 theatre owners nationwide.

All in all, there's no doubt that *Toofan* will be the centerpiece of this Eid's cinematic celebrations.

'Moyurakkhi': A tale of love and betrayal

On June 6, the item song *Pirter Bazar* from the movie *Moyurakkhi* was released on YouTube. This video mesmerises with its eclectic mix of visuals, stills, and lyrical typography, notably featuring imagery inspired by rickshaw art.

Directed by Rashid Palash, *Moyurakkhi* has been long in the making, with multiple release dates being postponed in the past. The film's poster was first unveiled by Rashid on his



Facebook page, announcing its imminent Eid release.

The storyline, screenplay, and dialogues for the film were crafted by Golam Rabbani, and it stars Eamin Haque Bobby and Sudip Biswas Deep in the lead roles. The music direction is handled by Jahid Nirob.

According to Rashid Palash, the film revolves around a poignant story of love and betrayal, inspired by a true event.

Controversy surrounds the film as actress Shimla claims that the story mirrors her life. She has even threatened legal action against the director. Shimla's real-life drama includes her marriage to Palash on March 3, 2018,



which ended in divorce on November 6 of the same year after she discovered he had hidden a previous marriage.

Following the divorce, Palash attempted to hijack Biman Airlines flight BG-147 out of despair, a tragedy that ended with his death at Shah Amanat International Airport. The film's teaser hints at a plot involving an airplane hijacking and the life of an actress, sparking debates about whether it's based on Shimla's life. Despite the controversy, *Moyurakkhi* is poised to be a significant draw for audiences this Eid.

'Aguntok': A dark mystery

The latest addition to the list of Eid releases is *Aguntok*. After receiving clearance from the

censor board, the official trailer was released on YouTube. The trailer depicts a series of mysterious murders in the city, with no one able to unravel the identity of the perpetrator. This gripping plot features Puja Chery and Shamol Mawla sharing the screen, with Puja playing an inquisitive journalist navigating through violence and mystery.

Directed by Sumon Dhar, *Aguntok* received uncut clearance from the censor board on Monday. Producer and distributor Zahid Hasan Abhi confirmed that discussions are already underway with Cineplex multiplexes for the film's screening. However, netizens have noted similarities between the trailer and storyline of the film with *Ratsasan* and *Gumnaam*, suggesting it might have drawn inspiration from these.

'Revenge': A run-of-the-mill commercial film?

Among the Eid releases, MD Iqbal's *Revenge* trailer has been deemed the least captivating. The trailer lacks innovation, sticking to the commercial cinema formula without offering anything new. The dialogues are clichéd, and the expressions are all too familiar. Even the background music appears to be lifted from Tamil films. The main roles are played by Shobnom Yesmin Bubly and Ziaul Roshan, with Misha Sawdagar portraying the villain.

'Dark World': A producer's 'ambition'

Dark World exemplifies the ambition of producers who wish to star in their own films. Munna Khan, the producer, also takes on the lead role in this film, set to release this Eid. Directed by Mustafizur Rahman Manik, the trailer initially seemed promising. However, Munna Khan's poor dialogue delivery and overacting have already disheartened potential viewers.

Despite casting popular actress Koushani Mukherjee from West Bengal and featuring talented musicians like Asif Akbar, Imran Mahmudul, and Atiya Anisha, the film's success hinges on Munna Khan's ability to win over the audience with his performance.

NEWS

Fake refrigerants seized at Ctg port

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regulations of the Department of Environment and Fire Service and Defense Office.

Customs officials who took part in the physical examination said the confiscated products do not properly adhere to the conditions.

The cylinders are being imported under the deceptive names of refrigerant gases such as R-22, R-134A, R-404A, R-407A, and R-32.

But the import documents, including the packaging list and Bill of Entry (BE) copies, do not explicitly

mention the names, the report said.

The Daily Star has managed to obtain all the import documents for the six confiscated shipments. The documents show that the allegations made by the intelligence agency are indeed true.

The importers include Nishat Traders, Asian Refrigeration Works and TS Enterprises.

According to the documents, Nishat Traders imported 34,140 refrigerant cylinders in three shipments from China this month.

The consignments brought by the

importers are from Galaxy Import & Export Trade Limited in China.

Tanshia Overseas, a Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agent, was responsible for clearance of these consignments on behalf of the importers.

Kamrul Hasan, managing director of the agency, said, "We contacted the importers after receiving information about the seizure by customs. They have denied wrongdoing."

He also said that a meeting will be held with the customs officials on the matter soon.

With Trump leading Biden in many election polls, the future of the agreement remains unclear.

Trump has expressed skepticism of Ukraine's continued fight, saying at one point that he would end the conflict on his first day in office. Trump has also pushed for Europe to take on more of the burden of supporting Kyiv.

"These are the reasons behind the record number this year. The highest increase was in the number of cows," adding, "We went from door to door to collect the data. There is no manipulation here."

According to the data, while the number of cows and buffaloes saw a rise, that of goats and sheep has decreased.

The number of cows and buffaloes

for this Eid-ul-Azha is 5.16 lakh higher than last year, meaning it has increased by around 11 percent – the highest increase in seven years.

On the other hand, cattle farmers said they, along with the buyers, are struggling due to the inflationary pressure and increase in production cost.

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this year's number of animals was highest in the country's history.

"If you analyse DLS data of the past seven years, a constant growth in production can be seen. This record number is a result of that."

He said the supply this year will be higher than the demand and as such, the prices cannot be too high.

"The production costs have increased by 10 percent from last year, while the prices of the animals are up by only five percent."

Hossain added that for the past four or five years, they have been observing that many cattle are being illegally brought into Bangladesh from neighbouring countries. "As a result, our own farmers are facing losses."

He said they sent a letter to the livestock and fisheries ministry asking for an investigation into the matter, adding that if the government does not pay serious attention in this regard, the cattle farmers will have to keep paying for it.

Meanwhile, sacrificial animals are being sold online since 2020, when the country went into a lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Businesspeople are expecting more online sales this year compared to the last.

DLS DG Reajul said over 400,000 sacrificial animals were sold during last Eid-ul-Azha and he was expecting the number to reach 500,000 this year.

US, Ukraine ink 10yr defence deal

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the agreement says.

Under the agreement, the United States restates its support for Ukraine's defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, amid a renewed push by Russia on Ukraine's eastern front.

It also outlines plans to develop Ukraine's own defense industry and

expand its military.

Ukraine needs a "significant" military force and sustained investments in its defense industrial base consistent with NATO standards, the text says.

It will allow the two countries to share intelligence, hold training and military education programs and combined military and exercises.

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