



‘Makorsha’ unites Shamol Mawla and Sabila Nur for the first time

Popular actors Shamol Mawla and Sabila Nur are set to share the screen for the first time in ***Makorsha***, a thriller directed by Ragib Raihan Pial. Written by Rebeka Sultana Keya, the drama will premiere on Deepto TV this Eid-ul-Fitr.

Shamol, known for his work across TV, films, and OTT platforms, has been actively involved in multiple projects, including ***Agontuk*** on iScreen. Meanwhile, Sabila, who won acclaim for ***Golam Mamun***, recently debuted as an author with ***Bhalobasha Otopor***, published by Anannya Prokashoni.

Excited about the collaboration, both actors praised the gripping storyline, with director Pial feeling confident that ***Makorsha*** will captivate audiences with its unique plot and powerful performances.

Prague Film Fest to screen Bangladeshi film ‘Not a Fiction’

The Prague Film Festival 2025, set to take place from April 23 to April 26, has included the Bangladeshi film ***Not a Fiction*** in its lineup of screenings. The project has notably gained recognition by being screened at three Oscar- and two Canadian Screen Awards-qualifying festivals.

Directed, produced, and shot by young filmmaker Shah Newaz Khan Cju, ***Not a Fiction*** is set for its European premiere at the festival.

This single-take film will compete against strong contenders, including ***I’m Not a Robot***, winner of the 2025 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film, and other international entries.

The Voices of Distant Lands section of the film festival honours films with fresh takes on social issues. This year, only five films were selected, with ***Not a Fiction*** as Asia’s sole representative.



Musicians set to enhance Eid festivities with fresh releases



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

There was a time when music lovers eagerly awaited the release of new albums during Eid. Popular artistes would drop fresh collections, and fans would rush to grab their favourite singer’s latest work.

However, with changing times and the rise of digital platforms, those days are long gone. Now, singles and music videos are released on YouTube and aired across various television channels, making Eid an exciting time for music lovers in a new way.

This year, several popular singers are gearing up to treat their fans with new songs and performances. Here is an exclusive look at how they are preparing for Eid:

The ***Close Up 1*** famed singer, Beauty, has already filmed two original music videos, both set for release during the festive season of Eid-ul-Fitr. One of the songs is penned by Liton Adhikary Rintu, with the melody composed by Syed Monsur, who also composed the second track.

Besides her YouTube releases, Beauty will be appearing on multiple TV channels throughout Eid. Reflecting on the changing times, she said, “There was a time when everyone eagerly awaited new albums, and I was no exception. But those days are gone. Now, listeners wait for my songs to be released on YouTube. It’s the same for everyone.”

“Audiences expect new songs all year round, but the anticipation is even higher during Eid. Keeping that in mind, I’ve worked on two new music videos, and I only select songs when the lyrics and melody truly move me.”

Musician Sabbir Zaman is set to be one of the busiest singers this Eid, performing on multiple television channels from the first to the sixth day of Eid festivities.

In addition to his TV performances, two of his music videos have already been released ahead of Eid. Expressing his excitement, Sabbir said, “During Eid, almost every musician becomes busy with music, and I’m no exception. I enjoy recording more songs than

usual during this festive time because listeners eagerly wait for them.”

Moreover, he has collaborated with singer Rizia Parveen on a duet song for Bangladesh Betar, with lyrics written by Moniruzzaman Monir. Speaking about the song, he shared, “I have recorded a special Eid song for the radio, and it’s a really good one.”

Zakiya Sultana Kornia is known for bringing something special to her audience on festive occasions, and this year is no different. She will be releasing a brand-new music video on her own YouTube channel.

“Eid is a special occasion, so I feel compelled to come up with exciting projects for it. That’s how I planned and worked on this song with Tanveer. I believe my new music video will be well-received,” she said.

Putul Sajia Sultana has also filmed several songs for this Eid, which will be aired on different TV channels. She is equally excited about her YouTube releases, with two songs scheduled to drop online. One of them, ***Shesher Kobitagulo***, was composed by Syed Reza Ali.

She reflected on how music releases have evolved over the years, saying, “There was a time when albums with eight to ten songs were released, but now, new songs keep pouring in. We have to adapt to the new era, but I do miss the old days—it had its own charm.”

Additionally, she has recorded a special song for Bangladesh Betar, which will be aired during Eid.

Singer Liza is set for an incredibly packed Eid schedule with multiple projects lined up. She has filmed a song for BTV, collaborating with Belal Khan, and recorded another track for the same channel. She also worked on songs for three to four other TV networks and will perform in several live shows during the holiday season.

She is set to release two music videos on her YouTube channel, but she’s unsure if both will be ready for release in time.

“I have been working on two music videos for Eid, and at least one of them will be released,” she affirmed.

WHAT’S THE HAPS?

Photography exhibition: ‘Hajong’

The exhibition ***Hajong*** by photographer Mohammad Asadurjaman Aslam Molla offers a compelling visual exploration of the struggles and cultural resilience of the indigenous Hajong community in Bangladesh.

Through powerful photography, the exhibition aims to raise awareness, spark dialogue, and highlight the persevering nature of this marginalised group.

Date: Friday-Tuesday | March 14-18
Time: 4pm onwards
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi



Pritom and Habib unite for Eid special ‘Ityadi’



Popular musicians Habib Wahid and Pritom Hasan are set to share the stage for the first time in this year’s Eid special ***Ityadi***. The duo will present a duet performance in the much-anticipated magazine show.

The song was penned by Inamul Tahsin, with Pritom composing the tune and arranging the music.

Although the two artistes have collaborated on projects before, this marks their first time performing together.

As per tradition, the Eid special ***Ityadi*** will air on Bangladesh Television (BTV) the day after Eid at 8pm, following the Bangla news.

The programme is written, directed, and hosted by Hanif Sanket and produced by Fagun Audio Vision.

NEWS

Mahmudullah retires from int’l cricket

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Earlier ended his Test and T20I career, Mahmudullah took his final bow from ODIs yesterday.

“All praises only for the Almighty Allah. I have decided to retire from international cricket. I would like to thank all of my teammates, coaches and specially my fans who have always supported me. A big thank you to my parents, my in laws, especially my father in law and most importantly my brother Emdad Ullah who has been there for me constantly since my childhood as my coach and mentor,” the veteran posted on Facebook.

Mahmudullah remained a key player over the years for the Tigers and was part of the ‘Big Five’ of Bangladesh cricket alongside Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mushfiqur Rahim.

Mahmudullah now joins Tamim, who had announced his retirement from international cricket in January, in the sidelines. Mashrafe, who has

not played for Bangladesh for over five years, has still not officially retired from ODIs but the 41-year-old’s international career is realistically over.

Meanwhile, Shakib’s international career remains in limbo, having earlier expressed his desire to play ODIs till the Champions Trophy but not getting selected in the squad. He was also unable to play his farewell Test at home against South Africa in last year’s October and chances of him being a part of the Tigers’ setup in future are slim.

It means Mushfiqur, who earlier this month stepped away from ODIs, remains the last active member of the ‘Big Five’, having wished to continue in Tests.

Both Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur failed to impress in the recent Champions Trophy and came under criticism. Yesterday, before Mahmudullah’s announcement, cricket operations chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim had said that the

veterans realise they need to make way for upcoming stars.

“Not everything comes to an end in a perfect way but you say yes and move forward. Peace,” Mahmudullah said at the end of his statement yesterday.

The veteran has lived through the many ups and downs of Bangladesh cricket, carrying the burden of some close defeats in big matches while also pulling off rescue acts many a times.

Time and again, he answered his critics with notable performances, especially in ICC events. He became Bangladesh’s first centurion during the 2015 ICC World Cup with a century against England, and then repeated the feat in the following match against New Zealand. He hit another memorable ton against the Kiwis in the 2017 Champions Trophy.

Mahmudullah, who made his international debut in ODIs in 2007, brings down the curtain with 239 ODIs and 5689 runs besides his name.

Amendment drafted

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being reduced from 30 days to 15 days and the time for completing the trial is being reduced from 180 days to 90 days, he said.

Besides, the draft has a provision that if the judge deems it necessary, the case proceedings and investigation can continue based on the medical certificate without the DNA report.

The government has taken a zero-tolerance policy against those involved in violence against women, Nazrul said.

About the Platform Against Rape’s demand for speedy trial for the child rape case in Magura, he said: “We have assured them that police have already collected DNA samples of the accused in the Magura rape on Tuesday. I have told them that we will have a vigil so that justice is done quickly.”

The delegation of the “Platform Against Rape” submitted a memorandum containing a five-point demand to Nazrul.

They demanded that the investigation report of the Magura rape case be submitted within seven days, form a special tribunal for swift justice for rape and torture cases and death penalty upon completion of the judicial process within a month.

They also urged the government to

guarantee the security of the victim’s family throughout the trial process.

On the demand for introducing a special court for rape cases, Nazrul said such cases are now tried in the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal.

The tribunal has a huge backlog of cases that is causing delays to the case management.

“I will raise the demands of the protesters in the advisory council and try my best to explore this matter.”

Asked about another demand of the platform for a separate cell for preventing sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions, Nazrul said there is a High Court verdict in this regard.

“In light of that verdict, we have promised to make a comprehensive law. In the light of the High Court verdict, I will try to make the law stronger.”

Additionally, the “Platform Against Rape” demanded amendments to the existing laws on rape, sexual assault and cyberbullying to provide clearer definitions of the crimes.

The memorandum stressed the need to incorporate gender-based empowerment narratives into legal and social discourse, highlighting equal rights for women.

ICT issues

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before the court on May 12 in connection with the Shapla Chattar incident after the prosecution filed a petition seeking arrest warrants and production warrant for them.

They are former state minister for home Shamsul Haque Tuku, former IGP AKM Shahidul Haque, ex-director general of National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) Ziaul Ahsan and deputy inspector general of police Molla Nazrul Islam. They are in jail in different cases.

During the court proceedings, Justice Md Shofiqul Alam Mahmood asked the prosecution how Imran H Sarker was involved in the Shapla Chattar killings.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam then told the tribunal that Imran, along with high officials of the then government, was involved in the plan on the crackdown at the Shapla Chattar.

“The investigation agency has found information that the Gonojagoron Mancha had created the ground for the mass killings at Shapla Chattar and it took part with the police in the killings of Helafat-e-Islam activists,” he added.

On May 5, 2013, members of Helafat, a Qawmi madrasa-based organisation, mobilised thousands of supporters from across the country at Shapla Chattar to press home their 13-point demand, which included stricter blasphemy laws stipulating that atheists be hanged.

As the protest turned violent, police, Rab, and BGB members launched a late-night operation on May 5-6 and dispersed the demonstrators. Although Helafat claimed that 2,000 of its leaders and activists were killed in the incident, the government put the death toll at 13, including three police personnel.

Yesterday, the tribunal also sent police constable Sohel Mia to jail in connection with the death of Shaikh Ashabul Yamin, a student in Savar on July 18 last year.

Guterres arrives today

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the Rohingya crisis.

During his visit, which comes as part of his Ramadan solidarity visit, Guterres and Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will visit Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar and attend an iftar party with the presence of 1 lakh Rohingyas on Friday.

The Rohingya crisis has been overshadowed and lost focus due to numerous global crises, said Shafiqul Alam, Yunus’s press secretary, at a press conference yesterday.

“We hope that he [Guterres] will deliver a strong and positive message.

As a result, we wish for an early resolution of the Rohingya crisis so that the Rohingya people can return to their homeland with respect and dignity.”

The government is also exploring how humanitarian aid for the Rohingya, which has dropped sharply, can be bumped up.

“Rohingya’s nutritional needs are very important, and Bangladesh aims to ensure that these needs are not compromised in any way. To address this, international support is needed -- approximately \$15 million per month is required for the

Rohingyas.”

The government is continuing its all-out diplomatic efforts to ensure the safe and dignified return of Rohingyas to their home in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, he said.

On Saturday, Guterres will hold a meeting with Yunus at his office. A joint media briefing is scheduled to be held in the afternoon that day. He will also meet with the National Consensus Commission.

He will leave Bangladesh the next day, said Azad Majumder, Yunus’s deputy press secretary.

Unite to build strong JS

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want a new constitution through a constituent assembly”.

Salahuddin alleged that while Bangladesh is now free from fascism, attempts to create instability continue.

“If we remain united and uphold the national unity against fascism, we will succeed,” he added.

Speaking as the chief guest at the event organised by Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, he further claimed that during Sheikh Hasina’s rule, Muslims were the most persecuted in the country, although 90 percent of the population

is Muslim.

“During that time, the religious scholars of this country were the ones who suffered the most persecution,” Salahuddin said.

Referring to the incident of May 5, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel, he accused Hasina of carrying out “one of the most barbaric massacres in history”.

“The oppression has ended. The country’s religious scholars have sacrificed their lives and shed their blood. Their participation at the final stage of the [July uprising] contributed to victory,” he said.

Rape victim’s father murdered the night

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unnamed individuals accusing them of aiding Shibu in the crime.

Police arrested Shibu on March 8, and he was sent to jail by a court, police said.

Since Shibu’s arrest, his cohorts had allegedly been threatening the victim’s family and putting pressure on them to withdraw the case, the family claimed.

The family said there was a court

hearing scheduled yesterday.

The deceased’s wife said, “Yesterday [Tuesday] evening, my husband told me over the phone that he would return home late, but he never came.”

“At one point, we started looking for him in the area and found him in a bush near our house late at night,” she added.

“The criminals -- associates of the accused rapist -- have killed my husband. I want justice,” she told The

Daily Star yesterday.

Barguna Sadar Police Station’s Officer-in-Charge Dewan Jaglul Hasan said, “Police recovered the body around 1:00am [Wednesday]. Our initial investigation suggests that the person was murdered. Further investigation is underway, and legal action will be taken accordingly.”

The victim’s family had not filed any complaint regarding the threats, he said.

340 hostages freed

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official and paramedic said the train driver and a police officer had been killed.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said no passenger was hurt in the final clearance operation. However, at least 21 passengers were killed before the operation.

The assault was immediately claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA),

which released a video of an explosion on the track followed by dozens of militants emerging from hiding places in the mountains.

Attacks by separatist groups who accuse outsiders of plundering natural resources in Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, have soared in the past few years, mostly targeting security forces and ethnic groups from outside the province.