



Bappy Chowdhury



Mondera Chakraborty.



Manoj Pramanik



Moutushi Biswas.

Celebs gear up for Puja festivities

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In the world of glitz and glamour, where the spotlight shines brightly, even the most celebrated Bangladeshi stars find solace and meaning in the most traditional of celebrations, and the puja holiday is one of them. Currently, the festive spirit is in full swing as Durga Puja paints Dhaka in vibrant colours and resounding cheers. On this occasion, Dhallywood celebrities, known for their dazzling on-screen personas, turn to their roots and visit their ancestral homes, igniting the warmth of puja celebrations every year.

As the country ushers in this season of festivity, we delve into the lives of our beloved artists, revealing their cherished traditions and holiday plans around this grand celebration.

The national award-winning actress Bidya Sinha Mim, who has always celebrated the Durga Puja vacations with her parents, shared her thoughts with The Daily Star. “I have always celebrated puja with my mom and dad. Since they are currently in Canada, I won’t be able to celebrate with them this time. I will really miss them during the celebrations.”

Going down her memory lane, the *Antarjal* star mentioned her sweet childhood experiences of puja celebration, “Since my childhood days, puja for me meant spending time with my parents, visiting our ancestral home at Rajshahi and having



Chanchal Chowdhury

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

a wonderful time with all our relatives. It was really a unique happiness that I can't compare with anything else.”

This time, Durga Puja holds a bittersweet tinge for the *Monpura* actor Chanchal Chowdhury. Every year during the puja holidays, he visits his home in Kamarhati. “The real joy of puja is found in Kamarhati. The simple pleasure of spending time with the village folks over a few days is immensely gratifying. I eagerly await these days,” the actor said.

“For the very first time, my father won’t be with us during puja. He left us last year. I’ll miss him, and it will be an emotionally challenging experience,” Chanchal expressed.

While talking about Proshoon Rahmaan’s upcoming project, *Dear Satyajit*, noted actress Moutushi Biswas mentioned she is

excited about this year’s puja celebration. She is currently in her father’s house at Khulna and plans to celebrate her puja vacation there. “This time, my mother-in-law is also here with me, making this puja even more special to me,” she shared.

Dhallywood star Bappy Chowdhury also spends his vacation visiting multiple districts of the country on this occasion. This year, he intends to visit various districts, including Cumilla, Narsingdi, Jashore, and some local puja mandaps in his hometown, Narayanganj.

Manoj Pramanik associates Durga Puja with a return to his village, Naogaon, and cherished moments with family. “I can’t wait to relish local pujas and a feast of delicious food,” says the actor. For him, puja means fish, and the freshest catches result in a delightful array of fish dishes. Manoj fondly recalls his Thakumaa, who used to give him *korobi* of small sums like TK 5- TK 10, which meant the world to him. “I used to dream of buying toys or indulging in treats – it was a great adventure, and I miss her dearly.”

The emerging actress Mondera Chakraborty finds puja as a time for family gatherings in Khulna at their beautiful ancestral home. She sometimes celebrates in Kolkata or Dhaka, but Khulna’s allure remains strong. There, she relishes delicious food, including her favourite laddu.

Maa Durga has various avatars and she resides in the hearts of all women. Whenever Puja comes, Mondera channels her inner Durga to celebrate puja. “I have shot some photoshoots as Maa Durga and Annapurna’s avatars. Maa resides in our hearts and through this, I want to pay tribute to Maa,” said the actress.

Gigi Hadid receives death threats for supporting Palestine



Gigi Hadid had been actively vocal about her support for Palestine amidst the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict.

The half-Palestinian model and her family have received death threats for proudly supporting Palestine on social media.

According to TMZ, due to threats, Gigi and her family, which includes supermodel sister Bella, 27, brother Anwar, 24, and parents Yolanda and Mohamed, have all had to alter their phone numbers. According to the publication, the family received threats via email, social media, and phone calls after their phone numbers were allegedly released online.

‘Cholo Bangladesh’ concert to take place today

A concert titled *Cholo Bangladesh* has been arranged by Grameenphone in view of the Tigers performing on the biggest stage of the cricket world. The programme will be a musical extravaganza to celebrate the national cricket team’s journey to the ICC Cricket World Cup, so far. The event has been scheduled to be held at the Bangladesh Army Stadium today at 5pm.

The concert has accumulated a spectacular musical gathering of artistes featuring Artcell, Cryptic Fate, Habib Wahid, Nemesis, Pritom Hasan, Rafa and friends, Pantho Kanai, Hasan, Warfaze, amongst many others. It is a part of Grameenphone’s Cholo Bangladesh campaign, that aims to unite the Bangladeshi youth with a spirit of national progression.



COUNTRYWIDE

People suffer for delay in drainage work



Local residents have been suffering for a month due to delay in drainage work at Shibbari in Mymensingh city.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Residents of Shibbari area in Mymensingh city have been facing immense troubles for over a month due to delay in drainage work.

Mentionable, Shibbari is famous for jewellery business and handmade leather shoes.

Moreover, district Awami League office, Ganginarpar Government Primary School, Shibbari Mandir and Bibekananda School are also located in the area.

Female devotees arrange an exceptional event by organising Durga Puja at the Shibbari Mandir, local resident Gobinda Das said.

Hundreds of passengers used the road, either by rickshaws or on foot, every day as the road leads to Mymensingh Railway Station.

The road also connects Purahitpara and its adjacent areas with the city through a railway over bridge.

Dilip Karmakar, one of the jewellery shop owners, said his business has been badly affected as people’s movement have been hampering for the last one month.

Another gold trader Sujon Nandi said usually it is time for jewellery business as

the Durga Puja, biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, is only a few days away

Although several thousand people use the important road to go to city’s different commercial areas and kitchen markets, the number has decreased in recent days, he said.

Workers engaged by the construction firm often keep the mixture machine and other construction materials on the road during busy hours, locals alleged.

On the other hand, footpaths on both sides of the road are completely occupied by illegal vendors, they added.

During a visit to the area a few days ago, this correspondent saw some workers were cleaning the rubbish lying scattered at the site.

A number of locals alleged that the drainage work in going on according to the will of the contractor concern due to lack of proper monitoring.

Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) Executive Engineer Mohammad Azharul Haque said the drain construction work has been delayed due to the recent heavy rainfall.

The ongoing work, at Shibbari and its nearby areas, is a part of a package under drainage and road construction work worth Tk 10 crore, the engineer added.

BNP a terrorist party

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She stressed the need for proper training to the drivers.

Hasina asked all to follow speed limits and traffic rules and to allow drivers to take proper rest.

She mentioned her government’s success in improving the country’s road connectivity, including the development of highways and construction of bridges during her three consecutive regimes since 2009.

Meanwhile, the premiere also unveiled a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Sarak Bhaban.

‘PRAY FOR PALESTINE’

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the event announced at one-day state

mourning on Saturday for the Palestinians killed in recent Israeli attacks.

She also called for offering prayers for the Palestinian victims in all mosques after jumma and other places of worship across the country on Friday.

“The victims of the brutal Israeli attacks aren’t just Muslims, but also Christian and Jews,” she said.

“Our stance is that this war will have to be stopped soon. The Palestinian people should get back their land, which have been occupied by Israel.”

Referring to a meeting she held OIC member countries based in Dhaka on Wednesday, Hasina said she told the envoys to fight unitedly to help establish the

rights of Palestinian people.

She added, “We will send medicine, dry food and necessary commodities for women and children [of Palestine] ... I have already asked the health ministry to send medicines.”

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Rowshan Ara Mannan, and Secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division ABM Amin Ullah Nuri spoke at the event, while Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department Syed Moinul Hasan delivered the welcome speech.

SC powerful enough

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who will place arguments on behalf of Jamaat, needs time to prepare.

Tanya Amir told the court that Jamaat’s lawyers take time from this court but hold meetings and bring out processions outside the court and Jamaat holds agitation programmes as if it is a legal political party.

The chief justice asked Joyanal why they were asking for time again and again.

“You take time from this court, but move cases before other courts. We see many things through closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras. Don’t do this further. We will not give time anymore after November 6,” said Justice Obaidul Hassan.

The SC bench set November 6 for holding a hearing on the two petitions.

Four other judges of the bench are Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam, Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique, and

Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

The other petition was filed by Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, and two others on June 26 this year seeking an injunction against Jamaat to stop it carrying out any political activities, including meetings, rallies, and processions using its name or banner.

They filed the contempt of court petition with the SC against five Jamaat leaders, including Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, for holding public meetings as a political party despite its appeal pending with the apex court.

Jamaat appealed against the High Court verdict that on August 1, 2013, scrapped its registration with the Election Commission.

US joins UK

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very foundation upon which systems of corruption are built,” USAID said in a Facebook post after signing the partnership deal.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman yesterday told The Daily Star that the project is aimed at strengthening the anti-corruption capacity of Bangladesh through research and knowledge-based advocacy, stakeholder involvement, and capacity building, and civic engagement.

It will ensure participation of all, especially youths in various anti-corruption campaigns, including community monitoring in selected sectors of public interest in 45 districts or upazilas across the country, where TIB has formed citizens’ platforms, he said.

“We already had funding from the UK, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The US partnership is somewhat new,” said Iftekharuzzaman.

An outcome befitting

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coached side has not been shy of shuffling and experimenting with the batting order even during events like the World Cup and the Asia Cup, it was only expected that the team management would be able to read the game situation and portray its flexibility once again.

Ergo, the move that probably would have made the most sense was promoting up the batting order an experienced campaigner in Mushfiqur, the top-scorer for Bangladesh in the World Cup so far and someone who is well-known for his ability to rotate strike much more comfortably than the ones who preceded him yesterday.

Shantoun characteristically had a bad day with the willow, using up 17 deliveries for his eight-run knock. Miraz, often the one to surprise

everyone in challenging situations, scored three off 13 while Hridoy hobbled to 16 off 35 deliveries in a knock that included no boundaries.

All these knocks of below 50 strike rates did was pile up pressure on Liton, who, after a long while, was looking in his element. Having played 10 dots and smashing just two boundaries since Miraz came on, Liton tried to ease the pressure that had been building by trying to hit Ravindra Jadeja out of the park and ended up being caught.

The initial momentum was lost, and Bangladesh stayed content with yet another mediocre score — thanks to a handy knock from Mushfiqur in the middle and some quickfire runs from Mahmudullah in the end.

And the outcome of the game, a seven-wicket defeat, was only befitting.

Conductive

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situation will be more favourable,” he added.

The commission is likely to announce the polls schedule in the first week of November.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, BNP senior joint secretary general, said the EC utterly failed to create a conducive environment for holding a free and fair election, which is its job, and not it is shifting the blame.

“The commission is acting as the mouthpiece of the ruling party and that’s why the conducive environment has not been created,” he said.

The EC’s concept note also said there are adequate laws in

the country regarding elections. However, it is not easy to implement the laws to get the expected results if there is no parallel interaction between the law and the political culture.

The EC with support from the government is working with honesty, devotion, and sincerity to make the next general polls free, fair, neutral and peaceful. “Despite this, distrust is being expressed about the Election Commission from various quarters,” it said.

An election becomes free, fair, and participatory through the collective cooperation and participation of all.