



Chanchal Chowdhury



Apu Biswas



Bidya Sinha Mim

## Celebrities on their DURGA PUJA PLANS

**After marriage, this is my first puja, and I have a lot of new plans surrounding my new family. We have not decided yet, we can even go outside the country.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Festivities have returned, with the celebration of Durga Puja this year. Surrounding the celebration, stars have shared their plans of how they are going to celebrate one of the most colourful festivals in the country.

**To me, puja holidays mean going to the village: Chanchal Chowdhury**  
Since I am busy all year round, during Durga Puja, I take a break from work. I love spending this time with my family. We will go to our hometown, Pabna, and stay around 6 days. The best part of this vacation is that all of the family members are going to reunite, and enjoy the festival together.

Whenever I visit my hometown, people from around the place come to see me, and I really enjoy this a lot. I try to spend time with them, as we get to see our relatives after a long time.

**Will visit Bharateswari Homes for a day: Aruna Biswas**

I try to visit Bharateswari Homes every alternate year. This year I am going for a day. I have a lot of memories there, as I was a student there. I have a lot of friends there from my school. Many of our mates come there during puja, and it feels amazing to reunite with them.



Aruna Biswas

At the same time, my brother Mithu will also return from Canada. This is another reason this puja is special to me. I wish everyone a happy Durga Puja, may this festival bring joy to our lives.

**I miss my mother during puja: Apu Biswas**  
I will be in Kolkata to spend this year's puja. I plan to spend a few days there with Joy. What I will miss the most is my mother and celebrating puja in Bangladesh. It is still hard to believe that Maa is not more with me. Every

year, we used to plan a lot of things before puja would begin.

Also, my film "Isha Kha" has also released, and I am excited about it. I would request my fans to go to theatres to watch the film. May this puja bring joy to everyone's lives.

**This year's Puja is very special to me: Bidya Sinha Mim**

Festivals always excite me. During the festival, we roam around many places, with our loved ones, we get to meet our cousins. It is all about having fun together, with our favourite feasts.

This year, my life and career are a lot different. This puja is special for me.

After marriage, this is my first puja, and I have a lot of new plans surrounding my new family. We have not decided yet, we can even go outside the country.

I have always believed that festival is for everyone. Let the mood of this festival spread everywhere.

**I wait an entire year for Durga Puja: Bappy Chowdhury**

Durga Puja is synonymous with festivities. I wait the entire year for it, and it fills my heart with joy. My city of Narayanganj is adorned with various festoons, banners and paraphernalia – it truly feels like something special. I love to wear Panjabi during this time. I convey my respects to my parents, friends and family visit my home. I'm going to be visiting a lot of mandaps this year. I wish a happy Durga Puja to everyone!



Bappy Chowdhury

## Bangladeshi film 'Adim' headed to Queens World Film Festival

Juboraj Shamim's film "Adim" (The Instinct) will soon be screened in New York. The much-talked-about film will be screened at the Queens Theatre and the Museum of the Moving Image.

Juboraj Shamim stated that the authorities of the Queens World Film Festival confirmed the news via email on September 21.

The first screening of the film will take place for selective guests only – including festival organisers, jury board, film directors, producers, distributors, and other film members. Then, the second screening will be held for audiences, who will have to pay a small fee to see the movie.

The festival will run between November 1-6.

## Mahira Khan to make debut in Hollywood alongside Will Smith?

Pakistani actress Mahira Khan might soon make her Hollywood debut opposite Will Smith, in Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's film "Brilliance". The movie is an adaptation from the novel of the same name.

The makers are yet to make any official announcement regarding the cast of the film. "Brilliance" is likely to be produced under the banner of Will Smith's production house, Westbrook Studios. It has been reported that Mahira Khan is in the final stages of discussion to join the cast of the film.

"Brilliance" is set in the future, where non-neurotypical people are shunned by society as 'abnormal'.



## COUNTRYWIDE

### Schoolground remains waterlogged half the year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Academic and co-curricular activities at a government primary school in Maheshpur upazila are being badly hampered as most portion of the school compound remained under stagnant water for over six months due to absence of proper drainage system.

A number of guardians said the schoolground goes under knee-deep water even after a moderate rain, much to the sufferings of students and teachers.

As a result, students and teachers of the institution have to wade through the water to go to the classrooms.

Moreover, the rest part of the schoolground, which is covered with large holes created from the demolition of an old building, had not been filled yet, they said, adding that teachers often hold the assembly on the balcony or in the

classroom.

Every year, the playground of Mandartala Government Primary School, covering 72 decimals of land, goes under water during the monsoon and remains waterlogged for nearly six months of the year.

However, there is a narrow path in front of the main building to walk to the classroom.

**Students and teachers of the institution have to wade through the muddy water to go to the classrooms.**

Most of the students of the institution complained that they could no longer use the playground for playing.

The school, established in 1955, has two buildings that housed four classrooms and an office room.

Headmaster of the institution

Mosharraf Hossain said the school currently has 226 students and six teachers.

The institution secured 100 percent pass rate in the last couple of years, but the current environment is in an appalling condition, he said.

Sometimes, teachers have to take off their shoes and fold up their trousers to go to and from school, the headmaster said.

The schoolground needs earth filling so that water cannot remain there, he said, adding that they have submitted letters to the authorities concerned and local public representatives in this regard, but to no avail.

Rezaul Islam, an assistant teacher of the school, said due to the stagnant water teachers and students cannot move freely and hold the assembly in the school compound. Maheshpur Upazila Primary Education Officer Abu Hasan said they were taking measured to fill the schoolground.



The compound of Mandartala Government Primary School in Moulvibazar's Maheshpur upazila remains waterlogged for nearly six months of the year.

PHOTO: STAR

### Scientists find

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water on Mars today because it means that two of the key pieces of evidence we would look for when searching for subglacial lakes on Earth have now been found on Mars.

"Liquid water is an essential ingredient for life, although it does not necessarily mean that life exists on Mars.

### A voice in history

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national and global political, economic and social events. BBC has been close to all public exam candidates."

He said though the BBC Bangla programme will be heard online, not all people, especially in the rural areas, can avail smartphones or internet. "I would request the British authorities to continue the radio service."

BBC Bangla radio broadcast began with a 15-minute weekly programme on October 11, 1941 and launched its website in 2005.

It proposed seven more language services move to digital only, modelling the success of others, which are already offering purely digital services and performing well with audiences. This means that nearly half of all 41 language services will be digital only.

Journalist-researcher Afsan Chowdhury, who worked for BBC Bangla, said BBC was always the most important radio service to Bangladeshis even before 1971, but during Liberation War, it became the ultimate radio platform that everyone turned to.

While Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro was representative of the Bangladesh movement, BBC provided accurate news and international support. It signified the global nature and support for the war, he wrote in an opinion run by UNB yesterday.

It was after 1971, under an independent flag, that saw the reputation of the BBC grow. "... the hunger for information was satisfied mostly by the BBC broadcast, along with other foreign outlets."

He further said, "All good things do come to an end when the time comes and the wheels of change will bring forth new media forms and content, which will all be welcomed. But the memory of BBC Bangla radio will live on."

### War escalates

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sign at the town's entrance in Donetsk region's north, a video posted by the president's chief of staff showed.

Neither side's battlefield assertions could be independently verified.

Russia has used Lyman as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Its fall would be Ukraine's biggest battlefield gain since a lightning counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region last month.

The Ukrainian military spokesperson said the capture of Lyman would allow Kyiv to advance into the Luhansk region, whose full capture Moscow announced at the beginning of July after weeks of slow, grinding advances.

### Efforts on to bring him back

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and corruption, nepotism and culture of impunity in the country, the PM added.

The AL president said some organisations are talking about human rights situation in Bangladesh and have provided a list of the victims of disappearances) containing names of two Indians. But they are now being seen in the BNP's processions, she said.

The premier reiterated her call for the expatriate Bangladeshis to raise voice against the anti-state propaganda and to work for brightening the country's image abroad.

"Some people are saying whatever they wish against Bangladesh every day on social media taking the advantage of Digital Bangladesh built by us."

Hasina calling upon all expatriates to give a befitting reply to them.

She said some Bangladeshis, who fled the country after committing crimes, and also relatives of war

Donetsk and Luhansk regions together make up the wider Donbas region that has been a major focus for Russia since soon after the start of Moscow's invasion on Feb. 24 in what it called a "special military operation" to demilitarise its neighbour.

Putin proclaimed the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk and the southern regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia to be Russian land in Friday's ceremony – a swathe of territory equal to about 18 percent of Ukraine's total surface land area.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials yesterday accused Russia of gunning down 24 civilians, including children, in an attack on a road convoy near a recently recaptured town in the eastern Kharkiv region.

criminals and killers of Bangabandhu were behind the anti-state propaganda.

The PM said construction of the Padma Bridge was a great challenge for Bangladesh as there was a deep-rooted conspiracy and propaganda against it.

"Unfortunately, prominent personalities of Bangladesh were behind the conspiracy. But we have finally built the Padma Bridge with our own financing facing all challenges."

The premier vowed to build a Sonar Bangla free from hunger, poverty and all forms of exploitations as envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She asked the expatriates to present all these issues before the US politicians when they would visit them for seeking vote.

Hasina also called upon them to send remittance through legal channels.

### Bangladesh, India

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"The first game is always important because it sets the tone for the rest of the tournament. It also boosts the team's morale going forward.

Obviously, the pitch at the World Cup qualifiers and this pitch is different. I feel like we should win convincingly against teams like Thailand," Nigar said.

Later in the day, India registered

41-run win over Sri Lanka after posting 150 for six courtesy of Jemimah Rodrigues, who top-scored with 76 runs off 53 balls. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur added 33 runs.

In reply, Sri Lanka were bundled out for 109. Nilakshi de Silva top-scored with 30. Dylan Hemalatha bagged three wickets for India while Pooja Vastrakar and Deepti Sharma took two wickets each.