

A delicious assortment of OTT projects this Eid

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

While there were few noteworthy offerings last Eid-ul-Fitr for OTT, this upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, platforms have arranged for a lineup of web-series and films that are sure to entertain.

This Eid marks the OTT debut of two popular faces, Tahsan and Tanjin Tisha, who are aiming to win over audiences. With a mix of action, crime, thrillers, and rib-tickling comedies, get ready to binge-watch this Eid's content while enjoying scrumptious meals.

Golam Mamun (Hoichoi)

After the success of its predecessor *Baker Moddhye Agun*, Hoichoi introduces its spin-off series, *Golam Mamun*. Streaming on Hoichoi from June 13, the series centers around fierce ACP Golam Mamun (played by Ziaul Faruq Apurba), as he navigates a gripping murder-mystery that he is entangled in himself.

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Golam Mamun, a noted police officer, races against time to clear his name amid a series of brutal murders. The plot plunges into chaos when, in search of an elusive address at midnight, Golam Mamun is ambushed by a mysterious assailant in an eerie apartment. Upon waking, he realises his name is linked to a murder. Did he really commit the crime, or is he being framed? Find out today.

Baaji (Chorki)

Chorki's much-awaited web-series, *Baaji*, features the on-screen reunion of Tahsan and Mithila after a long time. This series also marks Tahsan's debut in the world of OTT, where he plays the role of a cricketer, while Mithila portrays a journalist.

"Earlier, cricketers used to bet their lives on cricket, and now betting rules their lives," the trailer cleverly infers. The web-series delves into the lives of cricketers as betting begins to crumble their world. Tahsan plays Abir, a noted cricket player for the Golden Dreams team. Despite his brilliant skills, he continues to underperform in matches.

His name becomes embroiled in three spot-fixing scandals as he consistently fails to deliver, prompting Mithila's character, a journalist, to investigate the allegations against him and try to unmask his true nature. A murder occurs in their hotel. Is Abir behind it all, or will he rectify his mistakes and prove his love for the sport?

Baaji will be available for streaming on Chorki on June 16. Directed by Arifur Rahman, the suspense drama also features Mim Mantasha, Manoj Pramanik, Nazia Haque, Orsha, Shahadat Hossain, Partho Sheikh, Tasnuva Tisha, and Abrar Athar, among others.

Poison (Depto Play)

The gorgeous Tanjin Tisha makes her OTT debut in Sanjoy Somadder's crime thriller web-film *Poison*. Released on June 10, the film revolves around the life of Rupa Mirza (played by Tanjin Tisha).

Poison delves into Rupa's life as she achieves stardom and earns awards for her performance, only for her celebration to turn sinister. As the night progresses, secrets and past grievances emerge among the guests,



revealing hidden faces and true intentions. The storyline takes a dark turn, exploring themes of greed, old wounds, and rising corpses, making for a gripping narrative.

The film features a talented ensemble cast including Abu Hurayra, Tanvir, Tiger Robi, Rawnak Ripon, Abdullah Al Sentu, and AK Azad Shetu, among others.

Female 4 (Bongo)

Kajal Arefin Ome's *Female 4*, which revolves around the residents of Dhaka's Battery Goli, will premiere on the OTT platform Bongo on Eid day, June 17.

Earlier instalments of the tele-fiction series used to premiere on television. However, the makers decided to elevate the popular comedy project into a web-film for this upcoming release.

The web-film stars Ziaul Hoque Polash, Marzuk Russell, Saraf Ahmed Zibon, Pavel, Shimul Sharma, Shiblu, and Iresh Zaker, among others. The world of Battery Goli descends into chaos as a mysterious lady appears, inciting madness and sparking fights between two rival gangs.

Diljit Dosanjh to appear on Jimmy Fallon's show



Diljit Dosanjh is having a stellar year, earning accolades for his roles in Imtiaz Ali's Netflix film *Amar Singh Chamkila* and Rajesh A Krishnan's heist movie *Crew*.

The star recently collaborated with Sia and shared the stage with Ed Sheeran. His performance at Coachella turned heads, proving he's unstoppable.

The multi-faceted actor-singer is now set to make his first appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Diljit shared the news on social media, expressing excitement about his upcoming appearance on the American show, stating, "Panjabi is here as this week's guest on Jimmy Fallon's show," with his track *GOAT* playing in the background.

He hinted at showcasing traditional bhangra on the international show.

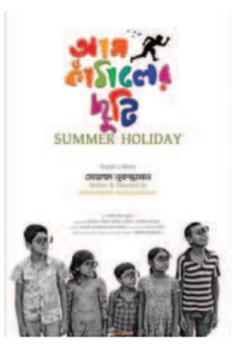
iScreen to feature 'Aam Kathaler Chhuti' before Eid

One of our leading OTT platforms iScreen has surprises for Eid, including streaming last year's award-winning film *Aam Kathaler Chhuti*.

The film directed by Mohammad Nuruzzaman, portrays a tumultuous childhood and has been well-received by cinephiles since its release.

In celebration of Eid-ul-Azha, *Aam Kathaler Chhuti* will be released as premium content on iScreen on June 15 at 3pm.

Based on Sharif Uddin Sabuj's short story *Moinma Bhai Bolla Rashi* and adapted into a screenplay by the director, the film features performances by Jubair, Lyon, Arif, Halima Tanjil, and Fatema.



NEWS

Batters yet to pull their weight

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20-ball 40 against the Lankans and followed it up with a vigilant 34-ball 37. He is the only batter to have an average strike-rate greater than 100 so far for the Tigers and has batted for more than a run-a-ball in both matches.

The top-order continues to be one of the major headaches for the Tigers, more so because it includes skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who hasn't been able to snap out of his miserable run, averaging 14.2 in his last 10

innings at a strike-rate of 86.1.

With the pitches in Dallas and New York being significant limiting factors in batting, the move away from the USA could not have come at a better time for Bangladesh batters who will hope that the surfaces in the West Indies will allow them to bat with more freedom.

The Tigers will also take confidence from the fact that they have gone through the most difficult phase in the group with minimal damage as they have a win and a loss against relatively

superior sides (Sri Lanka and South Africa) and have Netherlands and Nepal, both of whom are lower down in the rankings, up next.

A win against the Netherlands will put Bangladesh in a favourable position as far as qualification to the Super 8s is concerned as it will allow the Tigers to have progression to the next round in their own hands. With Sri Lanka and Nepal on one point each, Bangladesh, who have two, have the Netherlands as key competition for qualification.

Mujib's time in Kolkata was vital

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When police charged at protesting students, Mujib would step in without batting an eyelid and put himself up as a shield between the batons charged mercilessly and the hapless protesters. He was the first among the student leaders who rushed to do famine relief work and try dousing the communal conflagration.

On each occasion, when the going got tough, or even life-threatening, Mujib got going, without fail.

No biography of Mujib is complete without shedding light on his Kolkata stay.

It is this part of his life that India's acclaimed filmmaker Goutam Ghose has focused on in his 63-minute documentary "Mujib in Calcutta". It tells the story of the college years of the man who rose to become Bangabandhu and then the father of the nation after Bangladesh was liberated through a nine-month war.

"This period was very important for Mujib's political upbringing," stated Goutam during a tete-a-tete with The Daily Star during his recent visit to Dhaka.

So popular was Mujib with the students at the then Islamia College of Kolkata, later renamed Maulana Azad College, that none went against him when he was simultaneously involved with student politics as well as the Muslim League, said the director who has delved into the details of his life in Kolkata.

The documentary will also include Mujib's first-ever Kolkata visit in 1934 for medical treatment and his historic speech at a public meeting at the Brigade Parade Ground in the city on February 6, 1972, soon after his return from prison in Pakistan, Goutam said.

The documentary got the go-ahead after Mujib's eldest daughter and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina watched it on April 26. It was originally titled "Kolkatay Bangabandhu", but Hasina suggested changing the title and recommended "Mujib in Calcutta", citing her logic that during his life there, he was not known as Bangabandhu yet, Goutam said.

His documentary vividly recreated the memories of Mujib's Kolkata life as his camera captured the Islamia College campus, Mujib's politics as the general secretary of the college's student union, his room no-24 of Baker Hostel, Alimuddin Street, Park

Circus and the Muslim League office where Mujib had spent his time.

The Indian director, critically acclaimed for films like "Padma Nadir Majhi", "Antarjali Jatra", "Moner Manush", "Sankhachil", "Ma Bhumi", "Paar" and "Kaalbela", said Mujib's years in Kolkata was an important period for the sub-continent as well.

"During that period, Mujib was involved in relief work during the famine of 1943. He was witness to Hindu-Muslim riots and the great Calcutta killings. He saw the flight of Subhas Bose from India and used to listen to Bose's speeches from Singapore on the radio," the director continued.

Goutam had to face hurdles in making the documentary due to a lack of authentic and recorded information. He relied heavily on Mujib's "Unfinished Autobiography", Sheikh Hasina's book "Sheikh Mujib Aamar Pita", interviews with Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana and with Mujib's friend, 101-year-old Nihar Chakraborty, to make the documentary.

"In our country, the main problem is the [lack of] archival material for making such a documentary. We have no picture or video of that time when Bangabandhu was in Kolkata. Moreover, it's a political documentation about Bangabandhu when he started his political life.

"Had Sheikh Hasina not preserved Bangabandhu's autobiography, a vital chapter of history would have been lost and people would have never known the history of that period," said the filmmaker, adding that Hasina must be credited for "unveiling an important slice of history."

"But when I started research on the topic, I was fortunate to have found Nihar Chakraborty, who was Bangabandhu's contemporary. He is the only living person who witnessed Bangabandhu's Kolkata life and was involved with the student movements with him."

Goutam said that according to Nihar, Sheikh Mujib was an amiable person who used to go all out to help his friends and never considered religion, caste and creed when choosing them.

The director said the documentary on Mujib was important for him for two reasons. "First, I was young during the Bangladesh Liberation War, and then I was present at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata in 1972, hearing his historic speech, and secondly

my ancestors were from Faridpur [Bangabandhu's home district]."

He added, "I've been making the documentary as my responsibility to history. I wanted to apprise the young generation of the political upbringings of Bangabandhu."

The duration of the documentary was at first only half an hour, but it became longer with the addition of interviews of Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana.

Jointly funded by the Bangladesh government and an Indian NGO named "Friends of Bangladesh", the documentary has no character. The director himself describes the history of that time, where footage of some historical places of Kolkata related to Bangabandhu and footage of the Liberation War are shown.

Goutam said he was in Dhaka to screen the documentary to Hasina and get her green signal.

"I felt the documentary should not be brought to public domain without her prior approval. The PM saw and loved it. She thanked me, and I told her it was my responsibility."

Replying to a question about when the documentary might be released, he said it depends on the Bangladesh government.

St Martin's to start

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be used for emergency passenger transportation with necessary security arrangements provided by the Coast Guard, said Yamin.

The island, home to about 10,000 people, is accessible only by vessels. The locals depend on trawlers for supplies.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said, "The Arakan Army is fighting against the Myanmar government. The war has been going on for quite some time... One or two bullets hit trawlers or our patrol boats. We still don't know who fired those shots."

"We contacted them [Myanmar authorities], but they could not confirm anything," he said.

Mujibor Rahman, chairman of St Martin's Union Parishad, said stocks of food are running out.

Prices of essentials have gone up and they will run out of rice within two to three days, he told The Daily Star.

He said he requested the deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar to send food and other essentials to the island by sea trucks using alternative routes.

Losses estimated at over Tk 7,000cr

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recovery and aid distribution."

"This time, the embankment and fisheries have experienced major damages," he told reporters at a dialogue on government preparedness for natural disasters.

The fisheries sector experienced significant losses as the cyclone affected 38,083.89 hectares of farms, including of fish, shrimp, and hatcheries.

Over 1,191.03 kilometers of paved, brick, and dirt roads were damaged.

The housing infrastructure was heavily impacted, with 45,521 homes destroyed and another 226,583 partially damaged.

Agriculture was also hit hard, with crops on 35,602.44 hectares completely destroyed, resulting in a loss of Tk 410.71 crore. Additionally,

crops and seedlings on 59,795.09 hectares were partially damaged, causing a further loss of Tk 301.77 crore.

At least 98 bridges and culverts were destroyed, incurring a loss of Tk 125 crore, while 3,123 bridges and culverts were damaged partially causing losses of over Tk 659.54 crore.

Eighteen primary schools were destroyed, amounting to a loss of Tk 5.35 crore. Additionally, 929 primary schools were affected, resulting in damages worth Tk 12.91 crore.

One hundred secondary schools were destroyed, causing a loss of Tk 2.47 crore, and 578 were partially damaged, causing a loss of Tk 11.42 crore.

Embankments were also severely impacted. About 232.01 kilometers were destroyed, costing Tk 83.54 crore,

while 413.80 kilometers were damaged partially, leading to a loss of Tk 103.06 crore.

Embankments: Tk 186cr

Forestry, afforestation, nursery: Tk 65cr

Education sector: Tk 39cr

Religious establishment: Tk 14cr

Tube well: Tk 10cr

Agri, non-agri industries: Tk 646,8,000

Source: Draft estimation by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

AL leader knew about his murder

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a meeting beside the Bhangra expressway.

Local sources said Mintu had a rivalry with Jhenaidah-4 (Kaliganj) lawmaker Azim.

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of the DMP, yesterday confirmed these developments.

The investigation officer is interrogating Mintu on issues like why Babu's mobile phone was with him and why he did not share murder information with the law enforcers or the victim's family, said the DB chief.

Harun said, "The IO will let Mintu go if he can answer properly, or else lawful action will be taken."

In response to a query of political leaders' involvement in the killing, the DB chief said district AL Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Babu is on remand and General Secretary Mintu was detained for interrogation.

"There is also evidence about some others' involvement. No one, including those who gave instructions and those who planned the murder of Azim, will be spared," he said.

He further said, "I also want to say that no innocent person will be harassed at anyone's instigation."

In another development, Azim's daughter Mumtaz Ferdous Doreen yesterday met Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at the Secretariat and demanded justice for her father's killing.

After the meeting, Doreen told reporters that she heard that attempts were being made to get those arrested in connection with the murder freed.

She said she requested the minister not to stop the probe under any pressure.

Doreen said she heard that arrestee Babu had a meeting beside the Bhangra expressway regarding financial transactions. "I want to know the name

of the people who gave the money. Why did they do it?"

Asaduzzaman said her father was killed and it was only natural that she would seek justice.

Asked whether there is any pressure, the minister said, "Who will put pressure on us? There is no pressure. The probe is underway properly."

DB chief Harun said, "The higher authorities don't exert any pressure on us. Because they [authorities] know that all DB teams investigate cases properly and identify the real culprits even if they are at home or abroad. There is no question of harassing any innocent person."

Meanwhile, human chains were formed at different points of Jhenaidah, demanding punishment of MP Azim's killers. There was a demonstration in Jhenaidah too against the detention of Mintu.

[Our Jhenaidah correspondent contributed to this report.]