

'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, Shobnon Yesmin Bubly, Dighi, and child artiste Nooreeta.



'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.

Govt announces new deadline for film grant submissions

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has extended the deadline for submitting complete proposals for both feature-length and short films seeking government grants.

Therefore, filmmakers and producers can now submit proposals by April 22. The previous original date was April 7, set in February.

In a press release signed by the ministry's Senior Assistant

Commissioner Sharmin Akter, it has been affirmed that the submission deadline for complete package proposals has been extended to 4pm on April 22, keeping all terms and conditions from the previous circular unchanged.

The government will provide grants to a maximum of 12 full-length films and 20 short films – 32 films in total – for the fiscal year 2024-25.

'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 (SVE, 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 Toufiqul 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

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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.

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 Faridpur bus' fitness certificate had expired on March 5 and tax token on June 26, 2024. "Fitness certificates must be renewed annually, ideally 7-10 days before expiry."

The bus is owned by Fazir Rahman, labour affairs secretary of Faridpur District Awami League. He hails from the Courtpara area of Bhangal 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.

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.

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