

# Eid releases keep theatres packed weeks after premiere

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Three weeks since their Eid release, Bangladeshi films continue to draw strong audience turnout, breaking the usual post-Eid lull. Among the six titles released this festive season, *Borbaad*, *Daagi*, *Jongli*, and *Chokkor 302* have sustained their performance, contributing to a boost in the local box office.

Leading the lineup is Shakib Khan's *Borbaad*, which continues to screen in the highest number of theatres both locally and abroad. The action-drama reportedly set a new benchmark in first-week ticket sales, surpassing the record previously held by *Priyotoma*. Veteran actor Shahiduzzaman Selim, who appears in the film, called the sustained attention "a sign of growth" for the industry.

*Daagi*, featuring Afran Nisho and



Tama Mirza in a critically praised lead performance, has also maintained strong momentum. Its success is attributed to its engaging script and audience connection. Tama expressed

confidence in the film's continued appeal, noting that cinema this Eid had "struck a chord" with viewers.

*Jongli*, starring Siam Ahmed, started with modest attendance but

has since gained traction. With an increase in screenings and steady audience growth, the film has become a sleeper hit. "That we're still getting this kind of love on day twenty is rare," said Siam, expressing gratitude for the support.

Meanwhile, *Chokkor 302*, directed by Saraf Ahmed Zibon and featuring Mosharraf Karim, is holding steady despite playing in fewer theatres. Zibon noted a rise in viewership and screenings in the third week, while the acclaimed actor praised audiences for their continued interest.

The strong performance of multiple local films weeks after release signals renewed faith in Bangladeshi cinema. With a variety of genres on offer this Eid—from action to psychological thrillers—audiences appear more willing than ever to embrace local storytelling.

## Wrestlemania 41: John Cena beats Cody Rhodes to become 17x champion

In a WrestleMania main event for the ages, John Cena defeated Cody Rhodes to become a record-breaking 17-time world champion, winning the Undisputed WWE Championship. The match, held at Allegiant Stadium, was



a brutal showdown, but controversy overshadowed Cena's historic win.

As Rhodes recovered from being slammed into an exposed turnbuckle, rapper Travis Scott—aligned with Cena and The Rock since Elimination Chamber—distracted the referee. Cena seized the moment, delivering a low blow and striking Rhodes with the title belt before pinning him.

The crowd erupted in a mix of cheers and boos as Cena celebrated his historic win with Travis Scott. The controversial finish immediately sparked debate among fans and wrestling analysts, with many questioning the manner in which Cena achieved his record-breaking 17th world title.

## ACP PRADYUMAN returns to 'CID'

Veteran actor Shivaji Satam, Ayushman, sparking criticism from fans who demanded Satam's return. Responding to the outcry, the makers brought Satam back. Samthaan shared a behind-the-scenes video with Satam, calling it a thrilling experience, while Satam teased his comeback with the iconic line "Kuch toh gadbad hai?". Despite Sony TV posting a tribute graphic, Satam's return has reignited excitement among audiences.



The sequence coincided with Parth Samthaan's entry as ACP

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### Play: All Quiet on the Western Front

Adapted by Runa Kanchan and directed by Bakar Bakul, *All Quiet on the Western Front* brings Erich Maria Remarque's anti-war classic to the stage. This powerful production follows a group of idealistic young soldiers whose patriotic dreams are shattered by the brutal, dehumanising realities of World War I.

Date: Wednesday-Friday | April 23-25

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



## Arnob kicks off US concert tour spanning eight cities



Singer-songwriter Shayan Chowdhury Arnob has set out on a concert tour across the United States as part of the *Bangla Folk Rock Fest*, performing alongside his band Arnob and Friends in eight cities. The tour began on Saturday (April 19) with a show in

Dallas.

Arnob is set to perform next in Minneapolis on May 3, followed by concerts in Seattle, Austin, Washington DC, New York, Columbia, and concluding in Los Angeles on May 25.

The tour is being managed by Freedom Entertainment Ltd.

# NEWS

## One killed

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injured, Rakib Molla, 17, an SSC examinee from the same area, was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal, according to family sources.

Agajjhara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Oliul Islam said Rab members in plainclothes were on an anti-drug operation in the area when they came under attack from some drug dealers. At that, Rab personnel opened fire, injuring the two.

The two were first taken to Gourandhi Upazila Health Complex, where Siam was declared dead upon arrival.

Rakib, who suffered wounds to his abdomen, was later shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where his condition was critical, his younger brother Raihan Molla said, citing doctors.

Akram Hossain, assistant surgeon at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, confirmed that Rakib was brought to the emergency unit with a critical injury.

"We haven't yet begun surgery. We cannot confirm if it's a bullet wound until we operate, but his condition is serious," he said around 11:00pm yesterday.

Rab 8 Deputy Commander Major Mahmudul Ahsan confirmed the anti-drug operation and the subsequent gunfire, and said the force came under attack during the raid.

"One suspect was killed and another injured during the gunfight. We are still conducting an operation in the area and cannot provide further details," he said.

## Some migrants in Canada lose work status

REUTERS, Toronto

Migrants living in Canada are facing longer waits to renew paperwork that would allow them to keep working legally, as growing backlog and changing rules stymie efforts to maintain legal status, according to interviews and data obtained by Reuters.

Losing status means people who have paid taxes cannot work or access medical care and other services in a country that has long prided itself for its universal health care.

## 'Pluralism' in charter

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However, during its meeting with the National Consensus Commission (NCC) yesterday, the party endorsed 147 out of 166 key recommendations proposed by five reform commissions formed for state reforms.

Khelafat Majlis disagreed with 15 recommendations and partially agreed with four, said the party's Secretary General Maulana Jalaluddin Ahmed after the meeting held at the LD Hall of the National Parliament.

According to Jalaluddin, the commission explained to the Khelafat Majlis leaders that "pluralism" refers to an ideology that recognises the country's diverse cultures and communities.

In response, the delegation said the term pluralism contradicts the concept of "oneness." Therefore, if cultural diversity is to be acknowledged, alternative terminology should be used.

The Majlis leader also expressed disagreement with the recommendation to divide the country into four provinces. He argued that Bangladesh's compact geography and effective communication network rendered such a move unnecessary.

He added that such a division would only increase administrative and economic burdens.

The party further opposed a recommendation to elect Union Parishad chairpersons by parishad members instead of through direct public elections.

This approach could pave the way for unethical practices and diminish public involvement, the party opined.

The meeting was chaired by Commission Vice President Professor Ali Riaz. Other commission members present included Badiul Alam Majumdar, Iftekharuzzaman, Safar Raj Hossain, and Monir Haidar, Special Assistant (Consensus) to the Chief Adviser.

Jalaluddin led a three-member delegation of Khelafat Majlis, which included Senior Naib-e-Ameer Md Yusuf Ashraf and Joint Secretary General Tofazzal Hossain Mazi.

Later in the day, the NCC and the Jatiya Gonofront held a meeting at the same venue.

The Jatiya Gonofront was represented by a six-member

delegation led by the party's Central Committee Coordinator, Comrade Tipu Biswas.

An NCC member present at the meeting told The Daily Star that the party proposed the annulment of the 1972 Constitution, calling it "completely ineffective."

The party also proposed the formation of a new Constitutional Council to draft a fresh constitution.

The Jatiya Gonofront delegation included Litu Biswas, Debashish Poddar Bapi, Kamruzzaman Firoz, KM Delwar Hossain, and Taimur Khan Apu.

The NCC was formed under the leadership of the interim government's Chief Adviser, Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, to build a national consensus on reform issues.

The commission officially began its activities on February 15.

Based on proposals put forward by the Constitutional Reform Commission, Public Administration Reform Commission, Electoral System Reform Commission, Judiciary Reform Commission, and Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission, the NCC sent a spreadsheet containing 166 key recommendations to 39 political parties, requesting their specific opinions.

So far, 35 political parties have responded with their views.

To finalise the recommendations made by the reform commissions, the NCC initiated formal dialogues on March 20. It has already completed preliminary discussions with 15 political parties.

Meanwhile, the NCC is set to meet the BNP today for the third time to discuss reform proposals aimed at building national consensus.

## NIDs of Hasina, 9 of her family

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Saima Wazed, her sister Rehana Siddiq (Sheikh Rehana), Rehana's daughter and UK MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq, Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddiq were "locked".

Others affected by the decision are Maj Gen Tarique Ahmed Siddiq, security adviser to Hasina, his wife Shaheen Siddiq, and his daughter Bushra Siddiq.

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## Youth stabbed

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doctors declared him dead around 9:30pm, the police said, adding that the body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Gazi Shamim, officer in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, told The Daily Star, "We suspect he was stabbed as a result of previous enmity."

When asked about the nature of the enmity, the OC said that Pappu had once helped to apprehend a local criminal. The attack might have been carried out in retaliation to that incident, the OC said.

Pappu's father Ekram Hossain told this correspondent, "I heard that my son was killed in a mugging incident."

He said Pappu worked for an online shop.

Ekram said Pappu had been at home all day and was supposed to leave for his night shift around 9:00pm. He stepped out after taking Tk 10 from Ekram in the evening, saying, "I'll be right back."

"Just 10 minutes later, I was informed that muggers had stabbed Pappu. We rushed to the scene and took him to Samorita Hospital. The doctors there referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital," he added.

Md Raju, a neighbour who brought Pappu to the hospital, told this newspaper that he and a few others, including Pappu, were chatting. At one point, Pappu said he needed to urinate and walked towards the other side of the road.

"A few minutes later, we heard Pappu shouting 'Muggers! Muggers!' When we ran towards him, we saw three to four people fleeing. Pappu was lying on the ground covered in blood," Raju said.

Md Faruk, in-charge (inspector) of the police camp at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said, "A youth named Pappu was brought to the hospital. After examination, doctors declared him dead. The body has been kept in the morgue for autopsy."

No case was filed as of filing this report around midnight. Police were checking the CCTV footage of BG Press.

Pappu was the only child of Ekram and Parveen Begum. Pappu had been studying electrical engineering at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon.

## Bangladeshis worry

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Bangladeshi nationals could be several thousands," said a meeting participant, seeking anonymity.

During the meetings, US embassy officials conveyed President Trump's commitment to strict enforcement of immigration laws and emphasised that cooperation from partner countries is critical to implementing these measures effectively, officials present there said.

They informed the home ministry that several Bangladeshis had exhausted all legal avenues regarding their residency status and were now subject to final removal orders. The US had, therefore, decided to arrange their orderly repatriation to Bangladesh.

The US side stressed two priorities — issuance of travel documents for Bangladeshis within 30 days of request and acceptance of returnees regardless of the mode of removal — be it commercial, charter, or military flights. They urged Bangladeshis to ensure a smooth and coordinated deportation process.

In response, Bangladesh reiterated its commitment to fulfilling international obligations and expressed readiness to accept its nationals through any mode of transfer.

A senior SB official said the government has been working closely with the US to ensure the Bangladeshi nationals are repatriated with dignity.

"This issue was strongly raised during meetings with US embassy officials," the official said, adding that due to diplomatic efforts and international concern, Bangladeshi deportees were not handcuffed during deportation, unlike nationals of some other countries.

The deportation process involves US authorities notifying the Bangladesh embassy in Washington upon identification of an undocumented individual.

The embassy then informs Dhaka, and the SB verifies the identity before accepting and registering the returnee at the airport.

"If any deportee needs legal assistance, the government will provide support," said an official involved in the repatriation process, adding that the government is considering engaging BRAC, a leading NGO, to support returnees.

"The United States has imposed tariffs on Chinese imports to 145 percent, prompting Beijing to slap retaliatory duties of 125 percent on US goods, effectively erecting trade embargoes against each other. Last week, China signalled that its own across-the-board rates would not rise further."

"The United States has imposed tariffs on all trading partners under the banner of so-called 'equivalence', while also forcing all parties to start so-called 'reciprocal tariffs' negotiations with them," the ministry spokesperson said.

China is determined and capable of safeguarding its own rights and interests, and is willing to strengthen solidarity with all parties, the ministry said.

## 'Don't strike deals

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