



EID VIBES FOR CELEBS

As we grow up, the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the biggest celebrations of the Muslim community, changes meaning. The definition of Eid and what it means varies from person to person, and our celebrities are no different. The Daily star talked to a few top celebrities in the country, and here is how they see Eid.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

“As a child, I used to celebrate Eid in Pirojpur, mostly,” shares Siam Ahmed. “I cherish the moments shared with all the cousins, as we would gather after a long time.”

Ganging up with all his cousins, Siam would visit all of the relatives’ houses and collect ‘salami’. “There would be a competition amongst all of us about who could collect the highest amount of ‘salami’.

Nusraat Faria is gearing up for her new music video titled *Bujhina To Tai* this Eid. The actress recently ended her relationship with her fiancé. “Please, don’t say it like we broke up the relationship. I would say we both took a mutual decision that works for us. We are still in touch and co-parenting our cats. We are good friends now. So, it’s all fine.” She is looking forward to spending Eid with the success of her new music video.

Arifin Shuvo likes to be lazy on Eid day. “This is the only day we get to do as we like,” says the *Mission Extreme* actor. “I will be at home spending the entire day until the evening, as I will meet my family and friends for dinner – this is the only occasion we get to meet and spend time with them.”



“My daughter, Ayra will get new clothes from her grand-parents, uncles, aunts,” shared Rafiath Rashid Mithila. “Ayra loves putting mehendi, and usually she is the most excited about ‘chaand raat’, because she gets to put on mehendi.” The actress spoke about her grandmother, who passed away a few months ago. “This will be the first Eid without my *dadi*,” said Mithila. “I will miss her so much.”

Badhan’s childhood memories of Eid were deeply ingrained by the beautiful moments spent at her grandparents’ house. The nostalgia and the banter still remain fresh in her mind and soul.

“I had to spend Eid-ul-Fitr in our maternal grandparent’s house in Dhaka while the Qurbani Eid was celebrated in my paternal grandparent’s house in Bikrampur, Munshiganj which is now called Srinagar. When we used to stay in *Mofossal*, I used to wait to go to Dhaka as all my cousins are there.

“This Eid will be really special for our family, as we have been blessed with a little bundle of joy ‘Azma Haque’, my eldest brother’s daughter, who came into our lives on March 12,” said National Award winner Badhan to The Daily Star. “I live with my parents and my brother also stays with us so we will be busy taking care of the little angel.”



PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

Pori Moni to anchor BTV show



Although Dhallywood actor Pori Moni has been busy enjoying the joys of motherhood, leading to her being somewhat inactive on the showbiz front, she will soon be seen hosting a celebrity magazine show for this Eid.

Titled *Tarar Mela*, the show will be aired on BTV Chattogram on Eid day at 9 pm. The programme will be a star-studded affair, as Apu Biswas and Prarthana Fardin Dighi will be performing in the special dance segments of the show.

Pori Moni is currently in Chattogram, finishing the shooting of the show.

Chanchal, Shaon back with new duet track

After the success of *Juboti Radhe*, the duo of Chanchal Chowdhury and Meher Afroz Shaon are back to entertain the audience this Eid, with a new song. Titled *Dhaka Shohor Aisha Amar*, the song will be released on IPDC Amader Gaan.

In a special episode of the show, *IPDC Amader Gaan tribute to Gazi Mazharul Anwar*, the duo will perform the classic song *Dhaka Shohor Aisha Amar*. The song was originally used in the film, *Oshikkhito*, directed by Azizur Rahman in 1978. The 1978 version of the song was voiced by Shammi Akhtar and Khondokar Faruk Ahmed.

The song will be released on the Facebook and YouTube pages of IPDC on the day before Eid.



COUNTRYWIDE

Hard days for shital pati makers

MINTU DESHWARA

The life of Harendra Kumar Das, an experienced craftsman from Dhulijora village in Moulvibazar’s Rajnagar upazila, is wrapped in the beauty of cool mat, also known as shital pati.

But now the elderly craftsman, who travelled many countries around the world and received huge praises, is worried about maintaining the reputation and tradition of the century-old crafts.

Moreover, his passion of weaving shital pati has halted due to shortage of capital. Dhulijora village in Panchgaon union has a huge reputation for producing quality shital pati.

There was a time, when over a hundred families of the village used to weave shital pati for generations.

Nowadays many shital pati artisans have changed their professions, but shital pati has now become a part of world heritage.

In 2017, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) included shital pati in the list of important intangible cultural heritage of the world.

While talking to this correspondent Harendra said he has been involved in the industry for nearly 40 years.

As a reward for his work, he has appeared in many fairs organised by various organizations and also travelled to Japan, Korea, Nepal, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka with his own made crafts.

He said the century-old industry is on the verge of extinction due to shortage of raw materials, financial crisis and lack of proper marketing and monitoring.

However, only a few people like Harendra Kumar, Gopal Das, Govinda Das, Pramesh Das, Dwijendra Das of Dhulijora village are still trying to keep the industry alive.

Many shital pati artisans said it takes about 15 days to weave a plain Shitalpati which is sold at Tk three to Tk four thousand.

On the other hand, it takes nearly a month to weave a designed shital pati. A designed shital pati is sold at Tk seven to Tk fifteen thousand, depending on craftsmanship.

According to locals, about 25 years ago the village used to produce at least 100 shital patis every week, but now it is difficult to calculate the number.

Another artisan Nirendra Kumar Das of Gagra village in Barlekha said he learned the weaving from his father and grandfather at an early age.

According to Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Moulvibazar Office, once a number of villages in Barlekha, Juri, Rajnagar and Moulvibazar Sadar upazila used to produce shital pati, but now only one or two villages continuing the trade.

Deputy Manager at Moulvibazar BCIC Billal Hossain said they were providing loans up to Tk 50 thousand to Tk 2 lakh, which can be return in instalments.

Don’t indulge in mudslinging

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She called upon AL men across the country to remain vigilant of arson attacks by BNP-Jamaat.

Greeting the party men on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Hasina advised the leaders to increase contacts with the party activists and the ordinary people.

She directed them to inquire about the beneficiaries of government projects and continue communications with the people during the Eid holidays.

The PM instructed Chhatra League President Saddam Hussain and General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Enan to form

the BCL’s fully-fledged committee soon after Eid.

Briefing journalists before the meeting, Quader said democratic practices will follow the constitution, not the instructions of any individual.

“Evil forces who are emerging under the leadership of the BNP will be resisted under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina. We are preparing for the [next national] election according to the constitution. We will resist whatever obstacles may come in the way,” said the AL general secretary.

He alleged that the BNP was making ill-efforts to make the election

questionable.

“I would like to tell those at home and abroad, who want to overthrow Sheikh Hasina’s government unjustly and by creating chaos without any reason, we will not let them create an unusual situation like that of 1/11.”

AL presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar Ullah, Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Shahjahan Khan, Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Organising Secretary SM Kamal Hossain, Science and Technology Affairs Secretary Abdus Sabur, and central executive committee member Anwar Hossain were present at the meeting.

Eid journey largely trouble-free

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during the Eid and that was why bus operators charge people extra to cover the losses.

Jalal Uddin had to wait almost two hours at Sayedabad to get a ticket for Gopalganj. He paid Tk 700 when the actual fare is Tk 488.

Abu Bakkar Helal, a traffic inspector at the terminal, said they took punitive action against four buses for overcharging.

The crowd at Gabtoli was small when one of these correspondents visited between 1:00pm and

2:00pm.

Gabtoli is seeing fewer passengers this year as many buses serving the south started operating from Sayedabad instead after the Padma Bridge opened.

Thousands left Dhaka on trains that were mostly on time, said Shahalam Kiran Shishir, division commercial officer (Dhaka division) of Bangladesh Railway.

However, many passengers, who gathered at Kamalapur for sanding tickets, failed to get any. The number of standing tickets BR was selling was 25

percent of the Shovan Chair seats each train had.

Shishir said BR operated 56 trains, including 40 intercity trains and three special trains, yesterday.

A large number of passengers travelled from Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday, said Alangir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

He said the number of launch passengers decreased as many opted to travel by road since it is quicker via Padma Bridge. He said as of 8:00pm, 70 launches left the terminal.

Dhaka, Tokyo

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“Japan is our major development and trade partner. So, it is important to ensure that our products are competitive there and we can draw more investments from Japan,” said a foreign ministry official.

Former Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki earlier said Japan wants to take the bilateral trade to \$20 billion by 2030 from the current \$3 billion.

The number of Japanese companies in Bangladesh tripled over the last 10 years and was 338 in 2022. Most of them want to expand.

Bangladesh is the largest recipient of Japan’s overseas development assistance. Since Bangladesh’s independence, Japan has provided \$24.72 billion.

Japan has funded some of the major infrastructure projects including Matarbari deep sea port, the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Araihaazar Special Economic Zone, and metro rail in Dhaka.

Recently, Japan has proposed developing an industrial hub in Bangladesh with supply chains to the landlocked northeastern states of India, and to Nepal and Bhutan by developing a port and transport network

in the region.

“We are supportive of regional connectivity and trade. We appreciate such a proposal by Japan and are eager to work together,” a foreign ministry official said.

A Japanese diplomat in Dhaka told this correspondent that as part of Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific policy, Japan wants to see socio-economic development in the Bay of Bengal region and an end to the Rohingya crisis.

“We cannot have a stable and developed region leaving the Rohingya crisis unresolved,” the diplomat said.

Foreign ministry officials said Dhaka would make a strong appeal to Japan for helping solve the Rohingya crisis.

“We hope to start a new era in our relationship with Japan. The country has been a true friend for us since our independence,” an official said.

During her trip, Hasina will also attend a community reception, an investment summit, and hand over the “Friends of Liberation War Honour” to four Japanese nationals for their contribution to the independence of Bangladesh.



Craftsman Nirendra Kumar of Gagra village in Moulvibazar’s Barlekha is seen busy weaving a shital pati at his resident.

PHOTO: STAR

Temperature likely to dip in a day or two

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division, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Moulvibazar, Rangamati and Bandarban districts and other parts of Rajshahi division, the Met office added.

Yesterday’s highest temperature was 42.8 degrees Celsius in Chuadanga and Ishwardi of Pabna.

Rashed Chowdhury, adjunct professor at School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built

Environment of Arizona State University, said a jet stream, relatively narrow bands of strong wind in the upper levels of the atmosphere, that flow from west to east is thought to be responsible for this heatwave.

“The hypothesis is that the changing temperature difference between the equator and the North Pole could slow down this key weather maker (the jet stream), especially during the

summer,” he said while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

These kinds of interconnected heatwaves could become even more extreme in the future, as human-caused climate change affects the jet streams, he added.

People across the country are reeling from the unbearable heat over the last couple of days.

Meanwhile, poultry farmers are also facing challenges as broiler chickens are dying of heatstroke.

Shahinur Rahman, a farmer of Belgacha union of Kurigram Sadar upazila, said he is rearing 1,000 broilers but 30 chickens died of heatstroke over the last four days.

Poultry farmer Mehedi Hasan of Harishwar Kaloa village in the upazila said it had become difficult to control the temperature in his chicken shed as power cuts render the electric fans useless.