



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## A busy Eid for Totini

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tanjim Saiara Totini is one of the most popular contemporary artistes in the entertainment arena. With Eid just around the corner, she is travelling to different locations almost every day to participate in scheduled Eid special drama shoots. This routine will continue for her until just before Eid day.

Then again, the actress told The Daily Star that she is enjoying this hectic schedule. "I truly enjoy being busy. In fact, I don't feel good when I have no work. The crew members of the set have become a family to me."

Totini is currently filming an Eid drama directed by Rafat Mozumder Rinku, whose title is yet to be finalised. In this project, she will be seen opposite Yash Rohan.

She has also wrapped up filming a one-hour drama titled *Bouyer Biye*, opposite Yash Rohan, directed

by Rubel Hasan. "This drama has a unique storyline. I believe the audience will enjoy it," she said, adding that she found great joy in playing her role.

Adding to the list, she mentioned that she has already completed several projects and will be delivering fresh content for the Eid lineup. She will also share the screen with Tawsif Mahbub and Farhan Ahmed Jovan. "Most of the dramas I'm shooting now are for Eid. This year, viewers will get to watch several quality productions. I'm feeling quite optimistic about them."

Another drama, *Tomader Golpo*, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, features Totini opposite Jovan once again. This project has been produced under the Cinemawala banner. Under the same banner, she has also completed filming for *Agnishikha*, another Eid special.

Regarding her experience, she added, "I've worked on very different stories this time, with roles that are distinct from one another. In Mostafa Kamal Raz bhai's drama, I play a lively village girl - a challenging character. Viewers will get to see a new side of my performance."

She further revealed, "In another drama, I am again playing a village girl. However, it's a role completely different from who I am in real life."

After closing out her packed Eid schedule, Totini plans to visit Barishal, her hometown, just a day before Eid. She last visited in 2018. Excitedly, the actress shared, "I'm really looking forward to going home this Eid after so long. Visiting my hometown brings immense joy. My paternal and maternal grandparents' houses are there, and I spent some of the golden moments of my life in Barishal."

## 2025 iHeartRadio Music Awards: Lady Gaga secures top honour

The 2025 iHeartRadio Music Awards lit up Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre last Monday (March 17), delivering a night of star-studded celebrations and major honours.

Lady Gaga was recognised with the prestigious iHeartRadio Innovator Award for her groundbreaking contributions to music and performance, while the legendary Mariah Carey, the best-selling female artiste in history, was celebrated with the iHeartRadio Icon Award.

Taylor Swift led the nominations, sweeping multiple fan-voted categories, while Morgan Wallen followed closely with 10 nominations.

The night also celebrated Billie Eilish, Doja Cat, Post Malone, Sabrina Carpenter, Kendrick Lamar, Chappell Roan, Tate McRae, SZA, Muni Long, Usher, and Chris Brown, among others, all of whom earned major nods.



## Mou, Tisha, and Bubly to light up BTV's Eid 'Anondomela'

Bangladesh Television (BTV) is set to air its annual Eid special programme *Anondomela*, a long-standing favourite among viewers.

This year's edition will feature dance performances by celebrated dancer Sadia Islam Mou, actress Nusrat Imroz Tisha,

and film star Shobnom Bubly, confirmed BTV sources.

While Tisha and Bubly's choreography is being directed by Ivan Shahriar Sohag, Mou will present a performance choreographed by herself.

The show, hosted by Masuma Rahman Nabila and Emon, is

scheduled to be filmed at BTV's auditorium in Rampura, with rehearsals commencing on March 21.

Produced by Md Hasan Riyad, Mohammad Monirul Hasan, and Mahbuba Ferdous, the 50-minute programme will air on Eid night.

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### 'Song of Hawkers'

Alliance Française de Dhaka presents *Song of Hawkers*, a three-part comedy play directed by French playwright Zazie Hayoum. The performance centres on the vibrant lives of Dhaka's hawkers through three light-hearted stories—*The Secret*, *The Thief Rewarded*, and *The Competition*—using the Grand Guignol theatre style. Interested attendees can join the event for free by signing up online.

Date: Thursday - Friday | March 20-21

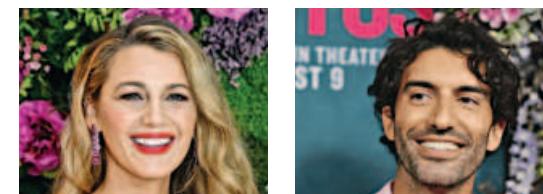
Time: 3:30pm onwards

Venue: Experimental Theater Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



## Lively and Baldoni's legal dispute to be featured in new documentary

ITN Productions' latest documentary, *He Said, She Said: Blake Lively vs Justin Baldoni*, explores the highly publicised legal battle between the *It Ends With Us* co-stars. Set to premiere on Channel 5 in the UK and stream on Max and Discovery+ in the US, the film investigates Lively's allegations of sexual misconduct against Baldoni and claims that he orchestrated an online smear campaign against her. In response, Baldoni has denied the accusations and filed a \$400 million defamation countersuit. With the trial set for March 2026, the documentary presents key evidence, legal arguments, and social media reactions, reflecting the deep division among fans. Baldoni's legal team has also accused Lively's publicist of spreading misinformation.



## NEWS

### AL govt downplayed

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There were only 15 incidents of gunshots in 2022, which jumped to 149 in 2023 and 257 in 2024.

#### HASINA'S REGIME BLAMED

In the report, the rights body claimed that under the government of the now-deposed Sheikh Hasina, impunity prevailed in the camps, partly due to the government's prolonged denial of Rohingya militants' presence.

It added that this refusal to admit their existence contributed to deteriorating security conditions, with militant groups allegedly carrying out killings, abductions, and acts of torture against Rohingyas.

The report highlighted that the authorities have also been responsible for human rights violations against the refugees, further exacerbating security concerns.

For years, the Bangladeshi government refused to acknowledge the activities of Rohingya militant groups publicly. As a result, the authorities failed to take meaningful action, even as these groups carried

out attacks on the Rohingyas.

"Rohingya armed groups are wreaking havoc in Bangladesh and Myanmar with near complete impunity," said John Quinley, director of Fortify Rights.

"War crimes are usually committed within the immediate theater of armed conflict, but in this case, crimes in Bangladesh are directly connected to the war in Myanmar. Bangladesh's interim government should cooperate with international justice mechanisms to bring perpetrators to justice."

The recent US government funding cuts are creating more space for Rohingya militants in the camps, worsening security conditions for refugees, Fortify Rights warned.

#### HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR

Speaking as a panellist at the report launch, Patrick Phongsthorn, senior advocacy specialist at the rights body, stressed the need for a humanitarian corridor to break the "siege-like" conditions Rohingya refugees face.

He called for a structured mechanism to ensure the free movement of aid and essential goods.

He warned that "safe zones," often proposed as alternatives, have historically failed, making a humanitarian corridor a more viable solution for sustaining refugee safety and access to resources.

Patrick calls on Bangladeshi authorities and international justice bodies to investigate potential human rights violations in refugee camps, particularly those involving non-state actors.

He stressed the importance of investigating these crimes, particularly those involving killings, torture, and abductions, and holding perpetrators accountable.

Responding to a query from a journalist, rights body director John Quinley said a ceasefire was brokered in November 2023, leading to a decrease in killings, but there is growing concern about a rise in abductions and coercion into militant activities.

### Court orders freeze on 31 accounts

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Ambassador to Bangladesh SAIDA Shinichi and JICA Director General for South Asia Ito Teruyuki were present at the programme.

Bangladesh Railway Director General Afzal Hossain presided over the event, while Project Director Aal Fattah Md Masudur Rahman delivered the welcome speech.

The five other family members are Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, Rehana's husband Shafiq Ahmed Siddiq, their family members Bushra Siddiq and Shaheen Siddiq.

The same court also issued travel bans on Hasina, Rehana, Joy, Putul, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, daughters Tulip Rizwana Siddiq and Azmina Siddiq Ruponti after an application was submitted in this regard.

On December 17, 2024, the ACC launched a probe into allegations of embezzlement totalling Tk 80,000 crore against Hasina and her family members from nine projects, including the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The commission on December 22, 2024, also launched an investigation

against Hasina and Joy over allegations of laundering \$300 million to the United States.

On March 10 this year, the ACC approved the charge sheets against Hasina, Rehana, and four of their family members in six cases filed against them over the alleged misuse of power to obtain plots under the Purbachal New Town Project.

On March 11, the court also ordered the confiscation of Sudha Sadan, a property registered to Sheikh Hasina's children, and the immovable assets of Sheikh Rehana and Radwan Mujib Siddiq.

### Russia to halt attacks on energy sites

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But the Kremlin statement said a "key condition" for peace would be ending Western military and intelligence support to Ukraine's embattled military -- a position that will alarm Kyiv and European capitals that have already accused Putin of stalling.

Trump had already made clear before the call that he was ready to discuss "dividing up certain assets" -- what parts of occupied Ukraine that Russia would be allowed to keep.

The US president had said on his Truth Social network on the eve of the call that "many elements of a final agreement have been agreed to, but much remains" to be settled.

US allies, alarmed by Trump's recent pivot towards Russia, fear the Republican will give too much ground to the Russian president, a leader for whom he has repeatedly expressed admiration.

Kyiv had already agreed to the US proposal to halt fighting for 30 days. It said on Tuesday before the call that it expected Moscow to "unconditionally" accept to the ceasefire.

"It is time for Russia to show whether it really wants peace," Ukraine's

Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said.

But Putin has repeatedly said that there were further issues that needed discussion, which yesterday's call apparently failed to fully resolve.

Putin gave a hardline anti-Western speech Tuesday before the call, saying the West would still try to undermine Russia even if it lifted sanctions imposed over its invasion of Ukraine.

He mocked the G7 group of rich democracies -- from which Russia was expelled in 2018 -- to wild applause from the audience, saying it was too small to "see on a map."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned Putin does not want peace and is trying to achieve a better position militarily ahead of any halt in fighting.

Russia has attacked Ukraine with near-daily barrages of drones and missiles for more than three years, occupying some 20 percent southern and eastern Ukraine and pressing a grinding advance in recent months.

As Trump upended years of US policy he then had a televised shouting match with Zelensky in the Oval Office on February 28, which led to the United States temporarily suspending

its billions of dollars in military aid to Kyiv.

On Sunday Trump said he would discuss issues of "land" and "power plants" with Putin -- a likely reference to the Moscow-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.

Trump is however intent on delivering on an election pledge to end fighting in Ukraine, blaming his predecessor Joe Biden's policy on Russia for fueling the war.

"It must end NOW," he said on Truth Social.

#### Woman gang-raped

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8:00am after hearing her screams and took her to Cantonment Police Station. The accused, however, fled by that time, he said.

Locals caught two caretakers Enamul Haque, 38, and Hamidur Rahman, 53, of the building and handed them over to Cantonment Police Station.

The cantonment police then sent the two arrestees to Pallabi police, the OC said.

The east and west zones of Bangladesh Railway were first connected with the opening of the Jamuna Bridge in June 1998, featuring a single railway track alongside a four-lane road.

Following the inauguration, a six-coach special train carrying guests and officials departed from Ibrahimabad Station at 12:09 pm and arrived at Sayedabad Railway Station in Sirajganj at 12:19 pm.

After a press conference at Sayedabad, the train returned to Ibrahimabad Rail Station with the guests.

The east and west zones of Bangladesh Railway were first connected with the opening of the Jamuna Bridge in June 1998, featuring a single railway track alongside a four-lane road.

However, nearly a decade after its inauguration, a crack appeared on the bridge, prompting authorities to impose both load and speed restrictions on railway operations.

As a result, freight trains were not allowed on the bridge and the speed

limit for passenger trains was limited to 20 km/h.

In December 2016, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Railway Bridge project with an initial budget of Tk 9,734 crore, aiming for completion in December 2023.

After the political change over in August last year, the interim government renamed the bridge as Jamuna Railway Bridge. The project was completed in December 2024.

After the detailed design was finalised in September 2018, the costs of two major work packages increased significantly. Additional expenses for land acquisition, land lease, and the construction of a museum were also incorporated, raising the total project cost to Tk 16,781 crore.

Japan provided 72 percent of the funding through soft loans, and two Japanese joint-venture firms were involved in the bridge's construction.

Physical work on the project began in August 2020 and was completed in four and a half years, employing over 7,000 workers from Japan, Vietnam, Nepal, Australia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

The next day, the victim's father filed a case against Shibu Das, 30, and other 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.

The bridge is constructed on 50 pillars with 49 spans. Located 300 meters upstream of the existing Jamuna Bridge, the new railway bridge will accommodate up to 88 trains daily.

Tanvirul Islam, the project's chief engineer, told reporters that Japanese-made rail tracks have been installed on the bridge. "As a result, trains will be able to reach a speed of up to 120 km/h. However, the operation speed limit has been set at 100 km/h."

On February 12, BR started operating passenger trains through the newly built bridge on a trial basis, using one of the two lanes of the bridge.

From today, both lines will be open for operation.

Train fares for routes using the bridge will rise from today, due to the increased portage charge, a toll levied for the construction and maintenance of a bridge.

For instance, the fare on the Dhaka-Rajshahi route will rise for a non-AC chair seat by Tk 45, an AC chair by Tk 80, an AC seat by Tk 95, and an AC berth by Tk 140, officials said.

[Our correspondent from Tangail also contributed the report.]

### HC asks DC, SP

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associates of the rape accused, who is now in jail.

The deceased worked at a poultry shop in the town. His daughter was raped allegedly by one of their neighbours on March 7.