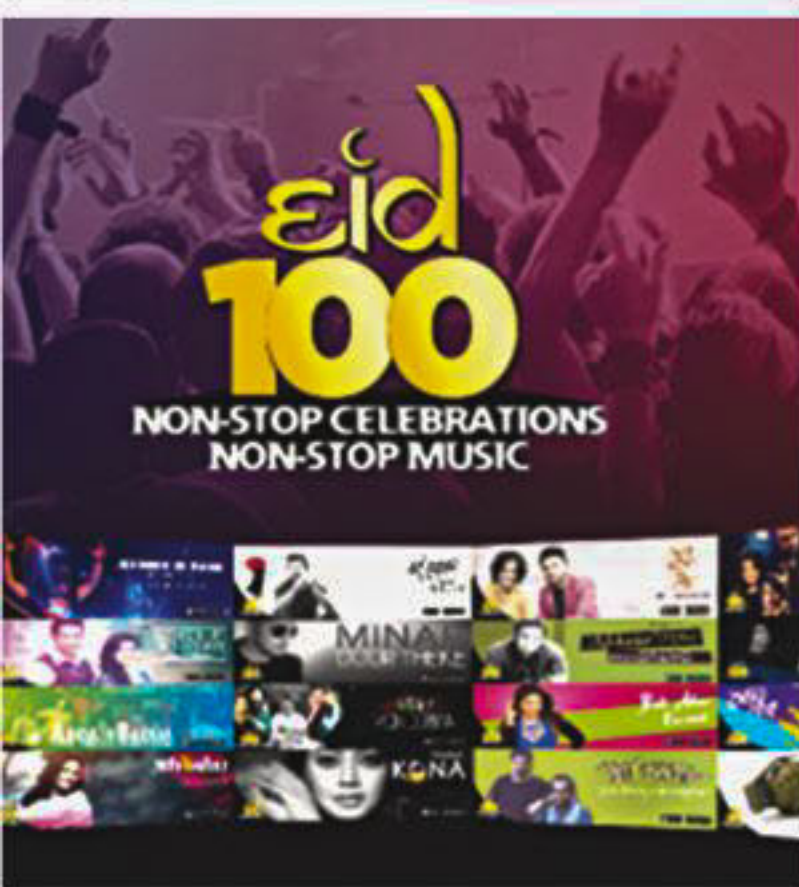


# NEWS bytes

## GP MUSIC brings Eid 100

To make the Eid celebrations more delightful, GP Music is presenting the music lovers of Bangladesh with GP Music Eid 100, an exclusive collection of one hundred albums and singles, says a press release.

With the theme "Non Stop Celebrations, Non Stop Music", GP Music's latest collection will include tracks by Tahsan, Shafin Ahmed, Kumar Bishwajit, Bappa Mazumder,



Joy Shahriar, Adit, Fuad and others. Moreover, there will be exclusive songs by Imran, Minar, Pritom and more.

The coveted release list also includes a brand new single from celebrated band Artcell, together with a new album by popular band Obscure. Bangladeshi artists and bands beyond the border are also bringing their collection to GP Music Eid 100. Lokkhi Terra, Shikhor Bangladesh All Stars and Shapla Salique will be making their marks on the music lovers' playlists. In addition, the collection features songs by international musical sensations like Papon and Subhamita.



A scene from "Khutinati Khunsuti."

## "No other festival in Bangladesh is as TV-centric as Eid" In conversation with Ashfaque Nipun

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Ashfaque Nipun has carved a niche among TV viewers of the country over the last few years with his stories and direction. With Eid just around the corner, he has his hands full with small screen projects. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Nipun spoke about his upcoming works, and about television's connection to Eid in Bangladesh. Excerpts:

"No festival in Bangladesh is as TV-centric as Eid. Throughout the year, we make TV plays without any assurance that the audience will sit down to watch it. But Eid is the only time when all families sit together and check out what's on television. As a result, we have more budget allocation and more viewership. But there is a downside too. We don't have enough quality writers and makers for all the entertainment channels we have, so to fill the time slots of all the channels, mediocre



makers and writers enter the scene; and because there are too many channels, the budget gets divided too. But overall, Eid is a good time for the TV fiction industry."

"I'm making three fictions this Eid. 'Khutinati Khunsuti', that stars Aupee Karim and Partha Barua as a married couple, takes place in Dhaka and Chittagong, and explores the dynamics of married life, its charms and its strug-

gles. It will air on ntv."

"I'm making another single-episode play for Channel i titled 'Bahana', set in old Dhaka. It's a story of an elderly father, his three sons and an adopted daughter. While the sons try to ensure they get the best share of the inheritance, the father knows exactly what he needs to do to get his boys in line. Mamunur Rashid, Lutfar Rahman George, Marzuk Russel, Azad and Nilanjona are acting in it."

"The other TV play is for Rtv. There will be a series of six plays based on short stories by six eminent writers on the channel this Eid – and I am doing an adaptation of Imdadul Haque Milon's 'O Radha O Krishno'. The story was adapted into a TV play in the 80s by Afzal Hossain starring Humayun Faridde and Subarna Mustafa, but I am doing an entirely contemporary, modern-day interpretation of the play, titled 'Koi Radha Koi Krishno'."

## ROQUAIYA HASINA NEELY'S sixth album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Rabindra Sangeet artiste Roquaiya Hasina Neely's sixth music album "Rabir Kiran" was launched recently. Bengal Music Company has produced the album featuring 10 Prem Parjaye songs.

With her rendition style, Neely's recordings shed light on the subtle nuances of emotions expressed in Tagore compositions. Each of the 10 songs on the album have been recorded with utmost devotion -- particularly "Amar Moner Majhe Je Gaan Bajey", "Biroho Modhur Holo Aji", "Shawon Gagoney", "Majhey Majhey Tobo Dekha Pai", "Amar Moner Koner Bairey" and "Emon Din-e Tarey Bola Jaye".

Neely completed a five-year course on Rabindra Sangeet from Chhayanaut. Drawing inspiration from her father, the late Rashidul Hasan, a Dhaka University teacher who was martyred during the Liberation War, Neely honed her talent under the revered Abdul Ahad, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Waheedul Haq, Zahidur Rahim and Ajit Roy. She has been singing Tagore songs for four decades. She also performs songs composed by Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajanikanta Sen.

Previously, the artiste has received the prestigious City Cell-Channel i Music Award in 2008. She also performed in India, Singapore, USA, Canada, Australia and Germany. At present Neely is the director and a trainer of cultural organisation "Abhyudoy", founded by Ajit Roy.



## Eid gifts: An array of gift options

FAYZA HAQ

Sharis and suits make for popular Eid gifts. If one is affluent, little pieces of jewellery will do the trick, while perfumes and cosmetics are also dear to many. Going in for ornate quilted rugs for best friends is a pleasant gesture too.

For those on a tight budget, home-made halwa or microwave- oven cooked fat-free shami kebabs may please friends and family. Also welcome on Eid, are cooked meals such as shepherd's pie or some trifle made from jelly and fruit. Some friends of Persian origin love to put a lot of almonds and currants in shemai, a dessert relished by many.

A short trip to Cox's Bazaar, or to Sylhet doesn't mean a drastic dip into the family savings and appears a kind gesture. Giving cuisine books or even handing an uncle a set of books on the two World Wars for Eid is thoughtful as are sets of pens and pencils. Also welcome are caged mynahs, a pair of rabbits or even potted cactus.

One doesn't necessarily have to give a shari for Eid. A bottle of branded eau de cologne will do just as well. Similarly, one doesn't have to part with a load of money to win the heart of a dear one -- a small object like a handmade doll, made from bits of fabrics and some left-over wool is welcome.

A home-made fruit cake or a small, elegantly wrapped gift will do for the occasion of Eid. A boneless hilsa, cooked under the pressure cooker and eaten for days, is just as welcome. Pots of achar (pickles), chutney or jam can be useful gifts. Similarly, paper lanterns and a set of beads-- neatly arranged in a cute gold and silver box, collected from left-over perfumes from overseas -- can be ideal.

Popping in to friend's houses to taste biryani or hapshi halwa or even coconut barfi and gajrela spells fun and frolic, so does delicious alu-puri.

Yes, Eid is for prayers. But it adds a touch of joie de vivre to visit family and friends, and engage in some harmless gossip.



## "Priyo Tarokar Shonge" on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, Arefin Shuvo and Bidya Sinha Mim will be appearing on-screen together on a celebrity show, titled "Priyo Tarokar Shonge," hosted by Shamim Shaded.

Regarding the talk show Shamim Shaded said, "Arefin Shuvo and Bidya

Sinha Mim are top favourites in the industry. This time we will be able to talk about their works and their life experiences on this special Eid show, and we all hope that the viewers will thoroughly enjoy it."

Produced by Shahed Shampad, the show will be telecast on the third day of Eid at 8:50pm on Banglavisision.



Bidya Sinha Mim flanked by Shamim Shaded and Arefin Shuvo.



LRB members with the organisers at the press meet.

Celebrated rock band LRB has released its latest album "Rakhe Allah Mare Ke" ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr on Robi Radio. Robi users can listen to the album exclusively by dialing 80805, says a press release.

Robi subscribers will be able to listen to the unreleased songs -- "Rakhe Allah Mare Ke", "Mon", "Nacho", "Tomra 11 Jon" from

the album. Moreover, all the interesting backstage stories of the songs will also be available on the radio.

The album was recently launched digitally at a press conference held at the corporate office of the telecom operator.

Ayub Bachchu and other members of LRB band; Robi's Chief Corporate and People

## Robi Radio brings LRB's Rakhe Allah Mare Ke

Officer (CCPO) Matiul Islam Nowshad; Executive Vice President, Business Operation, Jean-Michel Arnaud Chanut; Vice President, VAS, Viranga Seneviratne; General Manager, VAS, Mahmud Hassan Faisal, and Country Manager of Spice Digital Bangladesh Limited Rezwanul Huq Jami were present at the press meet.

## MONALISA -EMON in "Mister Perfectionist"

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Emon and Monalisa have paired up for Eid special single-episode TV play "Mister Perfectionist". This is the second time the duo will be seen together on the small screen.

About their on-screen reunion after six years, Monalisa shared, "We have worked before, but that was way before I could even recall. However, all our works were appreciated by the audience. Therefore, I have high hopes for this project."

Talking about his co-artist, Emon shared, "Monalisa is one of my favourite co-artists and by all means she is my very good friends. And the story is interesting too, I cannot think of any better project than this."

Written by Khairul Bashar Nirjhar and directed by Rashed Raha, the play will go on air on Maasranga Television.

