

‘Jongli’ screen count doubles in theatres

The widely discussed film *Jongli*, directed by M Raahim, hit theatres this Eid with a limited number of screenings. Although the team made several appeals for more showtimes, only slight increases were made, prompting disappointment among fans who expressed their concerns across social media platforms. However, it has been confirmed that the



number of shows at Star Cineplex alone has now doubled. According to Star Cineplex authorities, *Jongli* started with just seven shows on Eid day. The number rose to nine on day two, dropped to six by day four, then climbed to eight on day eight, and reached 14 shows by day nine — double its opening day count. The lead roles in *Jongli* are played by Siam Ahmed, Shobnom Yesmin Bubly, Digghi, and child artist Noireeta.



‘Hajaro Konthe Borshoboron’ returns to Rabindra Sarobar this Pahela Baishakh

The iconic Bengali New Year celebration *Channel i-Shurer Dhara Hajaro Konthe Borshoboron* will return on April 14 at 6am at Dhaka's Rabindra Sarobar, after a three-year break. Thousands of voices, including indigenous artistes, will welcome the Bengali New Year 1432 with choral and cultural performances. The festivities will begin on April 13 evening with a traditional *Chaitra Sankranti* fair featuring folk elements

like *nagor dola*, *lathi khela*, and local crafts. Cultural adviser and filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, along with officials from Dhaka South City Corporation, Channel i, and Shurer Dhara, will inspect preparations. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs is extending its full support to the event, which will return to its open-air setting this year, with a large number of audience expected to attend.

‘Daagi’ special screening protests against genocide in Palestine

During a special screening of the film *Daagi* in a Dhaka cinema on April 7, actors, musicians, filmmakers, producers, and journalists observed a one-minute silence in support of Palestine, as part the ongoing global strike.



The event notably saw the presence of *Daagi's* producers Mahendra Soni (SVF, Alpha-i Entertainment), Shahriar Shakil, and Redoan Rony (Chorki), along with director Shihab Shaheen. Other prominent attendees included actors Tariq Anam Khan, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Gazi Rakayet, Afran Nisho, Bijori Barkatullah, Tama Mirza, directors Raihan Rafi and Saraf Ahmed Zibon, and musicians Sajid Sarker and Masha Islam.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Play: ‘Kinu Kaharer Thetar’

Prachyanat's 15th production, *Kinu Kaharer Thetar*, written by Manoj Mitra and directed by Kazi Toufique Islam Emon, will be staged on Thursday, April 10. A biting political satire, the play explores corruption, complicity, and absurd justice in the fictional kingdom of Putna. DATE: THURSDAY | APRIL 10 TIME: 7PM ONWARDS VENUE: BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY (BSA)



Cannes to honour Robert De Niro with Palme d'Or this year



Robert De Niro is all set to receive an honorary Palme d'Or award for lifetime achievement at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival 2025. The festival authorities confirmed that he will be awarded during the opening ceremony on May 13. This honour marks 14 years since De Niro presided over the Cannes jury in 2011. His long-standing Cannes history includes iconic films like *Taxi Driver* (1976), which won the Palme d'Or, *The King of Comedy* (1983), and *The Mission* (1986). He last appeared at Cannes in 2023 with *Killers of the Flower Moon*. De Niro will also lead a masterclass at the Debussy Theatre on May 14 for festival attendees. The 78th edition of Cannes will run from May 13 to May 24.

NEWS

Govt failed to stop attacks on businesses

FROM PAGE 12 He made the remarks while addressing a rally in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus that was organised by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. Salahuddin also said that BNP will soon announce a large-scale nationwide and central programme in support of the Palestinian people and in protest against Israel's mass killings. "Awami League had given the recognition to Israel in an indirect way by removing tourism ban on Israel from the passport of Bangladesh," said Salahuddin Ahmed at the rally. He claimed that the Awami League government had purchased Pegasus spyware from Israel, which was used to repress the opposition during their rule. "The Muslim world is silent on the Palestine issue, and Indo-USA is backing the atrocities in Gaza directly and indirectly," said Salahuddin,

adding that after World War II, the United States conspired against the Palestinians, making them foreigners in their own land. He denounced and expressed resentment over the attacks in Gaza and urged the leaders of the Muslim world to stand with oppressed Muslims across the globe. He added, "Take measures to stop the support for the conspiracies through which many superpowers are backing Israel, supplying them with weapons, and enabling the genocide in Gaza and Rafah." Meanwhile, the leaders and activists of the Rajshahi University (RU) unit of JCD today formed a human chain protesting Israel's continued military attacks on Gaza and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people. The demonstration began around 10:30am in front of the main gate of the university. The protesters wore black cloths over their mouths as a symbol of silent protest against the Israeli forces' genocide.

The protesters criticised the inaction of Arab nations, alleging, "They are acting as proxies of Western powers and have failed to take any stand against Israel's attacks." They further compared the current Israeli actions to alleged repression by the previous government in Bangladesh, accusing it of suppressing democratic rights. Calling for international intervention, RU Chhatra Dal Convener Sultan Ahmed Rahi urged the United Nations and world leaders to take immediate steps to halt the attacks on Gaza. He said, "We stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and demand that global bodies act urgently." Later around noon, Rajshahi city unit of Chhatra Dal leaders and activists gathered at the city's Zero Point area following a rally. There, they chanted slogans in support of Palestine and against Israeli aggression.

Tureen Afroz placed

FROM PAGE 12 Tureen then said, "Honourable Court, I would like to speak with your permission." And the court granted her plea. She said, "My learned friend [state prosecutor] has made conflicting statements... The case in Dhaka is based on the 5th August incident. This case is fabricated. I can provide full documentation of where I was prior to August 5. During that time, I had surgery for a tumor at the Evercare Hospital." "For the past four years, I haven't said anything in the media, haven't written anything. It is being said that I supported fascist Hasina," she also said. She continued, "I supported fascist Hasina, and yet it was during her regime I was deprived of my job. I've been out of work for six years. I don't understand which side I belong to."

She also told the court she had faith in the law. "No one is above the law...The investigating officer has requested a 10-day remand. You may even give 20 days if you want, because I know I haven't done anything wrong. I believe I will get justice," she concluded. After her submission, the magistrate put her on remand. On March 27 this year, Md Jabbar, 21, who suffered bullet wounds in Dhaka's Uttara on August 4 last year, filed the case with Uttara West Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 49 others. Tureen, 52, was arrested at her home in Uttara early yesterday as she was a FIR-named accused. She had been removed from the ICT after she allegedly met suspected war criminal Mohammad Wahidul Haque. Tureen had prosecuted several high-profile cases, including those against executed war criminals — Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, and Ghulam Azam, who died in jail.

2 US delegations arrive

FROM PAGE 2 according to diplomatic sources. A foreign ministry official said Chulick will meet top officials of the government and discuss the reforms and democratic transition in Bangladesh. After the fall of Awami League, the Biden administration extended full support for the reforms and democratic transition in Bangladesh. Experts say the Trump is more transactional and the focus on human rights and democracy will be less than that of the Biden's administration. Trump has already imposed 37 percent tariff on the exports of Bangladeshi products to the US, promoting the government to ask for three months before the tariff is enforced. "How his policy will be and how the two countries can work together will be the main focus of the visit," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star. Much of the discussion during

the visit by Herrup will be focused on Rohingya crisis and Myanmar. Bangladesh has been sheltering 1.2 million Rohingya, most of those who faces military atrocities in 2017. On the other hand, Myanmar has been going through a civil war since the military coup in 2021 and is now facing another challenge of a devastating earthquake. Besides, there are serious issues of drug and arms trafficking, kidnapping, and human trafficking, which are creating huge security issues. "All these issues may come up during the discussion," a diplomatic sources added. Meanwhile, UK Trade Envoy to Bangladesh, Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster DBE, has arrived in Dhaka yesterday to. While in Dhaka, she will be meeting key officials of the government, political parties and business leaders, says a statement of the UK High Commission in Bangladesh.

Father, son among 7 killed in bus crash

FROM PAGE 12 Injured Bandhon Sarkar, 25, is now receiving treatment at the Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Talking to The Daily Star, she said the bus driver was driving recklessly from the start. Passengers repeatedly asked him to slow down, but he ignored every one. Atiar Rahman, ward master of Faridpur Medical College Hospital, said of the injured brought to the hospital, five were declared brought dead and two others died during treatment. The remaining 29 have been admitted to the hospital. Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ishrat Jahan said she visited the site of the accident. "Witnesses said the bus going over 80km/h. The accident happened solely due to the driver's recklessness." Assistant Superintendent of Madaripur Highway Police Station Md Maruf Hossain echoed the same, saying

the vehicle lost control while overtaking at high speed. The driver fled the scene after the crash, he said, adding police were trying to identify him. Nasir Uddin, assistant director of Faridpur Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, said the Farabi Paribahan bus' fitness certificate had expired on March 5 and was tax token on June 26, 2024. "Fitness certificates must be renewed annually, ideally 7-10 days before expiry." The bus is owned by Faizur Rahman, labour affairs secretary of Faridpur District Awami League. He hails from the Courtpara area of Bhanga upazila. He could not be reached for comments. Faridpur Deputy Commissioner Md Kamrul Hasan Molla said a five-member probe committee led by the additional district magistrate of Faridpur has been formed to investigate the crash.

already dispatched 31.5 tonnes of aid in two phases through the Bangladesh Army and Air Force. The missions included deploying search, rescue, and medical teams, some of which are still operating in the disaster-hit zones. As of Monday, the Bangladeshi medical teams have treated 619 patients, four of them underwent complex surgeries.

Bangladesh navy ship leaves for Myanmar

FROM PAGE 2 Armed Forces Division. The operation is supported by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Armed Forces, Sena Kallyan Sangstha, and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, read the release. The consignment includes 77 tonnes of dry food, over nine tonnes of tents and clothing, 29 tonnes of safe drinking

water, four tonnes of hygiene kits, and nearly a tonne of essential medicines. This vital support is expected to significantly contribute to food security and public health protection for the affected communities in Myanmar, the release added. Following the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck parts of Myanmar and Thailand on March 28, the Bangladesh government has

Mob attacks ex-AL MP Aziz at jail gate

FROM PAGE 12 Md Humayun Kabir, its officer-in-charge. Aziz walked out of Sirajganj jail around 8:00pm after a court granted him bail in a case filed over attempted murder during the July uprising in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila. He was arrested on February 4. After he got out of the jail, a mob

attacked him. They harassed and forcibly took him to the Kather Pul area in Sirajganj town. Later, a team of army personnel rescued him. Aziz was in police custody till filing of this report around 11:55pm last night, the OC added. However, law enforcement agencies claimed that they were unaware of his release today.

Isn't it a conflict of interest?

FROM PAGE 12 takes up the opposite side in the same case, that would be a conflict of interest. However, if a lawyer represents the defence in one case and the prosecution in another, that would not be considered a conflict of interest." After the hearing, reporters asked Tajul about the matter. He said a person may be a defence lawyer today and join the prosecution tomorrow in another case. That's not a big issue.

It does not amount to a conflict of interest. This is a well-known and common principle, he added. Following the July uprising, at least four lawyers, who previously worked as defence counsels during the war crimes trials, have been appointed prosecutors in the restructured ICT. Chief Prosecutor Tajul himself had earlier served as a defence lawyer. On March 27 this year, lawyer Sattar was made an ICT prosecutor.