

Elated about ‘Chokkor 302’ reception: Mosharraf Karim

“It was my first time watching ‘Chokkor 302’ in its entirety, and I truly enjoyed it. The energy in the hall was incredible—I could feel how much the audience loved it. It was a fantastic experience.”



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As Eid-ul-Fitr films continue to draw audiences to theatres, celebrities are actively promoting their movies. Among them is Mosharraf Karim, who, despite recently undergoing surgery to remove a tumour from his ankle, has been engaging with the media and interacting with audiences to support his latest film, *Chokkor 302*.

Directed by Saraf Ahmed Zibon, the film follows Moinul, a mysterious police officer portrayed by Mosharraf Karim. After the

movie's premiere, the actor attended a screening at Bashundhara's Star Cineplex, where he connected with the audience and gauged their reactions. Expressing his excitement to The Daily Star, Mosharraf shared, "It feels great to see the audience watching the film. A good movie endures through the love of its viewers. The audience is the heart of cinema, and I am optimistic about *Chokkor 302*."

He also highlighted the festive atmosphere surrounding Eid film screenings, saying, "More and more people are watching local films in a

celebratory mood, which is a positive sign for our industry." Reflecting on his experience at the premiere, he said, "It was my first time watching *Chokkor 302* in its entirety, and I truly enjoyed it. The energy in the theatre was incredible—I could feel how much the audience loved it. It was a fantastic experience."

He believes the film's strength lies in its compelling narrative.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

"A great story always captivates the audience, and *Chokkor 302* delivers just that. The plot will keep viewers engaged and leave a lasting impact. This is a film for everyone." Speaking about his character, he explained, "Moinul is a deeply layered character caught in a web of mystery, relationships, and suspense, making the story even more engaging." "I thoroughly enjoyed playing the role. I fully immersed myself in Moinul's world, which made the journey even more fulfilling." He urged audiences to support the film stating, "Many movies have been officially released this Eid, and *Chokkor 302* is one of them. Please watch it and continue supporting our local cinema."

This Eid, Mosharraf stayed in Dhaka, recovering from his surgery. Despite being at home for most of the time, he made an effort to attend the premiere and later visited Cineplex a day after the film's release. Lastly, reminiscing about past Eid celebrations, he expressed, "As a child, I celebrated Eid in both Barishal and Dhaka. I may never relive the joy of those past Eids, but I truly miss them."

WHAT'S THE HAPS?



‘Celebrating Bangladeshiness’

Gunoboti's first solo exhibition *Celebrating Bangladeshiness* at Alliance Française de Dhaka is a design-led movement aiming to revive Bangladesh's artisan heritage.

The three-day event will not only spotlight bamboo crafts, natural dyeing, and cultural conversations, but also feature hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and music—empowering rural artisans while promoting sustainable, tradition-rooted living.

DATE: FRIDAY-SUNDAY | APRIL 11-13
TIME: 3PM-9PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI



‘Wicked: For Good’ first look teases a rift somewhere over the rainbow

The recently held Universal's CinemaCon presentation offered a first look at *Wicked: For Good*, the sequel to the blockbuster *Wicked*, set for release on November 21, 2025. The footage teases rising tensions in Oz as Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) is vilified and Glinda (Ariana Grande) is drawn into the political machinery of Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh) and the Wizard (Jeff Goldblum). Additional scenes include Elphaba skywriting "The Wizard Lies," Glinda in her signature pink, Fiery leading troops, and classic Wizard of Oz characters preparing to hunt the Wicked Witch. The sequel digs deeper into the origin stories behind *The Wizard of Oz*, including the "Tin Man", "Scarecrow", and "Dorothy"—whose roles will be expanded in the film.

‘AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH’ trailer debuts at CinemaCon



Acclaimed Hollywood director James Cameron's *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, the third film in the sci-fi saga *Avatar*, premiered its official trailer at CinemaCon on April 3. Attendees experienced exclusive 3D footage showcasing Pandora's new tribes—the peaceful Wind Traders and the warlike Ash People—alongside returning characters Jake and Neytiri, still grieving their son Neteyam. Set after *The Way of Water*, the story follows Jake Sully and Neytiri as they grieve the loss of their son and seek refuge with the oceanic Metkayina tribe. In a video message from New

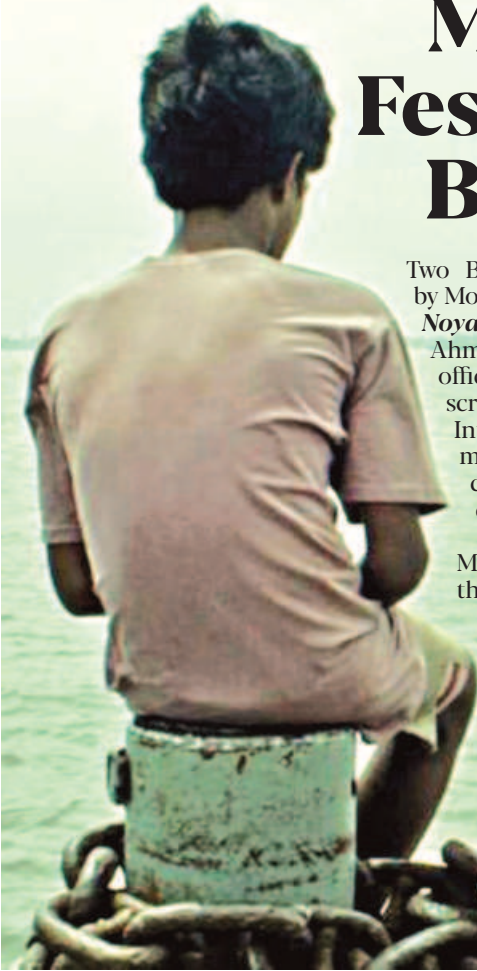
Zealand, Cameron expressed hopes that *Fire and Ash* would help reinvigorate cinema-going culture. If successful, it could make *Avatar* the only franchise with three \$2 billion-grossing films. Zoe Saldana unveiled the trailer in person at CinemaCon, while James Cameron, unable to attend as he was occupied with post-production in New Zealand, reaffirmed the film's scheduled release on December 19, this year. Disney also previewed *Thunderbolts*, *Zootopia 2*, *Tron: Ares*, and other titles, reaffirming its commitment to theatrical releases.

Veteran Indian icon Manoj Kumar passes away at 86

Legendary Bollywood actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar passed away yesterday at Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital due to cardiogenic shock following a major heart attack. He was 86. Kumar had been suffering from advanced liver cirrhosis for months prior to his demise. Fondly known as 'Bharat Kumar' for his patriotic films, Manoj Kumar was a towering figure in Indian cinema. In recognition of his remarkable contributions to Bollywood, he was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1992 and was later bestowed with the esteemed Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015. Born as Hari Krishan Goswami on July 24, 1937, in Amritsar, Punjab, Manoj Kumar made an indelible mark on the film industry with classics such as *Shaheed*, *Hariyali Aur Rasta*, *Woh Kaun Thi?*, *Himalay Ki God Mein*, *Do Badan*, *Patthar Ke Sanam*, *Neel Kamal*, *Kranti*, *Upkar*, and *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan*. These films remain cherished as cinematic milestones. In addition to his Padma Shri and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards, Manoj Kumar was recognised with numerous accolades throughout his career, including a National Film Award and seven Filmfare Awards across various categories. His legacy as a filmmaker and actor continues to influence and inspire generations of cinephiles.



Moscow Int'l Film Festival to screen two Bangladeshi films



Two Bangladeshi films—*Mastul* by Mohammad Nuruzzaman and *Noya Thikana* by Shamsuddin Ahmed Shiblu—have been officially selected to be screened at the 47th Moscow International Film Festival, marking the country's fourth consecutive presence at the event. *Mastul*, competing in the Main Competition, explores the lives of sailors on an oil tanker and stars Fazlur

Rahman Babu. It recently received uncut clearance for local release. *Noya Thikana*, selected in the Short Film category, highlights the impact of climate change in the Haor region. Both directors expressed their delight and plan to attend the festival, running from April 17 to 24. Previous Bangladeshi entries like *Adim* and *Nirvana* have earned international acclaim at MIFF.

