

Our film industry is regaining life

🎯 Purnima

Purnima recently featured in “Chironjib Mujib”, which hit the theatres on the last day of 2021. Directed by Nazrul Islam, the project is based on the “Ausamapta Atmajiboni” (The Unfinished Memoirs) of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress has opened up about working in the film and more on her upcoming projects.

Tell us about your role in “Chironjib Mujib”.
The film is an unfinished autobiography of the Father of the Nation. I have portrayed the role of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, which is the greatest achievement in my career. As an artiste, it is an honour to be a part of this project.

How challenging was it to portray wife of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?
Since it is a periodic film, it was quite challenging to bring out her personality, keeping in mind the timeline of a different generation. She had great contributions to Bangabandhu's political career, and she had to manage a lot of things while the Father of the Nation was unjustly kept behind bars. To know more about her, I had read books and attained knowledge from reliable resources, after signing the film.

I am hopeful about our film industry..

Why should the audience watch “Chironjib Mujib”?
People will love the film, as they will get to know many lesser known facts about Bangabandhu, through this film. This project will make the audience love and respect for the Father of the Nation even more.

What are you looking forward to in 2022?
I have been getting offers for OTT projects, however, I will choose wisely depending on my character and plot of the production. Other than work, I wish we get a Covid-19 free world.

How hopeful are you with the future of the film industry?
I have always been a positive person, and I am hopeful about our film industry. A lot of good films are being made these days, and I believe that the film fraternity is regaining life once again.



Musical reality show ‘Young Star’ to air special episode today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Arranged by RTV and presented by Danish, musical reality show ‘Young Star’ will air their special episode featuring songs by five major poets of Bengal- the ‘Pancho Kobi’. These five juggernauts are Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rajanikanta Sen, Atul Prasad Sen, and Dwijendralal Roy.

Special judges for this episode are noted Rabindra Sangeet Exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Fatema Tuz Zhora respectively.

Produced by Shohag Masud, the regular judges of the show are Ibrah Tipu, Protic Hasan and Porshi. The special episode will be aired today at 8 pm, on RTV.

Afran Nisho’s ‘live video’ drama to promote ‘Syndicate’

On the second day of the year, a live video, featuring celebrated actor Afran Nisho, appeared on streaming platform Chorki’s official Facebook page. The actor was seen visiting his hairstylist for a new look, playing with the trimmer and trying to almost shave his head. Communicating with his fans, confused Nisho repeatedly kept asking for suggestions for his new look for the new year. In the video, the hairdresser and Nisho were seen arguing over the thought of the actor deciding to go bald. Later, the actor later revealed that this was in promotion for his new look for his upcoming, Chorki original “Syndicate”. Directed by Shihab Shaheen, “Syndicate” will feature Tasnia Farin and Nazifa Tushi, among others.



COUNTRYWIDE

Piren Slan’s 18th death anniv observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People of Garo community in Madhupur upazila yesterday paid their homage to the anti-Eco Park movement’s slain indigenous leader Piren Slan on the occasion of his 18th death anniversary. Marking the day, different organisations of the community, including Bangladesh Garo Student Association (Bagachas), Abima Garo Youth, Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnoyon Parishad and Achik Michik Society, organised different programmes like placing wreaths at the grave and memorial plaque of Piren Slan in Joynagachha and Jalabada villages respectively, offering special prayers and discussion meeting. The Garo leaders said although Piren Slan sacrificed his life for protecting existence of Madhupur Garos, the rights of the indigenous community could not be realised so far. Mentionable, indigenous youth Piren Slan of Joynagachha village was killed and 25 other indigenous people were injured when police and forest guards opened fire on an anti-Eco Park procession in Madhupur’s Jalabada area on January 3, 2004.

2 PATUAKHALI UPS

Polls to be held after nearly 20yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PATUAKHALI

After nearly 20 years, election to two union parishads (UPs) under Rangabali upazila are going to held in February this year. According to Rangabali Upazila Election Office, election to Barabaishadia and Maudubi union parishads is scheduled for February 7. Upazila Election Officer Moniruzzaman Sohag said the Election Commission (EC) has announced the election schedules recently. Sohag said when the election was last held in 2002, Moudubi was then under Barabaishadia UP. Prior to the last election, people of Maudubi was demanding a separate union, splitting from the Barabaishadia union. But after the end of the tenure, the EC couldn’t hold any fresh election due to disagreement over demarcation issues, he said. Maudubi union unit Awami League (AL) General Secretary Zahirul Islam said local people couldn’t nominate their desired representatives as there was no election for a long.

Kurigram char families are happy to get raised houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A total of 150 families affected by floods and erosion are happy getting elevated homesteads in 30 char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram. Each homestead has been raised six to eight feet above the mainland, thanks to the initiative of RDRS Bangladesh, an NGO working for the benefit of the rural people. Each homestead comprises 20-30 decimals of land where a cluster of five families is settled. It has cost Tk 87,500 to elevate each homestead. Laizu Begum, 34, an erosion victim of Char Sardob village, said their homesteads get submerged by floodwaters every year. Their houses and homesteads have been washed away by the river many times.

They are happy as their homestead has been raised. She has planted vegetable saplings on the elevated homestead. She hopes that this time they will not have to take shelter elsewhere during floods. The families of Morzina Begum, Maleka Bewa, Anjuman Ara and Ramicha Begum along with Laizu are living in the cluster homesteads. Selina Begum, another woman from Char Holokhana village in Sadar upazila, said the elevated homestead has given them hope that they will no longer have to leave their homes during the floods. Their homestead has been raised six to seven feet above the mainland. She added that different varieties of vegetable saplings have been planted on the homestead. Alongside meeting their demand, they are even

selling the vegetables. The families of Selina Begum, Zaheda Begum, Khushi Begum, Shaheda Khatun and Sekerban Khatun are living in another cluster of the homestead. RDRS Bangladesh is working in 20 unions along the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram through the Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, funded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Sirajum Monira, field facilitator of the project, said the beneficiaries have been trained to cultivate vegetables in the elevated homesteads. Tapan Kumar Saha, manager of the project, Kurigram unit, said they monitor the flood situation and aware the people living on the Brahmaputra basin in advance to minimise their losses.



A woman affected by floods and erosion takes care of her vegetable cultivation in Dharla river basin char (landmass emerged from riverbed) area of Kurigram Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

New year, old problems

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new activities under the project such as making a 10-episode animated movie titled “Khoka” on the childhood of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and making 12 games under the game-based web platform.

The project called BEPZA Economic Zone Mirsarai-1st Phase, which was taken to attract local and foreign investment, is now seeking revision with an additional expenditure of Tk 552 and two more years.

The original project cost was Tk 750 crore and the completion date was June last year.

The reasons for the added time and cost are the increase in the number of industrial plots from 250 to 539, additional land development and construction works, fire stations and other construction works, etc.

A Tk 66 crore project was taken up in 2010 for basic and applied research on jute, one of the major export earners for Bangladesh, over a span of three years.

About 11 years have passed and the project has not been completed. It has gone through two revisions, with an additional Tk 63 crore allotted.

Now, it will seek another Tk 7 crore and two years for the continuation of the research and other

activities. Another project seeking revision is the one for the building of logistics and fleet maintenance facilities for the Bangladesh Coast Guard. It was approved in July 2018 for completion by June 2021 for Tk 448 crore. Its cost will soar to Tk 584.4 crore and it will need two more years.

A Tk 82 crore project on modernisation, digitisation and automation of the central broadcasting system of Bangladesh Television (first phase) was taken in April 2018 and was set to end in June last year.

Now, it has called for an additional Tk 36 crore and another year and a half to wrap up as the costs for construction of non-residential buildings and procuring engineering and other equipments have increased.

A Tk 302 crore project was taken up in 2019 for the prevention of erosion of the right bank of Brahmaputra river in Chilmari and Ulipur upazilas of Kurigram district. It was scheduled for completion in June this year.

Another year and another Tk 145 crore are needed due to the increase of river bank conservation work from 4.8 kilometres to 6.3 km for morphological changes in the Brahmaputra river and an expansion of the embankment area.

S Africa parliament blaze under control, suspect charged

AFP, CAPE TOWN

A fire that ravaged part of South Africa’s parliament, engulfing the National Assembly and threatening national treasures, has been brought under control, firefighters

said yesterday, as police charged a suspect with starting the blaze. Flames broke out early Sunday in the oldest wing of the Cape Town complex, triggering an inferno that crews battled throughout the day.