

Drums, lights, and the return of joy



Every autumn, something shifts in the air across Bangladesh. The evenings cool a little, the markets grow busier, and the sound of the dhak begins drifting through neighbourhoods long before the first pandal goes up. Durga Puja is arriving, and for a few days, the country's worries seem to step quietly aside.

Inflation has made many household budgets stretch far thinner than they once did, and news from around the world rarely offers much comfort. Yet when the festivities finally begin, familiar anxieties give way to something older and warmer. Families who have spent months counting every taka find themselves buying new clothes for the children, sharing sweets with neighbours and lingering over conversations that have nothing to do with bills or headlines.

In the pages ahead, we take you on a journey through the season's spirit. Discover the historic Hindu temples across Bangladesh worth a visit this festive period, and find recipes for the dishes that fill family kitchens during the celebrations. Flip through the pages and let the festivities begin.

-- LS Desk
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed/ Collected



