

Theatre or living room?

Our picks for your Eid entertainment

Eid is a time for joy and celebration. While the best use of this time is undoubtedly to go out and meet your family, another long-standing tradition is to watch your favourite stars work their magic on-screen. We present to you our picks for the best films and OTT projects you can watch this year.

Films:
'Leader Amie Bangladesh'
Shakib Khan's new film, *Leader Amie Bangladesh*, has already set the gears in motion to become a hit. It has garnered a positive reaction from the audience. In this film, directed by Topu Khan, Shakib will act opposite Shabnom Bubby.

The two songs in this film, *Kotha Ache* and *Surma Surma* are trending all over the country, and the fans are eagerly awaiting the release of the film.

'Laal Shari'
Apu Biswas's debut production film, *Laal Shari*, is based on the lives and struggles of handloom weavers. The *Koti Takar Kabin* actress will be seen opposite Symon Sadik in the government-funded film. Directed by Bandhan Biswas, the first song of the film, *Ronge Ronge Shonghe Shonghe*, received positive reviews from the audience.

'Kill Him'
Actor-business tycoon AJ is

no stranger to Eid releases. Now, Ananta, and Barsha will be returning this Eid to entertain the audience with their new film, *Kill Him*. The musical number and trailer of the film have already created a buzz among audiences.

Directed by Mohammad Iqbal, *Kill Him* will portray Ananta Jalil in the role of an agent. This will mark the first time Ananta and Barsha will be working on a film outside of their own productions.

'Local'
Another film by Shabnom Bubby, *Local* directed by Saif Chandan has received a lot of praise from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board. The story and dialogue for the film have been written by Ferari Forhad. In this film, Bubby will be seen opposite actor Ador Azad.

The movie has everything, starting with crime, politics, romance, and adventure, which makes it a perfect film for Eid.

'Paap'
Jaaz Multimedia will be coming to this Eid with their new film, *Paap*. Directed by Saikat Nasir, the film stars Bobby and Ziaul Roshan in the lead roles.

In this film, Bobby plays the role of a detective. The poster and the trailer have already created anticipation for the release of the film.

'Jinn'
Jaaz Multimedia's horror film *Jinn* is already the talk of the town because of this unusual '1 Lakh' challenge. Although so far nobody has been able to watch the film alone, surely it increases the curiosity of the audience.

Nader Chowdhury has directed the horror film *Jinn*. The film will see the first-ever on-screen pairing of Shajal Noor and Puja Chery.

OTT Projects:
'Mohanagar 2' (Hoichoi)

After the tremendous success of Mohanagar Hoichoi, the director of the

series, Ashfaque Nipun, is back with its second season.

The cop-crime thriller recently released a teaser of the show on its official channel and social media pages. The first season of the series was thrilling, ending with an unfinished story. The audience has been waiting for the truth to be revealed, and the ultimate consequence that OC Harun has to face.

Just ahead of Eid, the second season of the series was released yesterday (April 20).

'Myself Allen Swapan' (Chorki)
The witty and funny Allen Swapan will be back with his smuggling business this upcoming Eid, as the new teaser revealed the release date of the spin-off series, *Myself Allen Swapan* directed by Shihab Shaheen.

With Chorki's original series, *Syndicate*, last year, Nasir Uddin Khan carved a place in the hearts of the audience by overshadowing the big stars. In that series, he played the role of a leader of the money laundering group, Allen Swapan.

The series also stars Rafiath Rashid

Mithila as the wife of Allen Swapan, Shimla, Sentu, and Sumon Anwar, among others.

The series will be released the day before Eid.

'Made in Chittagong' (Binge)
Released on November 18 in just a few cinema halls in Chittagong, the audience now can enjoy Partha Barua and Aparna Ghose starrer *Made in Chittagong* from their drawing room.

Directed by Imraul Rafat, the film has been made in the regional language of Chattogram. The film also stars Chittralekha Guha and Nasir Uddin Khan, among others.

'Shohore Onek Rod' (Deepto Play)
After the success of *Network Er Baire* and *Unish 20* in Chorki, Mizanur Rahman Aryan will again entertain the audience with a sweet romantic flash film *Shohore Onek Rod*. The film features Khairul Basar and Sabila Nur in the lead roles.

'Hotel Relax' (Bongo)
Bachelor Point famed director Kaja Arefin Ome is making his OTT debut with this web-series.

The star-studded cast includes Purnima, Polash, Mishu Sabbir, and Marzuk Russell, among others. Purnima will be portraying the role of a police officer in the series.



COUNTRYWIDE

Aziz, a role model for farmers

SHYKH SERAJ

Abdul Aziz, a resident of Shaliaboh village in Tangail's Ghatail upazila, is the most recognized farmer in Bangladesh.

He has earned the reputation by growing various types of crops like guava, lemon, malta, orange, tang, and many other fruits.

Every year in the Bengali month of Baishakh, he distributes free saplings among hundreds of people in his locality and he did the same as well this year.

He thinks the whole landscape can be changed by planting trees, filled with greenery.

He has appeared in many episodes of Hridoye Mati O Manush in the last one and a half decades.

In 2008, he achieved Channel i Agriculture Award as one of the most innovative farmers of the country.

For years, many farmers have followed Chasha (farmer) Aziz and built their own fruit orchards.

Aziz is not concerned about his wealth at all, rather his deep

attraction is towards the soil, farming and farmers.

I had the opportunity to visit Aziz's home on many occasions and I went there again in February this year.

According to Aziz, although nursery traders of the country are selling different varieties of fruit saplings, it is important to know which ones are suitable for our soil.

Aziz walked around his orchard and showed oranges in many trees have dried up.

Aziz said all types of oranges do not produce well in the soil of our country.

He hopes to earn Tk 10 lakh from his three-acre orange orchard this year.

Readers, as I said earlier, Aziz's patience and commitment to the society amazed me.

He doesn't just want to succeed alone, but he wants others to achieve more and more.

When he started cultivating malta 10 years back, he distributed his first harvest among the villagers

and students.

Aziz said to raise a mixed fruit orchard is best for rural farming families so that they can get year-round benefits.

He is particularly optimistic about commercial orange production.

Aziz took me to a local primary school premises on the Pahela Baishakh, 1430, where he distributed oranges and orange saplings among every student free of cost.

The production of oranges is increasing, but still, local orange market is not that prosperous.

In this case, farmers feel that the import policy needs to be revised.

Aziz said to increase the production of local fruits and crops, it is necessary to reduce the import quantity for at least one season.

I believe, the skill Aziz is creating in terms of sustainable and profitable agriculture will guide many unemployed youths in the country. It will also play an important role in expanding the market for high-yielding or new fruit crops across the country.



Abdul Aziz, third from left, distributes orange saplings among some school students in Tangail's Ghatail upazila.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Indian court rejects Rahul Gandhi's plea

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Naishadh Desai told reporters, adding that the verdict would be appealed in the Gujarat High Court.

Critics highlight that the defamation conviction came after Gandhi repeatedly raised the issue of Modi's relationship with business tycoon Gautam Adani both inside and outside parliament.

The two men -- both

Gujaratis -- have been close associates for decades, but Adani's business empire has been subject to renewed scrutiny this year after a US investment firm accused it of "brazen" corporate fraud, which it denies.

Gandhi, currently on bail, is the leading face of the Congress party, once the dominant force in Indian politics but now a shadow of its former self.

He is the scion of India's premier political dynasty and the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, beginning with independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru.

But he has struggled to challenge the electoral juggernaut of Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its nationalist appeals to the country's Hindu majority.

In an appeal filed this

month, Gandhi's lawyers argued the trial was "harsh" and excessive.

They also said that if the trial court's decision was not stayed, it would cause irreparable damage to his reputation.

The sentence renders Gandhi ineligible to stand in next year's election, which Modi's party is widely expected to win convincingly.

Japanese firm tipped to get the job

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HSIA, with its own manpower. Biman does the ground and cargo handling in all eight airports.

Amid widespread dissatisfaction of government high-ups over poor luggage handling services, CAAB decided to outsource the job to a company that can deliver international standard services and serve passengers in the best possible way.

Passengers at the HSIA have been facing

problems like mishandling of luggage for years. Sometimes passengers have to wait more than an hour after arrival to get their luggage.

"Although Biman is trying to improve the quality of services... it's not enough. We want to ensure international standard ground handling services at the third terminal," CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said, adding, "At the same time, it will help increase the government's income."

CAAB is now conducting a study on how the work will be done, where money will be spent, and how CAAB will earn.

Around 70 percent of the construction work of the third terminal has already been completed and the terminal will have a soft opening in October, the CAAB chief told The Daily Star.

The third terminal is being built at a cost of Tk 21,399 crore and 70 percent of the money is coming from Japan International Cooperation

Agency (Jica) as loan.

Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan and Samsung of Korea are constructing the three-storey 2.30 lakh square metres terminal.

It will have 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks, 12 boarding bridges, and 16 carousels. It will also have a 5.42 lakh square metre apron for 37 aircraft and 63,000 square metre cargo complex.

A new carpark there will have space for 1,230 vehicles.

It'll elevate Dhaka-Tokyo ties to 'new stage'

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the two countries should gradually shift the ties from donor-recipient to mutually beneficial "Eco Partner" on trade and investment.

Iwama said they are in a discussion on a possible "Economic Partnership Agreement" as Bangladesh is set to graduate from the LDC category in 2026. "I hope our leaders will acknowledge this development."

Asked whether taking the relationship to a new stage means strategic level, the ambassador said, "Definitely, we would like to elevate the relationship to a

new stage. You can define it as strategic, but strategic means we are doing security and defence cooperation."

EXPECTATIONS ON FOIP
Japan hopes that Bangladesh would play a vital role in materialising its new Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision announced by Prime Minister Kishida Fumio on March 20.

Japan is eyeing practical cooperation with Bangladesh to realise the FOIP for ensuring a rules-based international order to bring stability and prosperity for every country and secure peace and

prosperity in the region.

"Concisely speaking, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio emphasised the importance of dialogue with the so-called Global South," said the ambassador.

Iwama said there are so many aspects of the relationship, but connectivity is one of the key elements and the Japanese PM mentioned connectivity in a specific term -- connectivity between Matarbari and Northeast India. "This is a new idea."

Japan expects Bangladesh's contribution to the trilateral initiative

on connectivity front, the envoy added.

The ambassador said Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as Quad, is not a military alliance, and military and political stability is one of the elements to be discussed during the dialogue between four countries -- Australia, India, Japan and the USA.

The envoy said Kishida would not ask Hasina to join Quad.

Hasina will be on an official visit to Japan from April 25 to 28, at the invitation of her Japanese counterpart Kishida Fumio.