



(L) Zahid Hasan and Mousumi Mou in "Adorsho Boro Bhai". (M) Chitralkha Guha and Siddiqur Rahman in "Laikar Maa". (R) Tarin, Elina Shammi and Mamo in "Shahoshika 2".

Television industry at full-pace for Eid-ul-Adha specials

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Only a month is left for Eid-ul-Adha to arrive, and our television industry is working valiantly to meet their hectic deadlines. Celebrities are following hectic schedules, travelling from one shooting spot to another. Shooting houses at Uttara, locations like Old Dhaka and Pubail, are fully packed for the production of Eid tele-fictions.

Some of the prominent names in the small screen, including the likes of Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Apurba, Afran Nisho, Mehazabien Chowdhury, Tasnuva Tisha and Tajnin Tisha, among others, are all gearing up for the season.

Renowned actor Zahid Hasan has recently wrapped up shooting for Saidur Rahman Russell's directorial project, "Adorsho Boro Bhai". "Eid is the busiest time for actors and directors," says Zahid Hasan, "Since acting is our passion and love, we enjoy this time very much."

Tarin Jahan, Zakia Bari Mamo and Elina Shammi have completed shooting for the telefilm "Shahoshika 2", directed by Zibran Chowdhury. It will be aired on Deepto TV. Tareen shared that she will be



Chanchal Chowdhury and Tasnuva Tisha in "Chatok".

working on a few more fictions this Eid.

Scripted by Brindaban Das and directed by Niyaz Mahbub, the seven-episode drama, titled "Dream Tares" features Ahsan Habib Nasim and Ahana in the lead roles.

Mosharraf Karim will be working in Sohail Hasan's Eid project, which will start shooting next week. The actor will be featured in multiple projects by Shamim Zaman. "I try to give something special for the audience, especially during festivals," said Mosharraf Karim.

Director Shohag Gazi's seven-episode drama "Laikar Maa" will be aired on Nagorik television. The director informed that shooting for the project has been completed

recently. It featured Chitralkha Guha, Waliul Haq Rumi, among others.

Chanchal Chowdhury also confirmed that he will be taking part in several Eid productions.

Mehazabien Chowdhury and Afran Nisho's pair has given several hit Eid productions throughout the years. "Mehazabien and I will do several fictions during this Eid, and I will also be shooting with other actresses," says Nisho.

Meanwhile, director Shakal Ahmed is busy with his production "Chatok", scripted by Brindaban Das. It features Chanchal Chowdhury and Tasnuva Tisha.

Jennifer Aniston slam social media stars for being famous for 'nothing'

Jennifer Aniston slammed social stars for garnering fame and stardom with simply doing "nothing" on their own.

Jennifer told the Hollywood reporters that industry is slowly becoming all about "TikTok and Instagram followers".

"You're famous from TikTok. You're famous from YouTube. You're famous from Instagram. It's sort of almost like it's diluting our actor's job," said the actress.

The actress also took jibe at socialite Paris Hilton and Monica Lewinsky calling them out for gaining fame by simply being scandalous.

"The internet has really shaped a new culture about people becoming famous. This thing of people becoming famous for basically doing nothing. I mean see Paris Hilton, Monica Lewinsky, all those," the actress added.



"Samrat Prithviraj" to release on OTT after flopping in theatres

Akshay Kumar and Manushi Chhillar starrer "Samrat Prithviraj" has been disappointing at the box office. Shows have been cancelled at various places due to the lack of audience, and the film has grossed less than Rs 65 crore across India.

Yash Raj Films has decided to release "Samrat Prithviraj" on OTT, in just four weeks of its release. The film will premiere on Amazon Prime Video before the scheduled time to reduce the damage.

"Samrat Prithviraj" hit the theatres on June 3. The film is based on the life of Hindu emperor Prithviraj Chauhan. The film also stars Sanjay Dutt and Sonu Sood in pivotal roles.



NEWS

Ensure inclusive national election

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election] this year."

In a democratic society having an election system in place, a political party cannot stay out of election for long, according to Shamsul Huda.

"If we can create the environment, they would join the election," he added. "Let there be a government truly elected through fair polls in our country. Let's reduce the use of muscle power."

Another former CEC, KM Nurul Huda, said he believed that the current EC would be able to conduct a free and fair election, but for that it would require cooperation from all political parties.

He also said there is no need to deploy the army for election duty.

Former CEC Justice Abdur Rouf said the winning side terms the election process as fair while the losing side criticises the EC.

"If you want to keep things as it is and do not have the courage to change the situation, then at least set up one polling station for every 500 voters.... This will reduce the voting hours and voting will end by noon," he said.

"You can complete counting of votes in the daytime. The worst thing is that the counting of votes starts in the evening. And then we see jinnas and ghosts and everything else after the sunset."

He also proposed proportional representation, an electoral system in which the distribution of seats corresponds closely with the proportion of the total votes cast for each party.

For example, if a party gained 40 percent of the total votes, a perfectly proportional system would allow them to gain

40 percent of the seats, according to parliament.

Currently, Justice Abdur Rouf observed, political parties are in bad shape. There is no political party in true sense; they don't have a research cell or shadow secretariat; they don't have any vision for the development of the country. "They just make freestyle comments."

He also called for a change in the culture within the political parties.

Former EC Mahbub Talukdar said, "If the election is not participatory, it will not be acceptable nationally and internationally. On the other hand, the next national election will have to be of international standards. A neutral government is needed appointing senior EC officials as returning officers in place of the deputy commissioners."

He also suggested the public administration and home ministries be placed under the authority of the EC during the polls. "Activities of police must be strictly monitored and curbed at that time."

Former EC Mohammad Abu Halif said participation of all political parties in the national polls must be ensured. "But the Election Commission cannot be involved in this. If they become involved, they will see that nothing can be done."

During his tenure, the EC made many efforts to bring in those who boycotted the elections. "But that didn't happen. There was a lot of violence. If there were no elections at that time, there would have been more violence."

Former EC Shah Nawaz

uk. Currently, Justice Abdur Rouf observed, political parties are in bad shape. There is no political party in true sense; they don't have a research cell or shadow secretariat; they don't have any vision for the development of the country. "They just make freestyle comments."

Former EC Shah Nawaz

said the electronic voting machine (EVM) is a very advanced technology and there is no chance of hacking it, as it does not have internet connections.

But the main problem in using it in elections is interference by "goons" who forcibly press the EVM buttons for the voters, he added. "If you can prevent this, trust in the machines will increase."

Former EC secretary M Abdullah too emphasised on participation of all political parties in the election. "If you can bring all political parties into the polls, you will be 80 percent successful."

Another former EC secretary Mohammed Sadique proposed using EVM in elections. He opposed the staggered elections and setting up CCTV cameras at polling stations was an ambitious project.

CEC Kazi Habibur Awal told reporters after the talks that everybody spoke for an inclusive election for it to be accepted. But the EC alone does not hold the election; voters and political parties are vital stakeholders here.

If they lack mutual understanding, it is difficult for the EC to conduct such elections, he added.

"We will start discussion with political parties. We will seek suggestions from them about the kind of structural changes we need to hold free and fair elections," he said.

He added that no single person can hold a fair election; free and fair elections require a proper system.

The EC started the talks on March 13 and so far held five rounds of dialogues with academics, eminent citizens, journalists and election observers.

They will also hold talks with political parties.

Amend DSA

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Mohiuddin Sarkar Naem, a journalist based in Cumilla.

The murders formed a broader trend of violence against journalists in the country.

Between January and May, as many as 118 journalists were physically attacked in 62 incidents, according to the statement.

"Continued violence against journalists across the country, including the filed cases and arrests of journalists under the deeply flawed Digital Security Act of 2018, the recent brutal killings of three media workers, as well as the internationally talked about journalist couple Sagar-Runi murder case in which the submission of an investigation report has been deferred for 89th time so far prove that the violation of the rights of journalists and crimes against journalists indicate the persisting culture of impunity and increasingly fragile state of freedom of expression in Bangladesh."

This has created an atmosphere and culture of fear and self-censorship, it added.

Forex reserves

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opening up and trade resuming in full swing, the cushion started lessening.

Along with the declining remittance and global inflation as a result of the disruptions in the supply chain for the pandemic, the reserves came under pressure.

Between July last year and April this year, imports averaged \$7.4 billion a month. A year earlier, it was \$5.2 billion.

With Malaysia's political

KL's turn to prove them wrong

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selection would be based.

According to the experts, Imran's acceptance of Saravanan's proposal is worrying, as the history of labour migration from Bangladesh to Malaysia was never smooth.

According to the history of labour migration from Bangladesh to Malaysia, after a formal beginning of recruitment in 1992, the latter had kept its doors closed for Bangladeshi workers for nearly a decade from 1997. It however opened them temporarily in the 2000 when some 20,000 workers were granted work visas.

Migration then resumed in full swing again in 2006 but closed in early 2009 when thousands of migrants alleged joblessness, abuse and non-payment of salaries.

Then in 2012, recruitment restarted under the G2G arrangements. Over the next three years, only around 10,000 Bangladeshis were able to get jobs in Malaysia.

Analysts said this was due to powerful lobbyists that worked against recruitment under government arrangement.

In 2016, a new MoU - G2G Plus - was signed between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur. Despite Bangladesh's strong opposition, the then Malaysian government selected only 10 recruitment agencies out of the 745 most eligible ones.

Initially, the migration cost in the MoU was set at Tk 37,000, which was eventually raised to Tk 1.6 lakh. However, in reality, each migrant had to pay Tk 3-4 lakh.

With Malaysia's political

changeover in 2018, the then Mahathir government again closed the migration door for Bangladeshis, citing massive corruption, labour exploitation and other anomalies as reasons. A portion of those in power and a strong business lobby were reportedly behind a syndicate that practised those.

After signing the new MoU with Bangladesh in December last year, Saravanan wrote to Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad on January 14 saying Malaysia would select 25 Bangladeshi agents and 250 subagents for labour recruitment.

Publicly, Saravanan argued that he increased the number of agencies from the previous 10 and cannot allow all agencies to operate as "Malaysia will become a dumping ground for Bangladeshis like in 2007-08."

This argument, however, is not valid.

Malaysian NGO Tenaganita in a research found several anomalies in the Malaysian home ministry's approval of

the quotas demanded by the employers of foreign workers. This means Malaysian employers recruited excessive workers because that meant more money for them.

"It was the Malaysian government that was to blame [for such a high number of migrants], not the number of [recruitment] agencies," said Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, who led the research.

Replying to Saravanan on January 18, Imran Ahmad stressed on allowing all valid Bangladeshi recruiting agencies and ensuring transparency. He highlighted the Bangladesh Competition Act 2012 and the International Labour Organisation's charters on overseas labour recruitment.

Over the last few months, members of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies and even some agencies, who were part of the previous 10-member syndicate that manipulated the recruitment in 2017-18, also protested the new syndication through press conferences and human chains.

They argued they had enough experience of how the syndication is not effective, though they were the beneficiaries of the system.

Despite all the allegations, Malaysian Minister Saravanan came here, met Imran Ahmad and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and announced his mandate.

Though he said Bangladeshi migrants will have to pay no fees, local recruiting agents refuse to believe it.

It is now Saravanan's turn to prove them wrong.

Investigators have said the depot had at least 27 containers carrying hydrogen peroxide which led to the deadly explosion.

Asked about the bureaucrats who have been working for over three years, ACC Commissioner Jahurul said, "We've begun the process [transfer]. It will gradually be applied to others too."

Two more

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Firefighter Gausul Azam died at the ICU of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in the capital, said its Resident Surgeon SM Aiyub Hossain.

Gausul, 22, who had 70 percent of his body burnt, was flown to Dhaka from Chattogram, the physician said.

Hailing from Jashore, Gausul joined the fire service in 2018. He left behind his wife and a six-month-old boy.

Investigators have said the depot had at least 27 containers carrying hydrogen peroxide which led to the deadly explosion.