

Nabila reflects on tradition, MOTHERHOOD ON EID

Masuma Rahman
Nabila is one of the most recognisable faces in Bangladeshi television and cinema. She first came into the spotlight as a presenter in 2006 through the television programme “Ebong Class Er Baire”.

ANIKA TAHISIN HAFSA

Over the years, she has built a strong acting career, appearing in notable films such as *Aynabaji*, *Toofan*, and her most recent work, *Bonolota Sen*. Known for her calm screen presence and thoughtful role choices, Nabila has maintained a steady position in the industry while balancing her personal life and career.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, she spoke about Eid traditions, childhood memories, motherhood, and her upcoming Eid release. This Eid, Nabila returns to the big screen with a new film titled *Bonolota Sen*. She said, “The film is based on poetry. It has a very artistic and poetic feel in every scene and frame.”

“We did a lot of rehearsals, and I tried to give my best performance,” she shared. She also spoke about the effort behind her character’s appearance. “The director worked on the look with a lot of research and time.”

She emphasised that performance mattered more than appearance. “For me, the performance was more challenging than the look.” She added that she chose the project because it offered something new. “I did not want to miss the opportunity. Everyone wants to explore something new.”

She also shared, “The film is based on the work of Jibanananda Das. I consider it a part of history. I feel proud to be part of that history.”

However, for Nabila, Eid has always been a family affair rooted in Dhaka. She has celebrated this Eid in Dhaka with her family.

Recalling her childhood, she described how Eid-ul-Azha felt different in earlier days, especially in the way animals were kept at home. “When we were young, there was space in our house where cows and goats brought from the

market were kept. Now they are usually kept in garages.”

She also remembered small everyday moments that made Eid meaningful. “We used to give leaves to the cows and goats and let them eat those. We did these things when we were children.” Now, she finds herself trying to recreate those experiences for her daughter. “Now I try to make my daughter do the same things. That is the difference.”

As a mother, Nabila now focuses on creating meaningful Eid memories for her daughter.

“I try to make Eid as fulfilling as possible for her.” She shared how she plans small experiences during the holidays. “At night, we go out somewhere, maybe to a play zone. Last Eid, we went to the cinema to watch a film. It was her first cinema experience.”

Talking about the

meaning of sacrifice, Nabila reflected on its religious and emotional significance. “In our religion, sacrifice is done to please Allah. That is the main message behind it.” She believes the idea carries an important life lesson. “Sacrificing something you love most teaches us an important lesson in life.” She added that sacrifice is often misunderstood. “Many people take sacrifice in a negative way, but I think it is important for unity, better relationships, and stronger families.”

Eventually, her message for the audience this Eid was direct and warm.

“Eid is a day when even if you want to be sad, you cannot be,” she said. “The energy that passes between people — everyone is so happy. I hope everyone spends the day the way they imagined it.” She added, “And please come to the cinema hall and watch all the Bangla films that are releasing.”



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Chayanika Chowdhury’s ‘Abar Hobe Dekha’ airs today

Chayanika Chowdhury is set to present a new Eid special telefilm titled *Abar Hobe Dekha*, based on a foreign story and written by Faria Hossain.



The telefilm revolves around Mahbub and Kobita, a loving couple whose deep emotional bond remains strong despite their age difference.

Their only son, Mihir, shares a close friendship-like relationship with them and has long been in love with their neighbour Tuli.

According to the synopsis, the telefilm explores grief, hope and the enduring belief that loved ones will meet again someday.

It features Afzal Hossain, Deepa Khandakar, Aisha Khan, and Prantor Dastider among others. The telefilm will air today on NTV at 2:20 pm.

Anupam Roy to perform in Dhaka this june



Popular Indian singer-songwriter Anupam Roy is set to return to Bangladesh for a concert in Dhaka after more than two years.

Over the years, he has performed at concerts across Dhaka, Chattogram and several other districts

of the country.

Fans in Bangladesh, who had not seen the artiste perform live for more than two years, recently welcomed the news of his return with excitement after the announcement surfaced on social media.

Organiser Triple Time Communications confirmed that Anupam Roy will perform at a concert in Dhaka on June 26 alongside his group, The Anupam Roy Band.

The venue for the concert has not yet been finalised. However, organisers said they are planning to arrange the event at an indoor venue considering the possibility of rain during the monsoon season.

NEWS

Bangladesh storm into semifinals

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Fazla netted for Maldives.

Bangladesh took the lead just 11 seconds after kickoff. Sweden-based forward Anika capitalised on a low cross from Ritu Porna Chakma to score one of the fastest goals of the tournament and set the tone for the match. Bangladesh dominated possession from the outset, pinning Maldives deep inside their own half.

Despite creating several chances, Bangladesh struggled to finish clinically before Umehla doubled the lead in the 34th minute with a low strike from the

right after receiving a forward pass from Shamsunnahar Jr.

Maldives, however, pulled one back against the run of play. After Bangladesh lost possession in midfield, Mariya Noora unleashed a powerful 35-yard effort that struck the underside of the bar before crossing the line. The goal was confirmed by the assistant referee after a brief moment of uncertainty.

Bangladesh continued to control the game after the break, but Maldives stunned the holders again in the 57th minute when Aminath Fazla finished off a counterattack with a low shot past

goalkeeper Mile Akter.

Butler had brought on Sauravi Akanda Pritty and Mst Sagorika at the beginning of the second half and then introduced Shaheda Akter Ripa and Tahura Khatun. The changes paid off as Pritty restored Bangladesh's lead in the 64th minute, tapping in from close range after Maldives goalkeeper Fathimath Sausan failed to hold onto another dangerous cross from Ritu Porna.

Ritu Porna capped off an impressive display when her stoppage-time corner was headed home by Kisku to seal Bangladesh's emphatic victory.

Rawhide sellers count losses again

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to Tk 800 for similar hides last year.

Seasonal rawhide traders said despite the government's price hike, they received no assurance from tannery owners that hides would be bought at the revised rates.

According to them, tannery owners offered lower prices than last year, forcing traders to buy hides at reduced rates.

Tannery owners, however, denied the allegations, claiming that prices had instead increased by Tk 50 to Tk 60 per piece compared with last year.

Shamsul Haque, a trader at the capital's Posta, one of the rawhide trading hubs, said he was buying small, medium and large raw hides for between Tk 250 and Tk 700.

He said the government should set prices based on the market situation.

Jahangir Alam brought about 100 cowhides from Uttara to Posta for sale. Speaking to The Daily Star, he said he had bought each hide at an average price of Tk 500 to Tk 550.

“But now buyers are not offering more than Tk 600 per piece on average. For smaller hides, they are saying they will not pay even a single taka and are asking us to give them away for free,” he said.

“Last year, I sold hides of the same size

for Tk 800 to Tk 850. The government sets prices, but if those rates are not enforced in the market, then what is the point of fixing them?” he added.

Abid Hossain Hanif, a seasonal trader from the Science Lab area, said he bought small raw hides at Tk 400 to Tk 450, medium ones at Tk 500, and large ones at Tk 550 to Tk 600.

He said prices were somewhat lower compared to last year because traders were buying hides at the rates offered by tannery owners.

In Gazipur, local schoolteacher Badsha Abdullah, 35, said, “I sold the hide of a bull worth Tk 161,000 for only Tk 250. Even then, nobody wanted to buy it. I had to request a trader to take the hide.”

Aminul Islam, a rawhide supplier and trader from Kalidasgati village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila, said, “This year, I am purchasing fewer rawhides because the market condition is not good. Large size cow rawhide is currently being sold for Tk 700 to Tk 750.”

The government fixed rawhide prices this year, raising salted cowhide rates in Dhaka by Tk 2 per square foot. Cowhide was fixed at Tk 62 to Tk 67, goat skin at Tk 25 to Tk 30, and she goat skin at Tk 22 to Tk 25 per square foot.

Accordingly, a small salted hide may fetch between Tk 990 and Tk 1,200.

‘Donald Trump’ becomes

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“I came to the zoo just to see Donald Trump”

Adults were equally drawn in. Three friends – Russel, Mahmud, and Asif – were spotted taking selfies at the enclosure. “We can’t take a picture with the real Trump,” they said, “So we took a photo with buffalo Trump instead.”

Rafiqul Islam was measured about the frenzy. “The name was given by the trader. For us, it is simply an albino buffalo. We had no intention of displaying it as a special attraction. But since it needs to be kept in a large enclosure, visitors are able to see it, and it has attracted a lot of interest.” Visitors were also seen at the Botanical Garden,

Diabari in Uttara, Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhanmondi Lake, Zia Udyan, the National Museum, Shyamoli Shishu Mela, Fantasy Kingdom, Nandan Park, Ahsan Manzil, Lalbagh Fort and Hatirjheel, although most recreational spots saw relatively thin crowds on Eid day as the city settled into a quieter holiday mood.

Fashion, footwear retailers report weak Eid sales

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sharply to 9.57 percent in April from 9.09 percent a month earlier, indicating sustained increases in the costs of fuel, transport and other services.

Soumik Das, chief executive officer of Rang Bangladesh, said sales this year were disappointing, with businesses only managing to match last year's weak figures.

He said retailers had expected stronger sales following the change in government and the beginning of what many hoped would be a better economic period, but those expectations were not realised.

According to him, the overall market remained sluggish, leaving many entrepreneurs frustrated as expectations for Eid-ul-Azha sales had been high while actual consumer spending stayed low.

He added that middle- and lower-middle-income consumers may have prioritised spending on sacrificial animals or become more cautious about discretionary expenses.

Retailers usually face intense pressure during Eid shopping seasons and often require additional temporary workers and support staff to manage crowds.

This year, however, retailers said there was no such pressure.

Rang Bangladesh did not hire additional temporary staff, and office employees were not required to assist at outlets during weekends as customer turnout remained close to regular off-season levels, Soumik added.

Neymar set to miss Brazil WC

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announcement. The club's doctor Rodrigo Zogaib had stated the problem was merely swelling and that Neymar would arrive fit to begin training on Tuesday.

Instead, Brazil's all-time leading scorer will miss Sunday's friendly against Panama at the Maracana and the subsequent match against Egypt in Cleveland. He is also all but ruled out of Brazil's World Cup opener against African champions Morocco on June 13 in New Jersey.

The diagnosis differs from that presented by Santos prior to the squad

announcement. The club's doctor Rodrigo Zogaib had stated the problem was merely swelling and that Neymar would arrive fit to begin training on Tuesday.

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Brazil are in Group C also alongside Haiti and Scotland.

Nicosia court freezes property of S Alam, wife

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Saiful, however, denies any wrongdoing.

Investigators are probing whether funds were transferred abroad through a network of companies and trusts registered in Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands and Jersey.

Saiful, represented by international law firm Quinn Emanuel, has argued his investments were funded through legitimate foreign sources and has initiated proceedings before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, claiming measures against his assets violate international investment protection agreements.

China vows

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“It is essential to steadfastly respect the sovereignty and independence of all nations, and to oppose all forms of power politics and bullying,” he added, in an apparent reference to the US.

The Trump administration cut off Cuba's supply of oil from Havana's ally Venezuela after it ousted Nicolas Maduro in a raid in January.

Washington tightened the screws last week by indicting former Cuban president Raul Castro over the downing of two civilian US planes in 1996, fuelling fears that the US was seeking a pretext to overthrow the government in Havana.

China's foreign ministry urged the US to “stop brandishing... the judicial stick against Cuba and stop threatening force at every turn”, in response to the indictment last week.