



EID STREAMING CHECKLIST

The best of OTT on your festivities

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr draws near, the Bengali entertainment landscape is abuzz with anticipation, offering a feast for the senses in the form of engaging web films and series. Across various streaming platforms, from Chorki to iScreen, a diverse array of narratives awaits, promising to enthrall audiences with tales of love, mystery, and resilience.

Let's take a look at the exciting lineup of Eid offerings, exploring the myriad hues of Bengali web entertainment set to grace our screens this festive season.

Chorki

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, a maestro in capturing the intricacies of human emotion, is set to enthrall audiences once again with his latest project, *Last Defenders of Monogamy*. The teaser, recently unveiled on Chorki, hints at an intriguing narrative exploring the complexities of married life. The film features stalwart actor Chanchal Chowdhury and popular singer Xefar Rahman, while it also marks the acting debut of Xefar.

Moreover, Chanchal Chowdhury will be seen on screen with his son Shuddho for the very first time in the film.

DeeptoPlay

Adapted from the works of renowned author Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, *Maya* delves into the supernatural realm with a gripping tale of love and mystery. Directed by Animesh Aich, the film promises an immersive experience as it unfolds the story of a Brahmin entangled in the mysteries of an ancient house.

According to Animesh, it was quite challenging to bring a 100-year-old story to the screen. "We tried to bring out the dialect and tone, which people used to talk a century back. It is a supernatural plot, and I must say that the artistes have done a wonderful job!"

The film features Mamunur Rashid, Golam Farida Chhanda, Saumya Joyti, Dibya Joyti, Tapur, and Tupur, amongst others. *Maya* will start streaming on DeeptoPlay from Pohela Boishakh (April 14).

Hoichoi

When it comes to psychological thrillers,



Vicky Zahed brings out the best of content for his fans in this less-explored genre of the country.

In continuation of his immensely popular psychological thrillers *Tikit*, *Redrum*, *Punorjonmo*, and *Ararat*, he has unveiled his upcoming directorial project *Rumi*, set to premiere on April 10 on Hoichoi on the occasion of this upcoming Eid. This is

the first time Chanchal and Vicky have collaborated on a project. Chanchal plays the role of a blind policeman in the series.

In the trailer, the Persian-influenced typography and the title of the web-series itself, *Rumi*, seems somewhat influenced by the life of Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi, or simply Rumi, a 13th-century poet, Islamic scholar, and Sufi mystic.

Along with Chanchal Chowdhury, Reekita Nondine Shimu, Abdun Noor Shajal, Afia Tabassum, Shahadat Hossain, and Deepa Khandakar play characters in the web-series.

Bongo

On the day of Eid, the new season of the Chinese drama series *Alien Girlfriend* will be released on Bongo. Following that, the horror film *Jinn*, starring Puja Chery, Shajal Noor, and Ziaul Roshan, will also be available for

streaming. On April 13, the drama *Gorvo* will be aired, featuring Tawsif Mahub and Tasnia Farin. In the following days, Bongo presents a bundle package for its audiences with Kajal Arefin Ome's *Hotel Relax*, *Oshomoy*, and *Dukkhitto*.

Binge

Sadarghat Er Tiger continues the saga of the affluent Tiger and his crises amidst his newfound prosperity under the new title *Tiger III*. Directed by Sumon Anwar, the web-series portrays the tumultuous journey of its protagonists, played by Shamol Mawla and Farhana Hamid, amidst shifting fortunes. The cast also includes Ahona Rahman, Kajol Suborno, and Hindol Ray with Zakia Bari Mamo joining them this season. *Tiger III* is slated for release on April 14 on Binge.

iScreen

Deshantor, a cinematic adaptation of Nirmalendu Gun's novel of the same name, promises to take the audience on a cinematic journey through the tumultuous era of the 1947 partition. The web film features veteran actress Moushumi, Yash Rohan and Rodela Tapur. Moushumi portrays the role of Annapurna, a middle-aged woman, in this evocative tale of migration and resilience. Directed by Ashutosh Sujan, *Deshantor* will be available for streaming this upcoming Eid on iScreen.

NEWS

Brazil to help Bangladesh join BRICS

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yesterday morning on a two-day visit, agreed that a preferential trade agreement (PTA) between Bangladesh and South American Trade Bloc MERCOSUR would enhance business opportunities.

MERCOSUR is an economic and political bloc comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia.

During the meeting, the two ministers welcomed the signing of the basic agreement on Technical Cooperation and an MoU between Bangladesh and Brazil, according to a joint statement.

State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu also met Vieira.

At the meeting, the two foreign ministers expressed their resolve to work to commence of the process for negotiating a MERCOSUR-Bangladesh PTA at the earliest opportunity.

They concluded negotiations for an MoU on sports cooperation to be signed at an appropriate time.

Brazil expressed that it wants to support Bangladesh regarding the tax waiver in exporting RMG, jute, leather, and pharmaceutical

products.

"Bangladesh buys cotton from Brazil. We proposed that Brazil provide tax waiver to our RMG products that are made of Brazilian cotton," a commerce ministry official told The Daily Star.

Brazil has offered to export beef to Bangladesh at a competitive price, but the Bangladesh side said there is already good entrepreneurs in Bangladesh in this sector, he said.

At a post-meeting briefing, Hasan said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit Brazil in July at the invitation of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Details of the cooperation will be discussed.

This is the first visit of the Brazilian foreign minister when the trade between the two countries has increased to \$2.72 billion last year from only \$1.52 billion in 2021 – in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war.

Bangladesh's major imports from Brazil include soybean oil, soybean, cotton, and sugar, while Bangladesh's exports to Brazil are mainly readymade garments worth only around \$200 million.

Vieira's visit comes following a meeting between Hasina and

Lula da Silva in August last year in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

During yesterday's meeting, the two ministers agreed on the importance of increasing cooperation and exchanges in the fields of agriculture, livestock, science, technology and innovation, education, climate change and energy transition, and technical cooperation, among others.

"We have identical positions on Gaza and many other global issues. We discussed the Rohingya crisis and sought Brazil's support for solving it," Hasan told the briefing.

Vieira said the two countries will work on bilateral, regional as well as global levels for governance, trade promotion, climate change, green energy, and reducing hunger.

After the meeting with the Brazilian minister, State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul told reporters that he requested Brazil to supply sacrificial animals to Bangladesh before Eid-ul-Azha.

Brazil is an exporter of meat at very low prices.

"We requested them in this regard. If it is cheaper, we will look at the possibilities to import cattle or meat."

UP chairman, 8 others held

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bullets, two magazines, and three bottles of Phensedyl, said the SP.

Nazmul went into hiding.

A case was filed against Nuruzzaman and eight others over attacking police personnel. Two others were lodged against Nuruzzaman and Nazmul over the recovery of drugs and illegal firearms.

A local court sent Mithun, Nuruzzaman, and eight others to jail yesterday, said OC Shahidul Islam of Shajahanpur Police Station.

At the briefing, SP Sudip Kumar said Nuruzzaman committed crimes using his political power.

According to police, Nuruzzaman

is accused in nine criminal cases with Shajahanpur Police Station, and he was on bail in the cases.

Nuruzzaman was suspended from his chairman post last year over snatching tender papers of leasing government ponds in front of UNO and others at the upazila auditorium.

A case was filed in this connection, said police.

Ziaul Haque Jewel, president of Shajahanpur upazila unit Swechhchasebak League, and Sajedur Rahman Shahin, president of the organisation's Bogura district unit, neither responded to our phone calls nor to our text messages.

Israeli military reduces troops

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British Foreign Secretary David Cameron warned the "prospect of famine is real" in Gaza, as a Royal Navy ship headed to the Mediterranean to help set up a maritime aid corridor.

Cameron said Britain was working with the United States, Cyprus and others to set up a "new temporary pier off the coast of Gaza to get aid in as quickly and securely as possible".

The Israeli military said yesterday that it had completed another step in preparing for a possible war along its northern front, where it has been

trading fire with the Lebanese militia Hezbollah for six months.

UNICEF chief Catherine Russell pointed out that more than 13,000 children were reportedly among those killed in Gaza.

"Homes, schools and hospitals in ruins. Teachers, doctors and humanitarians killed. Famine is imminent," she said on X, formerly Twitter, on Saturday.

"The level and speed of destruction are shocking. Children need a ceasefire NOW," she added.

11 killed as nor'westers batter

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fisherman went missing.

Besides, the storm damaged over 100 houses and accompanying lightning strikes killed 10 cows.

The deceased are Ratul Sikder, 15, of Nazipur village; Safia Begum, 80, of Char Algi village; and Ibrahim Faraji, 43, of Char Wadel village of Bauphal upazila.

Ratul was struck by lightning, and Safia died after a tree fell on her, said Bashir Gazi, Bauphal upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Ibrahim, who was fishing on Tetulia river, went missing when the storm began around 3:30pm. Later in the evening, his body was recovered from the river, said Sonit Kumar Gayen, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bauphal Police Station.

Another fisherman went missing and could not be traced till the filing of the report.

In Pirojpur, at least two people were killed and 15 others injured, while around 100 houses were

destroyed during a storm in Sadar upazila.

One of the deceased Rubi Begum, 22, of the upazila's Dakkhin Marichal village, was a mother of two.

"We were inside our tin-shed house when the storm started around 10:00am. A few moments later, a large tree fell through the house and crushed my daughter," said Rubi's father Abdul Jabbar Kazi.

"We immediately took her to a hospital, where the doctors declared her dead," said Jabbar.

Another man, Anil Pal, 83, of Ranipur village in Sadar upazila, fell into a canal during strong stormy winds.

After the storm passed, his body was recovered from the canal, said Ajmir Hossain Majhi, chairman of Shariktala Dumurita Union Parishad.

In Khulna, a man was killed after being hit by lightning in Dumuria upazila.

Obaidullah Ghazi, 35, from

Komalpur village, went to his fish enclosure during a storm around 9:30am to fetch grass when he was struck by lightning and killed on the spot, said Sukanta Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Dumuria Police Station.

In Bagerhat, another man was struck by lightning in Kachua upazila.

Ariful Islam, 35, of Char Sonapur village, went to a nearby field to bring back cattle when he was struck.

He died on the spot, said Mohsin Hossain, OC of Kachua Police Station.

In Netrokona, lightning struck dead another farmer in Khaliajuri upazila.

Shaheed Miah, 50, a resident of Jagannathpur village, was working in the field during the storm when the lightning struck, killing him on the spot, said Khokon Kumar Saha, OC of Khaliajuri Police Station.

[Our correspondents from Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barishal, Khulna, Bagerhat, and Mymensingh contributed to the report.]

Kyiv to lose war

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Ukraine has dragged on for more than two years. Kyiv said yesterday that a Russian strike on the town of Gulyaipole in the southern Zaporizhzhia region killed three people.

"Two men and a woman died under the rubble of their own private house, which was hit by a Russian shell," the head of the region, Ivan Fedorov, said on social media.

Officials said another civilian, a woman, was killed in the city of Kupiansk, in the northeastern Kharkiv region that has seen increased attacks in recent months.

"A woman died under the rubble in an apartment on the fourth floor of a high-rise building," Ukraine's state emergency services said, adding that it was a residential building.

Authorities in the main city of Kharkiv said Russia launched another

attack yesterday, wounding five civilians, a day after a deadly attack there.

Russia, meanwhile, said it had destroyed 15 Ukrainian drones over its border Belgorod and Bryansk regions, reporting the death of a young woman.

Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said shrapnel hit a car with a family of six inside in the village of Shagarovka, some 35 kilometres (20 miles) from the border with Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, a girl died," Gladkov said, without specifying whether she was a minor. "She died from her wounds on the spot."

Gladkov said her father had a head wound and that two children were taken to hospital.

Canada accuses India

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pro-Pakistan stances.

The agency alleged that a government proxy agent may have attempted to sway democratic processes through illicit financial support to favoured candidates, potentially remaining undisclosed to the recipients.

Similarly, in 2019, officials from the Pakistani government purportedly engaged in clandestine activities aimed at advancing Pakistan's interests within Canada's political landscape.

While India refuted the claims and assured its commitment to non-interference in other nations' democratic processes, Canada's inquiry into foreign meddling has escalated tensions in already strained ties between the two countries.

In January, Canada announced its intention to investigate allegations of foreign interference in its national elections, with a particular focus on India, according to a Bloomberg report.