

Television aims to make a comeback this Eid

Eid has long been a season of grand celebrations on television, with various programmes being aired across different channels. However, dramas remain the most prominent form of entertainment. From one-hour dramas and telefilms to special seven-day serials, channels put great effort into entertaining audiences during this festive period. As a result, shooting for Eid dramas is currently in full swing, and the schedules of star actors are packed.



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tawsif Mahbub is a beloved figure in television dramas, having starred in numerous productions over the years. He has acted opposite several leading actresses and has firmly cemented his place in the industry. He will appear in multiple dramas this Eid, including *Mon Divana* and *Prem Bhai*, among others making him one of the busiest actors of the season.

Jovan has steadily built a name for himself, starring in romantic and diverse roles. He has acted opposite many leading actresses, including Mehzabien Chowdhury, and will

once again share the screen with her in *Best Friend 2.0* this Eid. Additionally, he will appear in *Bantir Biye* and *Tumi Jake Bhalobasho*, both featuring Keya Payel as the leading lady.

Yash Rohan, known for his performances in both films and television dramas, has built a strong reputation, particularly excelling in romantic and serious roles. Keeping with tradition, he has several dramas lined up for Eid, including *Obujh Prem* alongside Naznin Niha, *Khush* with Tanjin Tisha, and *Bou er Biye* with Tanjim Saiara Totini. He will also appear in two dramas with Keya Payel.

Emerging actor Arosh Khan is set to feature in multiple Eid dramas, continuing to build on his expanding career. Meanwhile, Totini and Keya Payel are two of the busiest actresses working for Eid, with each of them expected to appear in over six dramas—perhaps even more. Both actresses are filming daily to meet the Eid rush.

Meanwhile, veteran actors Dr Ejajul Islam and Faruk Ahmed, who rose to fame through Humayun Ahmed's timeless dramas, continue to be active in the industry. They will be seen in several productions this Eid.

This time around, Chanchal Chowdhury will return to television after a hiatus with the drama series *Mission Munshiganj*, directed by Animesh Aich and co-starring Ashna Habib Bhabna.

Every Eid, a record number of dramas starring Mosharraf Karim are broadcast, and this year will be no exception. The renowned actor is currently following an intense filming schedule to meet the demand for his projects.

Apurba's presence in Eid programming is always significant. This year, his much-anticipated web film *How Sweet* will be released alongside several television dramas.

FS Nayem, a familiar face across films, television, and OTT, is busy with Eid drama productions and hosting duties. Similarly, Niloy Alamgir, another popular actor, will appear in multiple Eid dramas, as he has done in previous years.

Mushfiq R Farhan has established himself as one of the busiest actors in the industry today. With an ever-growing fan base, he has built an impressive reputation by portraying a variety of roles. This Eid, he will be seen in several dramas, including *Baji*, where he stars opposite Keya Payel.

With an array of talented actors and engaging storylines, this Eid is geared up to be an exciting time for television audiences. Whether it's romantic, comedic, or dramatic, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.



NEWS

'No question of seeing the army as foe'

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking at an event at the Kara Convention Centre in the capital's Bakhshibazar, he said, "We have seen military interventions in Bangladesh caused by political vacuums. Such interventions have never benefitted democracy. But now, the people have risen. They want to reclaim their ownership of the state. Their ownership and rights must be restored."

He then said any attempt to rehabilitate the Awami League would be resisted.

"We hear of various plots and schemes to rehabilitate the Awami League. If any such attempt is made, it will be dealt with firmly. Not just the Awami League, but all of its fascist allies and beneficiaries must also be held accountable."

During the AL regime, he said the military, police, and bureaucracy became politicised and turned into tools of the ruling party.

"We have seen how the police were used against the people. But we are not against institutions themselves. We must rebuild and reform them. But the individuals involved in crimes must be brought to justice."

Nahid paid tributes to the martyrs of the July uprising and prayed for the recovery of those injured.

At another event at the Jatiya Press Club, NCP leader Sarjis Alam said his party had confidence and respect for the army.

"There is no question of seeing the army as an adversary.... We have always had respect for them. We believe that they will continue to stand by the people in the future just like they did during the uprising," he said.

He then added that there was a certain narrative that did not reflect the reality.

"There is no direct opposition between the army and the people, the National Citizen Party, or any other political group."

"If we have concerns or opinions regarding any particular institution, we will engage in logical discussion.... The most important point is, those of us who represent the forces of the uprising will never be in confrontations with the military," he said.

Sarjis' comments came after a Facebook post by NCP leader Hasnat Abdullah early Friday sparked public

debate and demonstrations over the question of banning the Awami League.

Hasnat wrote that there was an ongoing conspiracy to rehabilitate the Awami League as per India's plan. He claimed that a proposal for the "refined Awami League" was pitched to him and two others "at the cantonment" in the afternoon of March 11.

"We were asked to accept this proposal in exchange for a parliamentary seat-sharing agreement," wrote the chief organiser of the NCP around 2:00am.

Contacted, the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate on Friday night said it had no comment on the matter.

At yesterday's event, Sarjis said there was no talk of removing the army chief. "Certain rumours are being spread, but we have never made such a statement. We believe such a situation has not arisen, and we hope that it will not arise before the election. The mutual respect between the army and political parties has always existed, still exists, and will continue to exist."

Commenting on the national election, he said the NCP stated that it had no problem if the government could arrange the election in December, January, or February. "But there should be no uncertainty regarding the election date."

Meanwhile, NCP leader Nasiruddin Patwary at an event in Sylhet yesterday said Hasnat's statement should not have appeared on social media.

"We believe it was inappropriate," he said.

He then added, "We see certain individuals from the cantonment interfere in political matters. It is unacceptable. Such decisions should be made by politicians, and we urge government institutions to refrain from such involvement."

Referring to the AL, he said, the party responsible for the deaths and injuries of 2,000 people must be banned through judicial proceedings. "There is no scope for the Awami League to participate in the next election."

The students and masses will launch an unstoppable movement if there is support for AL's political participation -- be it from the cantonment or political parties, he

said.

"If anyone, even if it is the chief adviser, obstructs the process of banning the Awami League... we will fight against them," he added.

NCP DEMONSTRATION

The NCP yesterday demanded immediate measures to launch judicial proceedings for "Awami League's murders" during the uprising.

"The Awami League was ousted through a mass uprising. There is no example in the world where a political party that was ousted by an uprising was later given the opportunity to participate in the election," said Hasnat at a rally of the party in the capital's Shahbagh.

Akhtar Hossain, NCP's member secretary, said the AL's registration should be cancelled within the shortest possible time.

"Otherwise, the students and mass people will be compelled to take to the street again," Akhtar added.

Mahin Sarker, joint convener, demanded a proper investigation into the killings during the July uprising and a ban on AL.

Several other top leaders of NCP demanded the freezing of the bank accounts of AL leaders and their associates.

After the rally, the NCP activists marched to the Central Shaheed Minar.

Several other organisations also demonstrated on Dhaka University campus demanding a ban on the AL.

At the Raju Bhaskarjo, Warriors of July and Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad held separate demonstrations, while another platform named "Gonohottakari Awami League Nishiddhokoron Andolon" held a mass iftar and sit-in programme.

The NCP also held programmes in several districts yesterday.

In Brahmanbaria, the district unit of NCP organised a protest march from the Municipal Mukta Mancha and to the Press Club, where a rally was later held.

In Savar, NCP leaders yesterday took out a procession calling for the prosecution of AL leaders for mass killings, the cancellation of the party's registration and a ban on its organisational activities.

They also formed a human chain in front of the National Memorial in Savar.

Potato farmers struggling

FROM PAGE 12

small farmers.

Haradhan Roy, a farmer from Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur, said he is now selling his produce at Tk 15 per kg.

Last season, potatoes were sold at Tk 20-23 per kg at the field level in March, while in December, prices soared to Tk 70-90 per kg, he added.

Refaz Uddin, a farmer from Badarganj upazila in Rangpur, said,

"Farmers usually store their potatoes in cold storage to secure better prices later, but many have failed to avail the facility amid rising rents and space shortages."

Meanwhile, in Bogura, potato prices had increased slightly after cold storage facilities opened in the northern region at the end of February this year.

However, prices fell again by up to Tk 200 per maund as most storage facilities reached full capacity.

From mid-February to early March, potatoes were sold at Tk 500-650 per maund in the northern districts. However, with most cold storage facilities now closed, potato prices have fallen to Tk 450 per maund, farmers said.

They are also worried about how to store such a large quantity of potatoes at home.

Sakiul Islam, a farmer from Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha, said, "I have lost an average of Tk 15,000 per bigha. I was only able to store 135 sacks of potatoes in cold storage.

"As the cold storage facilities have closed, I still have about 100 maunds of potatoes at home. If I have to sell

these potatoes at Tk 450 per maund now, I will incur heavy losses."

He leased three acres of land for potato cultivation this season for Tk 3 lakh for one year. Out of the Tk 3 lakh, Tk 90,000 was a bank loan.

"Due to the losses, I can't repay the bank loan. Now, I'll have to borrow again to pay off the debt."

Naim Islam, a farmer from Joypurhat district, said about 30 percent of the farmers in his village still have potatoes at home. On the one hand, there is no space in cold storage, and on the other hand, market prices remain low.

Moreover, potatoes are starting to rot due to rising temperatures, he added.

Farmers in Munshiganj say the few buyers who approach offer as little as Tk 6-8 per kg, far below the farmers' production costs, which range between Tk 20-25 per kg.

Salim Mridha, a farmer from Munshiganj Sadar, expressed his frustration, saying, "We're in deep trouble. I'm trying to store them in cold storage, but I haven't been able to secure space yet."

Biplob Kumar Mohanta, deputy director of the Munshiganj Agricultural Extension Department, said they've advised farmers to hold off on selling and instead store their produce at home.

He believes that prices may increase in the coming month or two.

Samir Hossain Siam, agricultural marketing officer of Munshiganj, said that they have instructed cold storage owners to ensure that

small farmers are able to store their potatoes without issues.

"The storage cost has been set at Tk 6.75 per kg. If any cold storage owners charge more, we will take legal action."

Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, president of the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, said that so far, about 70 percent of cold storage facilities in the northern region have been filled, while 20 percent in Munshiganj are occupied.

However, many local farmers and political leaders from different parts of the country do not believe this information, he said.

Contacted, Emdad Ullah Mian, secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, said efforts have been made to provide farmers with alternative potato storage options alongside cold storage facilities.

"Initially, cold storage owners raised rental rates, but after negotiations, a fair and reasonable pricing structure was reached."

The official also said several export barriers have been removed to safeguard farmers from losses.

"As a result, potato exports this season have reached 26,193 tonnes—double the volume of the previous fiscal year—amounting to Tk 67.95 crore in value."

Jahangir Alam Khan, an agricultural economist, recommended the government buy a minimum of 10 lakh tonnes of potatoes from farmers.

Additionally, he suggested that 20 to 25 percent of the country's cold storage capacity should be reserved exclusively for farmers.

NCP to suggest lowering voting age to 16yrs

FROM PAGE 12

the NCP suggests setting it at 23 years instead.

Currently, the minimum age to run in parliamentary elections is 25.

Tushar added that the NCP has already begun discussions with political parties that have submitted reform proposals.

If the NCP submits its proposals today, discussions regarding the party's

position may take place after Eid.

In response to a journalist's question regarding the Awami League, Tushar said, "The Awami League is clearly an anti-national force and an agent of India. If they take to the streets in protest, we will not call it a movement. They will be doing so only to destabilise the country. In that case, the police will have the right to use force as necessary."

Tushar said that opinions on reforms were gathered by asking families of those killed or injured in the mass uprising about their vision for Bangladesh.

He mentioned that a mother of one of the martyrs expressed her desire for a Bangladesh where the police would not have the authority to shoot at protesters if her son took to the streets in a demonstration.