

BASAR PERSEVERES through setbacks

SHARMIN JOYA

Even after Eid, the festive spirit hasn't faded. While the excitement around film releases continues, small-screen projects are still making their way to audiences.

Among the most featured actors, Khairul Basar stands out, starring in 15 projects that are being released one after another. So far, seven have premiered, including *Golper Naam Maya* directed by Shetu Arif, *Shohore Joto Rong* by Syed Shakil, *Manush Ki Bolbe* by Ashikur Rahman, *Payel* by Sayful Hafiz Khan, and *Jodi Amar How* by Serniabat Shawon, among others, while others are on the line.

In the productions mentioned above, Tanjin Tisha, Tanjim Saiara Totini, Keya Payel, Orchita Sporshia, and Safa Kabir have respectively starred opposite Basar.

"Among those released, *Golper Naam Maya*, *Shohore Joto Rong*, and *Manush Ki Bolbe* have received a strong response. *Payel*, on the other hand, stands out visually – it has impressive cinematography," shared the actor.

Reflecting on his favourite projects this Eid,

Upon asking when he would return to the silver screen, he shared that the production company would better know when his films will appear. Some of his projects lined up are—*Bonolota Sen*, *Sharey Tin Haat Bhumi*, and a short film *Moutali Pithar Ghran*.

Basar said, "*Manush Ki Bolbe* is special to me as its plot feels particularly relevant today. We often worry too much about what others think or say about our actions. In doing so, we tend to lose sight of what's right and what truly matters. This is a serious concern, and we must act according to our conscience rather than public opinion."

Basar returned in front of the camera immediately after the Eid break, joining a shoot in Sreemangal for yet another project. His schedule is already booked until the third week of May for Eid-ul-Azha projects. "I will be working with Vicky *bhai* (Vicky Zahed), Pothik Shadhon, Serniabat Shawon, and Ishtiaq Ahmed Rumel—so far, we've locked in the dates."

The actor has been equally appreciated on both OTT platforms and the silver screen, notably for *Mohanagar* and *Kajol Rekha*, respectively. However, in recent times, he has been focusing more on small-screen projects. "It's not about the medium, it's the work that truly matters," he said. "People

recognise me wherever I go, and that's largely thanks to my appearances on television. I feel truly blessed. Once, an elderly lady told me she was never a fan of dramas until she saw one of mine. Since then, she's followed my work regularly. What more could I possibly ask for?"

As a matter of fact, the actor revealed that he had been dropped from several OTT projects, as the platforms opted for other artistes. "I was tied up with the shoot for Masud Hasan Ujjal's *Bonolota Sen* for nearly 18 months, and during that period, I couldn't take on any additional work. Later, I was confirmed for a couple of projects, but, regrettably, at the eleventh hour, I was informed that—despite the director's preference—I had been replaced due to the platform's demands. Such decisions are truly disheartening."

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Basar believes the market for commercial films is steadily expanding, and this Eid, films like *Daagi*, *Borbaad*, *Jongli*, and *Chokkor 302* truly resonated with audiences. "Although I usually take on—or am offered—projects with more archival value, I recognise the importance of a thriving commercial film industry for its overall growth. Moreover, I think we need to focus more on stories of resilience, narratives rooted in humanity—not merely those driven by violence, but ones that appeal to the conscience and speak to our sense of discernment."

Meanwhile, the actor is set to begin work on Tanvir Mokammel's upcoming project, which is based on a popular piece of lyrical poetry by the beloved rural poet, Palli Kabi Jasim Uddin. Filming is scheduled to commence in October.

As our phone conversation neared its end, Basar briefly asked to hold the line. Returning moments later, he shared that a young man had approached him during the call, patiently waiting to take a selfie with his favourite actor. "It's these gestures from people that give me a reason to smile. As an artiste, I feel fulfilled."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHIED

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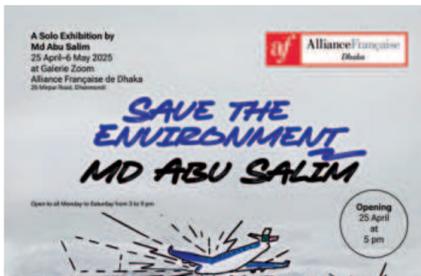
Chorki
Testimony of A Thread



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Bangladesh Press Photo Contest 2025
April 19-30 | 3pm-8pm
DrikPath Bhubon, Panthapath



Exhibition: 'Save the Environment'
April 25-May 6 | 3pm-9pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi



Where The Spirit Meets The Bone
April 25-May 8 | 4:30pm-8pm
Satori Academy of Arts, Banani

1-MINUTE REVIEW

'Test' spins a gripping tale beyond the match



Test, the directorial debut of S Sashikanth, is a deeply human sports thriller that rises above plot gimmicks to focus on emotionally charged character journeys.

Set against the backdrop of a high-stakes India-Pakistan test match, it follows a struggling inventor, a grieving teacher, a legendary cricketer, and a corrupt

tycoon—all interconnected by fate and ambition.

R Madhavan, Nayanthara, and Siddharth shine in layered roles that explore love, loss, resilience, and redemption. The film's brilliance lies not in twists, but in its honest portrayal of how life's "tests" often arrive unannounced.

Beautiful transitions, thoughtful storytelling, and a stirring score make *Test* an immersive watch. While the final act falters with a few rushed resolutions, the heartfelt core remains intact.

Inspired by real-life grit, *Test* is a moving reminder that our biggest battles often unfold off the field. With heart, craft, and soul, Sashikanth delivers a memorable debut that puts humanity at the heart of it all.

WHAT'S PLAYING

'CRY FOR ME' by The Weeknd

The Weeknd returns to heartbreak territory with *Cry for Me*, a soul-baring ballad from his latest album *Hurry Up Tomorrow*. Floating on melancholic synths and a steady, mournful beat, the track captures the raw ache of post-breakup solitude, with the singer confronting the emotional fallout of a lost love.

The chorus—"And I hope you cry for me like I cry for you"—finds The Weeknd at his most vulnerable, pleading for reciprocity from someone he once envisioned a lifetime with.

Echoes of his past relationship with model Bella Hadid surface subtly in the lyric "In this penthouse prison, I'm alone,"

referencing the LA apartment he bought shortly after their 2019 split. *Cry for Me* has already struck a chord with fans, emerging as a standout on the album and making its way onto heartbreak-themed playlists across streaming platforms. With its atmospheric production and confessional tone, the song continues The Weeknd's legacy of blending emotional depth with sleek alt-R&B stylings.

STYLE STATEMENT

LALISA MANOBAL

Blackpink's Lisa captivated Coachella for the second consecutive weekend last week, commanding the Sahara Tent with a fierce solo performance from her new album *Alter Ego*. Making a bold style declaration, she donned custom Asher Levine creations—designs that echoed the theatrical flair of Levine's work with icons like Lil Nas X, Doja Cat, and Nicki Minaj.

Lisa's opening ensemble was a sculpted, skintight bodysuit accented with reptilian shoulder spikes—an embodiment of her "villain alter ego." Her half-updo with intricate braids, smoky eyed makeup with rhinestones, and a dark pink lip colour completed the striking transformation.

Standing tall on the stage, she cemented her status as a pop star and fashion trailblazer.

