

Anticipation builds for a cinematic showdown this Eid



With Eid-ul-Fitr fast approaching, the Bangladeshi film industry is buzzing with excitement.

Audiences are eagerly waiting for the new titles to release, and the promotional whirlwind has already begun.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From those tantalising teaser reveals to dialogues that are already winning over the hearts, this year's Eid promises a cracking line-up that has gotten everyone talking. Let's have a proper look at some of the most discussed teasers and promotional campaigns that are setting the stage for these grand releases.

Two years ago, Afran Nisho made a real splash with his silver-screen debut in *Surongo*, directed by Raihan Rafi. This Eid, after a bit of a break, he's back with *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Nisho's fans have been eagerly waiting for this one, and the recently released teaser has only cranked up the anticipation. Showing off a brand-new look for the actor, *Daagi*'s teaser has certainly made an impression, with audiences especially taken by the line: "The stench of prison, once it's on you, makes you forever a *Daagi*." That dialogue has already become quite the talking point, buzzing across social media. This project will see Nisho and Tama

Mirza duo once again.

Meanwhile, another much anticipated Eid release is *Jongli*, starring Siam Ahmed. The film's teaser, packed with intensity and raw energy, hints at a proper cinematic treat. Over the years, Siam has successfully shifted from those romantic roles to more diverse characters, and *Jongli* seems to be pushing

collaborate on the web-film *Taan*, alongside Siam's first collaboration with Dighi.

No Eid is complete without a Shakib Khan blockbuster. The superstar returns with *Borbaad*, sparking quite the debate about how it will fare against the other Eid releases. Social media is abuzz with reactions to its teaser, particularly the chemistry between

Celebrated actor Mosharraf Karim makes his big screen return with *Chokkor 302*, where he plays Detective Moinul, a character dedicated to solving intricate mysteries. Directed by Sharaf Ahmed Zibon, the teaser has been widely appreciated, giving audiences a taste of the suspense and intrigue.

that transformation even further. The teaser introduces a rugged, bearded Siam, walking purposefully with sunglasses on, while the dialogue "Gunpowder, fire, and air—when they unite, smoke rises" has already found its way into everyday conversations among film enthusiasts.

The film unites Bubly and Siam after they

Idhika Paul and Shakib Khan once again after *Priyotoma*. With Shakib sporting a refreshed look, his loyal fanbase is already counting down the days.

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Directed by Sharaf Ahmed Zibon, the teaser has been widely appreciated, giving audiences a taste of the suspense and intrigue. Additionally, a promotional video has been released, which has caught the attention of film enthusiasts.

Shajal Noor and Nusraat Faria's upcoming supernatural thriller, *Jinn 3*, is taking a slightly different approach to its promotional campaign. Instead of a teaser, the film has focused on songs and posters to build anticipation. The film's romantic track *Konya* was released yesterday, featuring the lead pair in a captivating performance. The film's team has been actively engaging audiences with visually striking posters, making sure the hype stays strong ahead of its release.

The festive cinematic landscape is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent years, with a diverse range of films catering to all sorts of tastes. From those intense action-packed thrillers to supernatural dramas, the industry is set to deliver a memorable festive season for cinephiles.

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Freeze stolen assets parked in UK

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"It's a challenge to try to recover these assets. One reason I'm here is because I'm seeking your support in building a consensus and creating political pressure," said Mansur, briefing the group.

The government is cognisant of the fact that money recovery takes four to five years, and that goes beyond the time the interim administration has, he said.

"What we are looking for is the kind of asset freeze that becomes difficult to undo for the next government."

The Bangladesh side pointed out that major destinations of the stolen funds included the UK, Singapore, Dubai, Canada, and the US. In the UK, properties were bought with the money.

"The UK is the first country we would like to get help from.... If something positive happens in the UK's legal system, there are global ramifications," said the governor. He also sought the British government's support in lobbying other countries to do the same.

He said that the government is already in discussion with asset tracing firms and would meet with

law firms and litigation sponsors on Wednesday.

"There is limited information about assets abroad. We are counting on information sharing between the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit and financial investigation units of different countries."

The governor sought action against former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed and Sheikh Hasina's former adviser Salman F Rahman.

"You may have heard of Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, former land minister of Bangladesh and also a chairman of one of the private banks. He diverted funds from his bank and misused power. We are looking at those banks which have been seriously impacted by people like Beximco Group's Salman F Rahman, who has \$4.5 million worth of non-performing assets diverted."

Mansur also spoke about how large sums were taken out of Islami Bank. "This is the largest private sector bank and the second largest bank. Between 2017 and 2024, 85 percent of new loans were taken by the same family. On average, their portfolio was

impacted by 55 percent.

"Since 2017, there has been a systematic robbing of our banking system. The banks were being handed over to a few key groups who were known to be fund diverters."

The chosen people were put in the banks using government machinery, including the intelligence agencies.

"It was very unfortunate that the former government gave some people superpowers to divert funds. In some cases, for example, 87 percent of the bank deposits were taken away, directly or indirectly by one group. The money is gone."

Bangladesh Bank has hired global accountancy firms EY, Deloitte, and KPMG for an "asset quality review" of six banks, the governor said. Five of these banks have shares linked to S Alim Group.

"We, the government, have to compensate for the money that has been taken away. There is no free lunch. The gap that has been created has to be filled either by printing money or by some other type of loan financing, which will cost general taxpaying people. The ordinary people will have to pay the full price."

"We are in discussions with the Gates Foundation, which has an internationally applied application already launched in 15 countries. We plan to test it and quickly implement it," Mansur said in the roundtable on January 29.

Binimoy is currently non-operational.

"The deal was made with the companies for maintenance and

ACC DG Akhtar.

In the cases, Shahin has been accused of obtaining illegal wealth worth Tk 42.47 crore. Additionally, he allegedly conducted suspicious transactions amounting to Tk 341.62 crore in 29 bank accounts under his name.

His wife Farhana has been accused of amassing illegal assets worth Tk 53.67 crore, said

Conspiracy unfolding against BNP, Bangladesh

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Zia Cyber Force organised the iftar at a city hotel to honour online activists.

Tarique said there had been a plot in the past against the country, its people, and democracy.

In recent days, he said, they have observed that the BNP has been subjected to a media trial, as the party has the highest chances of gaining support from voters.

The BNP acting chief also said he came across media reports yesterday involving party leaders and activists in an untoward incident.

After gathering information from the party's central office, he found that the incident was misrepresented in newspapers.

"A vested quarter, or those conspiring against the BNP, the nationalist forces, and the independence and sovereignty of the country, are gradually trying to create a scenario similar to the media trial the BNP was subjected to during the 1/11 political changeover, by using certain media houses to which they are connected," Tarique observed.

Tarique called upon the nationalist cyber forces to be vigilant about such plots, saying, "Those of you who are online activists must realise this."

He also urged pro-BNP online activists to play a crucial role in countering such plots by circulating facts and genuine information on social media.

He recalled with gratitude the role of the pro-BNP online activists in mobilising anti-fascist public support during the Hasina regime.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir too acknowledged the role of online activists in "movements against the Awami League regime over the last 17 years".

"They made many sacrifices and endured serious repression during the fascist regime," he said.

Referring to online activists as cyber warriors, Fakhrul said they have to once again play a major role in thwarting the plot against the country and BNP.

20 hurt in Barguna

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brought the situation under control.

Mostafizur alleged that the attackers also looted donation boxes.

He said, "I demand punishment for those responsible."

Contacted, Islami Andolan Bangladesh leader Gazi Bayezid admitted that their supporters went to the shrine and urged the custodian to stop the music and rituals as it was the month of Ramadan.

He claimed, "When he [the custodian] refused and his followers attacked Maulana Omar Faruq Jejahi, the shrine was vandalised."

Asked, Maulana Omar said, "This shrine is a den of frauds where drug abuse and immoral activities happen

in the name of ours. We asked the custodian to stop these activities during the holy month of Ramadan, but he refused. Instead, his men attacked us. I demand punishment for the custodian and his accomplices."

Mohammad Hanif, warehouse inspector at Amtali Fire Station, said, "We managed to douse the blaze by 2:30am, but the overhead covering and two halls were already destroyed in the fire."

OC Md Ariful Islam said police brought the situation under control.

Legal action would be taken after investigation, he added.

UNO Ashraful said, "Strict action will be taken against those involved in the incident."

Putin, Trump to discuss

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The US president last spoke to Putin last month in a call that broke Western efforts to isolate the Russian leader as long as his forces keep up their Ukraine offensive.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff met Putin last Thursday in Moscow to present the details of the joint ceasefire plan, which envisages a 30-day pause in hostilities.

Witkoff told CNN he expected some sort of deal in the "coming weeks".

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has reacted with anger to Putin's statements, accusing him of wanting to prolong the lighting.

On Saturday, Zelensky warned that Moscow wanted to first "improve their situation on the battlefield" before agreeing to any ceasefire.

Moscow has been pressing ahead in several areas of the front for over a year.

On Monday, Russia claimed its forces had captured Stepove -- a village in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region -- although open-source battlefield maps showed it outside Moscow's control.

Russia has also in the past two weeks mounted a major counter offensive against Ukrainian troops in its Kursk region.

Moscow last week retook the main town that Ukraine seized in its summer 2024 incursion, Sudzha, and swathes of areas around it.

Russia has said it has moved

several hundred civilians that were previously trapped in Kyiv-held areas.

Ukraine has conceded it is in a difficult position in the region but denies its troops are surrounded.

Zelensky replaced his army's chief of general staff last week as Kyiv's front line troops continued to struggle.

After a brief lull in drone fire last week, both sides appeared to have stepped up attacks yesterday.

DMP chief

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On Saturday, Sajid Ali at an event organised by the Broadcast Journalist Centre (BJC) in the capital said, "I strongly dislike the word 'rape'. I request you not to use it. Instead, use terms like 'violence against women' or 'repression of women'. Even the law is called the 'Women and Children Repression [Prevention] Act.' Let's avoid words that sound unpleasant."

The remarks sparked outrage among rights activists and the general public.

The Chief Adviser's Office on Sunday condemned the DMP commissioner's call on the media not to use the term "rape" in their reporting.

"Rape is rape, whether committed against an 8-year-old or an 80-year-old. Such a heinous crime must be called by its rightful name," said a statement issued by the CA Press Wing.

AL govt sought to pour Tk 277cr

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The entire cost was borne by the government exchequer, with planned expenditures of Tk 47.25 crore this fiscal year, Tk 49.48 crore in fiscal 2025-26, Tk 55.75 crore in fiscal 2026-27, Tk 60.61 crore in fiscal 2027-28, and Tk 64.54 crore in fiscal 2028-29.

This plan came crashing down with the fall of the Hasina-led government.

The Bangladesh government should have managed the financial transaction-related systems, but the previous regime snatched control from the central bank to financially benefit individuals

close to the administration, Ahmad said.

For this, they deliberately weakened the National Payment Switch Bangladesh, he added.

"The interoperability of MFS is facing challenges because the previous government handed it over to the ICT ministry and a shell company has been created by Joy, introducing a platform called Binimoy, which is no longer functioning," said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur on January 29.

Binimoy is currently non-operational.

"The deal was made with the companies for maintenance and

operation. But after August 5, they disappeared. We are not willing to continue with such companies," said Arif Hossain Khan, the central bank's spokesperson.

BB is now working to replace Binimoy with a new platform under its control.

"We are in discussions with the Gates Foundation, which has an internationally applied application already launched in 15 countries. We plan to test it and quickly implement it," Mansur said in the roundtable on January 29.

The Daily Star could not reach Velwira, Zareef and Zarif Munir for comment.

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ACC to probe Tk 22,000cr

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According to the complaint, a syndicate led by Salman, who was also an adviser to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, misappropriated Tk 22,000 crore in the name of Covid-19 vaccine procurement.

Besides Salman and Zahid, other syndicate members included Lokman Hossain, former health secretary,