

Eid diaries with showbiz stars

As the festive spirit of Eid fills the air, plans for celebration take centre stage. For celebrities, who spend most of the year juggling shoots and schedules, Eid offers a necessary pause. Here’s a glimpse into how some of the most familiar faces from showbiz are spending their Eid holidays.



Sadia Islam Mou

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sadia Islam Mou
Popular model, dancer, and actress Sadia Islam Mou will be spending Eid in Dhaka. “I stay busy throughout the year, and Eid gives me a chance to pause and spend time with family. I’ll be in Dhaka during the holidays,” she told The Daily Star, adding, “I wish everyone an early Eid Mubarak. May this Eid bring joy to all, and may everyone celebrate in their own festive way.”

Speaking about Eid special programmes, she shared, “Two of my dramas are set to air this Eid. I hope viewers enjoy them. I’ve also performed a dance for *Anandamela*. Dance has always been a passion of mine, so I hope the audience appreciates it.”

When asked how she would spend Eid day, she replied, “I’ll be celebrating with my

family. My daughter is studying abroad—I’ll be missing her a bit more on this special occasion.”

Azmeri Haque Badhan
Badhan will be spending this Eid in Dhaka with her family. “I’ll be celebrating Eid with my parents and loved ones here in Dhaka. My daughter will be with me too, and that’s what makes it special. Eid means joy, and I want to share that joy with my family,” she told The Daily Star.

Reflecting on past celebrations, Badhan



Azmeri Haque Badhan

added, “As a child, I used to make big plans for Eid. Now, I see that same excitement in my daughter, which feels lovely. During Eid, Dhaka becomes quiet and peaceful. For those travelling to their hometowns, I wish them a safe journey and a joyful Eid. One thing I enjoy about Eid in the city



Zakia Bari Mamo

is the absence of traffic. I plan to mostly stay home, but if my family decides to go somewhere together, I’ll join them as well.”

Zakia Bari Mamo
Zakia Bari Mamo will also be spending Eid in Dhaka. “I’ll be at home during the holidays. My mother is currently performing Hajj, along with my brother and sister-in-law. My Eid celebrations will feel complete only after they return,” she shared.

“This year, I haven’t made any elaborate plans. There was a time when Eid meant lots of excitement—shopping, outings, celebrations. But with time, things change and responsibilities grow. Yet, Eid is a special occasion that comes only twice a year, and people naturally want to make it meaningful. I plan to do the same,” she added. “For those travelling outside Dhaka, I wish them a safe journey. May this Eid bring happiness for everyone.”

Pori Moni

Pori Moni shared that all her Eid plans revolve around her two children. “My son Punnyo and daughter Priom are my everything—they are my dreams, my future, and the source of all my happiness. So, naturally, my Eid will be all about them,” she told The Daily Star.

“I’ll be in Dhaka during the Eid holidays. Even if I go somewhere, I’ll take them with me,” she said, adding, “During Eid, I miss my late grandfather the most. I will be thinking of him deeply this time. I request everyone



Pori Moni

to keep him in their prayers.”

She also extended love to her fans and well-wishers, saying, “Eid is about joy, and I hope that joy spreads to everyone.”

Tanjim Saiara Totini

Totini described Eid as a time of great joy and heartfelt emotions. “There’s something



Tanjim Saiara Totini

very special about Eid—it brings happiness and a unique sense of celebration,” the actress expressed.

“This Eid, I plan to visit Barishal, my hometown. It holds so many memories for me. I haven’t been able to go for the past few years due to work commitments, but this time, I made plans in advance,” she shared.

“I’m looking forward to spending a few days there and meeting many loved ones. I hope to create some beautiful memories. Barishal is very close to my heart because it’s home to both my maternal and paternal grandparents.”

In anticipation of Eid, stars from the entertainment industry are embracing the spirit of the season in their own meaningful ways—be it through family gatherings, hometown visits, or connecting with audiences through special programmes.

PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

NEWS

Imagine big to change the world

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because somebody imagined.

“Imagination is more powerful than anything we can bring together.”

Prof Yunus encouraged them to imagine the most odd and things that are unheard of.

“The human journey is about making the impossible possible. That is our job. And we can make it happen.”

Prof Yunus received an honorary doctorate degree from Peking University (PKU) at the event.

Chair of the Peking University Council He Guangcai and President Gong Qihuang also spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Prof Yunus said he felt the KPU was his home as he was accepted as an honorary professor there.

Terming the PKU a centre of

knowledge, wisdom, innovation and excellence, the Chief Adviser said he felt honoured.

He then recounted the dream of millions of young people who were the vanguard of the transformational change in Bangladesh last year.

Their vision was to build a new Bangladesh which would be free from poverty and hunger, Prof Yunus said.

Highlighting the reform agenda of his government, Prof Yunus said the administration was working towards building a democratic and resilient Bangladesh.

Mentioning that people are not poor at birth, the chief adviser said wrong economic systems, where all people are not given a fair chance, make them poor.

People suffer due to many wrong ideas prevailing in society, he observed.

Human beings are not born to be job seekers, Prof Yunus said.

He stressed promoting human beings to become entrepreneurs, not to be job seekers. “All human beings are entrepreneurs,” he said.

Focusing on the immense potential of women, the Nobel peace laureate said even the poorest woman in Bangladesh can be an entrepreneur taking a loan of just \$20.

Women can be entrepreneurs all around the world, he added.

About the purpose of education, Prof Yunus said, “What should be the purpose of education? The purpose of education is to enable people to go out and bring all creative capacity to change the world.”

He stressed the need for carbon-free economic systems to protect the planet from destruction.

One jailed, one held

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The family, along with neighbours, caught Rashidul and beat him before handing him over to the police. The victim’s father then filed the case later that night.

Meanwhile, in Lalmonirhat, police arrested Abdur Razzak, 28, director of Economics Private Home Coaching Centre, for raping a college student.

He was arrested from his home in

the town’s Collegepara area following a case filed by the victim’s father with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station, said the station’s OC Mohammad Nurnabi.

According to the case statement, Razzak developed a relationship with the college student and later raped her, secretly recording the incident. He then used the footage to blackmail her. When the victim stopped responding

to his calls, he threatened to release the video on social media and demanded Tk 5 lakh from her father.

OC Nurnabi said police have seized Razzak’s mobile phone and are investigating whether the footage was shared or stored elsewhere.

He added that the case is under investigation, and further legal action will be taken accordingly.

Remittance up as rates stabilise

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The central bank warned commercial banks that it would no longer provide US dollar support, requiring banks to manage their own US dollars for import payments. This has encouraged lenders to make greater efforts to collect more remittances, explained Arif.

“The growing trend of remittance inflow is a combined effort of all stakeholders, including the central bank, commercial banks, and Bangladeshi expatriates,” he added.

Foreign exchange reserves, which had been continuously depleting since August 2021, have now stabilised due to the increasing remittance inflows. According to IMF calculations, forex reserves have been hovering around \$20 billion since December last year.

The high remittance inflow has also improved liquidity in the forex market, as evidenced by banks’ net open positions (NOP) — the difference between their foreign currency assets and liabilities. The banks’ NOP reached \$550 million

as of March 20, up from around \$150 million earlier in the month, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

The gap between the official exchange rate and the unofficial exchange rate has narrowed, which has helped increase remittance inflows, said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard.

He said hundi, an illegal cross-border transaction system, likely declined due to the political transition, leading more remittance inflows to be directed through official channels. He believes remittance inflow will maintain the growth if transactions through the hundi system continue to fall.

Remittance inflow increased by nearly 28.5 percent to \$21.43 billion in the July to March 26 period of the current fiscal year, compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

Mohammed Nurul Amin, chairman of Global Islami Bank, told The Daily Star that money launderers

previously collected remittances from Bangladeshi expatriates before the political transition, but this is no longer happening.

“The interim government has gained the remitters’ trust, which is why they are sending more money through banking channels.”

During the Awami League-led government’s regime, local businesses and trade were controlled by the ruling party, but after the government’s fall, these opportunities have become accessible to all. This has encouraged Bangladeshi expatriates to send money to their relatives, enabling them to become entrepreneurs, said Nurul.

The increasing trend of manpower export is another key factor, according to him. He suggested that the government focus on exporting skilled rather than unskilled manpower to maximise remittance earnings.

Industry insiders estimate that around 4.6 million Bangladeshis have gone abroad in the last five and a half years.

Hasina, eight journos sued

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of people, including the plaintiff’s cousin, Saiful Islam, who was among those killed.

According to the case statement, on July 19, the accused attacked the protesters in the capital’s Kakrail area.

It said some of the accused directly participated in the attack or ordered the attack, while others are said to have incited the violence. The coordinated shooting and attacks resulted in the killing of Saiful and left many others injured.

The case drew attention after the metropolitan magistrate court took it into cognisance and ordering a probe.

Authorickshaw ‘robber’ killed

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autorickshaw driven by one Mohsin Mia, 42, in the Tantar area.

In the middle of the journey, one of them assaulted the driver and tried to take the autorickshaw. When the driver screamed, locals caught three of the hijackers and beat them up.”

Upon receiving the news, police rushed to the scene and took the injured to the health complex, where one of them died, the OC said.

“Legal action is underway regarding this incident,” the OC added.

US moves to shut USAID

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Committee on Foreign Relations denounced the move, saying in a statement that the reorganization “will not only render it impossible for any retained USAID programs to be implemented, but the burden placed on the State Department will cause significant disruption to its core mission.”

“This proposal is illegal, dangerous and inefficient,” they added.

Prior to its closure, the agency managed an annual budget of close to \$43 billion, accounting for more than 40 percent of the world’s humanitarian aid. Most of its staff were placed on administrative leave shortly after Trump took office.

11 dead in drone strikes against Taliban in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Eleven people were killed in drone strikes in northern Pakistan yesterday launched by the army against the Taliban, who had killed seven soldiers a day earlier, police told AFP.

Three drone strikes were carried out on Friday night in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a senior police officer said on condition of anonymity, targeting “Pakistani Taliban hideouts” in the region bordering Afghanistan where violence has erupted in recent months.

“It was only this morning that we learned that two women and three children were among the victims,” he said.

TNZ group agrees to Tk 3cr

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the workers would resume their protest with a rally in front of the TNZ group factories on April 7 and a demonstration in front of the Sromo Bhaban the next day.

Earlier in the day, Labour Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman in the afternoon held a meeting at the capital’s Sromo Bhaban with union leaders, TNZ management, and the BGMEA representatives to discuss the payment of due wages and bonuses ahead of Eid.

Following the meeting, Secretary Shafiquzzaman initially announced that the employer would provide Tk 2 crore by selling factory machinery. However, workers rejected the offer and surrounded the secretary.

After being surrounded by protesting workers for nearly 1 hour, Shafiquzzaman was escorted by law enforcement to the ground floor of the Sromo Bhaban.

As he attempted to enter his vehicle, workers surrounded him again, demanding full payment. It was then that Shafiquzzaman raised the amount to Tk 3 crore, but the workers still rejected the offer.

In response, Shafiquzzaman said that all issues, including the outstanding wages and bonuses, would be fully resolved before May Day.

He added that until the situation was resolved, TNZ Group Director Shaheen and two other officials would remain in the custody of the

“In protest, local residents placed the bodies of the victims on the road”, saying that they were “innocent civilians” killed in the strikes, he added.

Another police source said that “an investigation is under way to establish whether Taliban fighters were indeed present at the sites at the time of the attack”.

“It is too early to say whether the places affected were civilian areas or whether they were sheltering Taliban,” he added.

The Pakistani Taliban — known as Tehreek e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — announced in mid-March a “spring campaign” against security forces, threatening “ambushes, targeted attacks, suicide attacks and strikes”.

Labour Department

“As we plan for a permanent solution, if needed, we will shut down the factory after paying all the dues,” he said. “We will make the necessary arrangements to bring a smile to the workers’ faces.”

Shahidul Islam, a representative of workers at Apparel Plus Eco, said, “Even with Tk 3 crore, it won’t be enough. Many workers have not been paid for three months and are living in dire conditions. If we don’t receive at least one month’s salary and one bonus before Eid, we will continue our protests.”

For nearly a week, TNZ Group workers have been demonstrating in front of the Sromo Bhaban, demanding three months’ unpaid wages and Eid bonuses. Yesterday, workers staged a hunger procession.

On Friday, they held a press conference in front of the Sromo Bhaban, saying they were owed Tk 17.78 crore in unpaid wages, bonuses, and allowances.

Only Tk 1.05 crore had been paid on Thursday, they added.

Meanwhile, the industrial police, in a statement, said almost all the factories, including the garment factories, paid half of the salary of March and Eid bonuses.

Only one or two factories could not pay and the labour ministry and BGMEA have been trying to solve the payment to the workers, the statement added.