

# Eid-ul-Azha film lineup manifests with major releases

ZAHID AKBAR

Bangladesh's Eid-ul-Azha film lineup is taking shape, with several high-profile titles set to draw audience interest. Following Eid-ul-Fitr, when five films—*Bonolota Express*, *Dom*, *Prince*, *Pressure Cooker*, and *Rakkhosh*—were released, focus has now shifted to the next major holiday window. Among them, *Bonolota Express* is still holding the top position, while others recorded moderate commercial returns and some overseas response.



Industry observers are now assessing which films may lead the Eid-ul-Azha race, as a mix of star-led projects and delayed productions move toward release.

One of the most anticipated titles is *Rockstar*, starring Shakib Khan opposite Sabila Nur. Directed by Azman Rusho, the film marks their second collaboration after *Tandoob*. Production is nearing completion, with a release planned for Eid.

Another key contender is *Roid*,

directed by Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, following the success of his film *Hawa*. The director has confirmed an Eid-ul-Azha release, and the film's first song has already been unveiled as part of its promotional campaign.

*Malik*, starring Arifin Shuvoo and Bidya Sinha Mim, is also being prepared for release. Director Saif Chandan said no official announcement has been made, but the film is being readied with Eid in consideration.

The long-delayed *Masud Rana*, directed by Saikat Nasir, is also targeting the Eid window. Production began nearly five years ago and is now nearing completion, with only a song and several scenes left to be filmed. The title role is played by Rasel Rana, with Puja Chery cast opposite him.

*Pinik*, starring Shobnom Bubby and Ador Azad, is another film expected to join the lineup after multiple delays. Directed by Zahid Jewel, it had previously been slated for earlier Eid releases.

Meanwhile, *Tribunal*, directed by Raihan Rafi, is also likely to enter the race. The cast includes Tanjin Tisha, Nusraat Faria, Mousumi Hamid and Saira Akhter, alongside Tariq Anam Khan. Some portions of the film remain unfinished.

As several films progress through production and promotion, the Eid-ul-Azha release lineup is shaping up to be highly competitive, with final schedules yet to be confirmed.

**As several films advance through production, post-production and promotional campaigns, the race for Eid-ul-Azha release is becoming increasingly competitive. While a number of highly anticipated titles are eyeing the festive window, official release schedules have yet to be finalised.**

# 'Michael' releases in Bangladesh today with global premiere



The Michael Jackson biopic *Michael* is set to release globally today (April 24), with audiences in Bangladesh able to watch it at Star Cineplex on the same day.

Directed by Antoine Fuqua, the film stars Jaafar Jackson in the lead role, portraying the iconic singer's journey from his early days with the Jackson 5 to his rise as a global music legend. The cast also includes Miles Teller, Colman Domingo, Nia

Long, and Kat Graham.

Beyond his musical legacy, the film explores key moments from Jackson's personal life and career. It also features important figures such as Joe Jackson, Katherine Jackson, and Diana Ross, offering a broader look at the influences behind his success.



# 'A Summer Soirée with Eastwords'

Eastwords presents an intimate evening of original compositions and reimagined classics, blending poetry, memory, and melody. Led by Sharmee Hossain, the ensemble moves across genres with textured instrumentation and restrained emotion, crafting a reflective soundscape shaped by voice, rhythm, and acoustic intimacy rather than spectacle.

**Date:** Today | April 24, 2026  
**Time:** 7:30 pm–9:30 pm  
**Venue:** Satori Academy of Arts, Banani

# AFZAL HOSSAIN to star in Nuhash Humayun's 'Moving Bangladesh'



Filmmaker Nuhash Humayun is set to make his feature film debut with *Moving Bangladesh*, following his success in short films both locally and internationally. While the official cast has not yet been announced, sources confirm that veteran actor Afzal Hossain will play a key role in the project.

Afzal Hossain has already completed several days of shooting, with the remaining portions expected to wrap up soon. The actor confirmed his involvement to The Daily Star but did not disclose further details.

The film reportedly follows the struggles of a bike rider, offering a grounded, character-driven narrative. Alongside this project, Afzal Hossain is also working on two web series and a television drama.

# NEWS

## Ducusu leaders assaulted

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The Ducusu leaders were then escorted out safely through the police station's north side pocket gate next to Shahbagh Thana Jaame Mosque a little after 9:00pm. They were then taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

After that, Ducusu Vice President Abu Shadik Kayem led Ducusu and Shibir activists to the front of Shahbagh police station. They came face-to-face with Chhatra Dal activists already present there. At one point, some Chhatra Dal activists hurled water bottles at the Ducusu and Shibir men, sparking brief tension at the scene.

DMP Ramna Division Assistant Commissioner Mazharul Islam said tension between Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir escalated into jostling and shoving, but no serious injuries were reported, adding that the situation was brought under control by 10:00pm.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Chhatra Dal President Rakibul Islam Rakib said the incident was deeply regrettable.

"We maintain communication with Chhatra Shibir and have addressed this social media issue several times, but it is ultimately creating a major division among us. They assured us that if any of their members were involved, they would take action."

On the attack, Rakib said, "It was a sensitive matter for Chhatra Dal, as it centred on the daughter of our prime minister. Such an incident by Chhatra Dal is unexpected. We expressed regret and will take measures to ensure it does not recur."

Ducusu VP Shadik Kayem, speaking to the media after returning from the scene, said the very police station meant to ensure citizens' safety had failed to do so. "In front of the police, even in front of the officer-in-charge, those who went to file a general diary seeking

protection for their lives were attacked." Kayem described the incident as "a shameful chapter in history", alleging that outsiders were brought in alongside university activists.

"I want to ask the home minister and the prime minister -- is this democracy? A student is being threatened, and when he goes to a police station to file a GD for his safety, he is brutally attacked. Is this democracy? Is this the new Bangladesh?"

**JURNOS ASSAULTED**  
Amid tensions between the two sides, student journalists of Dhaka University also came under attack while trying to gather news and were later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

At least 10 journalists, including the president of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association, were injured in the incident. The injured journalists alleged that Chhatra Dal activists attacked them even after identifying themselves as journalists.

Dhaka University Journalists' Association President Manjurul Hossain Mahi said, "We went to Shahbagh Police Station to collect news. Immediately after arriving there, we were deliberately obstructed from gathering information in a pre-planned manner. At one point, we were suddenly attacked. One after another, ten of us were brutally beaten. Shahbagh Police remained silent spectators." PROTESTS AT JNU Jagannath University Central Students' Union brought out a protest march on campus last night, condemning the attack on Ducusu leaders and student journalists by Chhatra Dal activists.

Earlier, leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal's JnU unit staged a procession, denouncing the circulation of "derogatory images" of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Zaima Rahman on social media.

## Govt, opposition team

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opposition members for the committee. They are Jamaat-e-Islami MPs Saiful Alam (Dhaka-12), Abdul Baten (Dhaka-16), and Nurul Islam (Chapainawabganj-3); NCP MP Hasnat Abdullah (Cumilla-4); and Khelafat Majlis MP Mohammed Abul Hasan (Sylhet-5).

Bangladesh has been facing fuel shortages since the US-Israel war on Iran started disrupting global supply chains. While long queues at fuel pumps have eased, power cuts due to a lack of fuel have intensified.

The opposition leader had earlier called for a "common committee"

of government and opposition MPs to tackle the crisis. On Wednesday, parliament held a discussion on the issue as an urgent public matter.

During the discussion, Shafiqur said the opposition was ready to sit with an open heart and present proposals, but stressed it was the government's responsibility to implement them.

In response, Tarique said the government would consider the proposal to form a committee. "The issue we discussed today is undoubtedly an important one. It's not only crucial for Bangladesh; considering global politics and realities, it is of great importance for the world," he said.

## Rohingya exodus

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aid," Save the Children official Golam Mostofa said in a statement. "Many families feel that they have no choice but to risk their lives and leave by boat -- but their journeys are fraught with danger."

Last year was the deadliest on record for Rohingya refugees fleeing by sea, with deaths continuing to soar in 2026, according to UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency.

Nearly 900 Rohingya refugees were reported missing or dead in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in 2025.

More than 250 Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi migrants were reported missing this month after their boat capsized in the Andaman Sea, a route many travel when heading towards Indonesia.

Data from the UNHCR shows that 2,907 people left by sea from Myanmar and Bangladesh up to March 31 this year, compared to 1,517 people over the same period in 2025.

The cash-strapped UN World Food Programme cut aid for large portions of the 1.2 million-strong Rohingya group in Bangladesh this month.

Save the Children said the ration cuts had affected at least 500,000 Rohingya refugee children.

That was "putting further strain on families, with reduced food security inside the camps driving more refugees to attempt dangerous sea journeys", the agency said.

## Rooppur set

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officer of the ministry of science and technology.

It will take between 30 to 40 days to load the nuclear fuel into the reactor, said Md Zahedul Hasan, managing director of Nuclear Power Plant Company.

After fuel loading, tests will be conducted at various stages to prepare the Final Safety Analysis Report.

"The commissioning stage requires us to navigate a rigorous and challenging testing period," he said.

Once these processes are successfully completed, test power generation will begin within three months, gradually increasing to full capacity.

The entire process is expected to take 10 to 11 months, he added.

The nuclear power plant, built on the banks of the Padma river in Pabna's Ishwardi at a cost of \$12.65 billion, features two VVER-1200 reactors with Russian financial and technical support.

Once both units are operational, the plant will generate 2,400MW of electricity, meeting over 10 percent of national demand.

## Tigers seal ODI series

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Bangladesh had slumped to 32 for three in the ninth over.

New Zealand pacer William O'Rourke was the early destroyer, removing Saif Hassan (0), Tanzid Tamim (1), and Soumya Sarkar (18) after Bangladesh were put in to bat.

Shanto's innings, featuring nine fours and two sixes, also ended his 20-innings drought for an ODI hundred. His previous ton came at the same venue in March 2024 against Sri Lanka.

Liton, too, ended a 19-innings drought for a fifty but fell short of a century, dismissed by Jayden Lennox in the 39th over.

Following the departures of Shanto and Liton, Bangladesh's lower order again struggled to accelerate, adding just 61 runs in the final 10 overs to post 265 for eight.

Tawhid Hridoy remained unbeaten on 33 off 29 balls, but his innings drew criticism for poor match awareness as he failed to take strike at key moments while batting with the tail.

In reply, New Zealand also lost early wickets, but opener Nick Kelly anchored the innings with his second successive

## West Bengal records 92%

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government saying it aims to prevent "infiltrators", a pejorative term largely referring to illegal Muslim immigrants, from voting.

Experts and organisations say Muslims and other religious minorities have been disproportionately removed from the rolls in West Bengal, a key segment of voters who usually vote against BJP.

The second round of voting will be held on April 29, covering 142 constituencies in West Bengal.

One of the key battles will take place between Mamata and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari in Bhabanipur.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu went to polls yesterday for 234 election constituencies, with the key constituencies being Kolathur, Edappadi, Tiruchirappalli

## New govt faces

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"Dealing with economic disruption linked to the Iran conflict will be a crucial test."

The Crisis Group Asia Briefing titled "Bangladesh's New Government Gets Down to Business" said the ruling party should avoid confrontation with the opposition over proposed reforms and review cases against Awami League activists.

half-century of the series. However, once he was dismissed for 59 off 80 balls by Mustafizur, the visitors lost wickets in quick succession.

Mustafizur (5-43) turned the game in the middle overs, claiming four quick wickets to register his sixth five-wicket haul in ODIs. He now stands joint-second among left-arm pacers alongside Wasim Akram and Trent Boult for most fifters. Mitchell Starc leads with nine, while Waqar Younis holds the overall ODI record with 13.

Dean Foxcroft then produced a fighting 75 off 72 balls, including seven sixes, and added 50 runs for the last wicket with Ben Lister to briefly revive New Zealand's hopes. However, his dismissal to Mehidy Hasan Miraz (2-36) ended the resistance as the visitors were bowled out for 210 in 44.5 overs.

Pacer Nahid Rana also took two wickets to finish with eight in the series and earned back-to-back Player of the Series awards, following the recent Pakistan ODI series.

Both teams will now turn their attention to a three-match T20I series, with the opener scheduled at the same venue on April 27.

East, Coimbatore South, and Dr Radhakrishnan Nagar.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin is contesting the 2026 Assembly elections from the Kolathur constituency in Chennai, hoping to secure another term as the CM. He will be contesting against AIADMK candidate P Santhana Krishnan.

Another candidate central to the Tamil Nadu polls this year is actor-turned politician Vijay, who is contesting the polls from two seats - Trichy East and Perambur. Vijay founded the political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) for his maiden polls, fielding 233 candidates in the polls.

The counting of votes for the states -- as well as Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry -- will take place on May 4.

"The stakes are high for the BNP. It should move quickly to take advantage of the narrow post-election window for political and economic reforms, and demonstrate to the Bangladeshi people that it is not simply reverting to past practices now that it is back in power," said the crisis group's Senior Consultant on Bangladesh and Myanmar, Thomas Kean.