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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nazia Haque Orsha has been mesmerising audiences with her versatile performances since her participation in Lux-Channel i Superstar 2009. She carved a space for herself in the world of television, before making her way into OTT platforms and films.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the “Networker Baire” actress opens up about her new films, upcoming ventures, and more.

Among film, television, and OTT platforms, which medium do you enjoy the most?

I am working on web-based projects more than anything else right now. I believe the audience for streaming platforms will be steady in the long run.

Currently, I am shooting for Golam

Sohrab Dodul’s web film, “Kalo Projapoti”, and I have also finished the shoot for Zee5’s “Kuhulika”.

Usually, for projects on OTT platforms, we get over a month to prepare for our roles and work on our craft. OTT platforms produce projects of higher quality and budgets too.

You have slowly moved away from television. Why so?

I have stopped working on television, as it became too hectic for me. I was working like a robot, and as a result, I was not delivering quality performances. As this was unacceptable to me, I distanced myself from the field.

Tell us about your upcoming films.

I am currently awaiting the release of two of my movies, Nur Imran Mithu’s “Patal Ghor” and Sajjad Khan’s “Shahosh”.

Both films might be released this year, and they are quite different from each other.

Moving forward, I will only choose films with strong characters.

Do you follow any strategy in your career?

You truly cannot plan anything in this industry. For example, if you look at Badhon’s career, she garnered international acclaim just last year, in her mid-30s.

Frankly speaking, I follow no strategy, as the industry is quite unpredictable. You can be working one day, and suddenly, be left with nothing the next day. It is best to have other options, before coming into the industry.

Are you still upset about Aranyo Anawer’s decision to cast Pori Moni in ‘Maa’, instead of you?

It is all in the past. I don’t feel upset or sad about the decision anymore. I only feel bad for the director, who might not be able to cast anyone in his films ever. There was no professionalism from his side. I pity him.



Bhabna excited for ‘Dampara’ with Ferdous

Ashna Habib Bhabna, fresh off the critical success of “Laal Moroger Jhuti”, shared a beautiful snapshot with renowned actor Ferdous from the sets of their upcoming project, “Dampara”. The film, which wrapped up shooting recently, is directed by Shuddhaman Chaiton. “He is such an amazing person and a great co-actor, I am already missing him,” wrote Bhabna on Facebook.

Akshay Kumar announces ‘Selfie’ with Imran Hashmi

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

It was reported that Akshay Kumar will feature in a film together, soon. It turns out that the stars will share the screen in ‘Selfie’, the upcoming remake of the Malayalam film “Driving Licence”.

“Kick-starting my day with a #Selfie! Because why not,” shared Akshay on Twitter. The film is being produced under Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions banner. According to reports on the Indian media, the story revolves around a cop and a superstar.



NEWS

Bangladesh seeks thaw

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government will try to find out the reasons and address those, and improve democratic practices.

“If there are any mistakes, the government will rectify those,” Momen said.

“We have a number of channels for engagement with the US. We could not hold the dialogues due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As it goes away, we will be increasing our engagement. We believe we can remove the gaps and weaknesses we have,” said Momen.

In February, two dialogues – Security Dialogue in Washington and Investment Dialogue

– are likely in Dhaka. Generally, director general of the America wing leads security dialogue, but this time Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen may lead it, given the sensitivity of the issue this year, a foreign ministry official said.

Meanwhile, USAID Administrator Samantha Power is also likely to visit Dhaka soon, while Foreign Minister Momen is likely to visit Washington in February to join a discussion on climate change at the invitation of John Kerry, Biden’s Special Envoy for Climate.

“We want visits like these for more engagement with them,” Momen said recently.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute President and former ambassador M Humayun Kabir said the foreign minister’s remarks that if there are mistakes, those will be rectified are in the right direction.

“The US is a very important country for us. It is so far the highest donor in the Rohingya crisis and an important factor to create pressure on Myanmar. We need to maintain a good relationship with it,” he said.

Bangladesh exports around \$6 billion worth of products, mostly RMG ones, to the US annually. The US provided over \$6 billion development assistance through USAID

since 1972, making it one of the most principal development partners.

According to the US Embassy in Dhaka, the US is also the largest donor of Covid-19 vaccines, more than 17 million so far, to Bangladesh. US companies are the largest foreign investors in Bangladesh, with \$3.4 billion in investments as of 2018. Chevron is the single largest foreign investor, producing some 55 percent of Bangladesh’s domestic natural gas.

A foreign ministry official said there is a large Bangladeshi diaspora, about 800,000, in the US. Also, in 2020-21, at least 8,598 Bangladeshi

students were enrolled in different US universities.

“We have a multi-faceted relationship with the US. So, we need to keep it strong,” a foreign ministry official told this correspondent.

Rab said it wanted a solution to the problem with the US by establishing a cordial relationship. The force has been receiving important training from the US since 2011. For now, Rab can avail of no US assistance or training because of the sanction.

Dhaka has not clarified if it is taking any actions against those sanctioned by the US.

According to the Global Magnitsky Accountability

Act, for sanctions to be lifted, the individual facing the sanction has to be prosecuted appropriately.

“Or, the person has to credibly demonstrate a significant change in behaviour, pay an appropriate consequence for the activities, and credibly commit to not engage in the types of activities,” it says.

M Humayun Kabir said there is no alternative for Dhaka to improve democratic values and rights situation for a strong relationship with Washington.

TIES TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS: MILLER

Outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R

Miller expressed hope that the “excellent relations” between the two countries would reach “new heights” in the future, noting that a high-level delegation from Washington would visit Dhaka within the next few months.

He said the delegation has started preparations to discuss various issues of mutual interest with a view to taking the relations between the two countries to a higher level, reported UNB.

Ambassador Miller made the remarks during his farewell meeting with Prime Minister’s International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi at the Prime Minister’s Office.

The meeting between them lasted for an hour from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, according to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Ambassador Miller was accompanied by Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Dhaka Helen LaFave and Political Section Chief Arturo Hines.

Youth playing

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8:30pm, Rashedul’s friends quickly left the railway tracks. Rashedul, however, was run over by the train. He died on the spot, the OC added.

Police later recovered the body and handed it over to the victim’s family members.

Forgotten by society, unforgiven by hunger

A family of four physically challenged persons belonging to indigenous Mahato community suffers from starvation

MINTU DESHWARA

An indigenous family belonging to the Mahato community has been suffering from hunger pangs as all four members are physically challenged.

Poverty has forced them to share their living space with their lone cow at Baramchal Tea Garden in the remote area of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar district.

When this correspondent approached them at Baramchal Tea Garden, some 45 km away from Moulvibazar town, they initially refused to talk.

“Many people like you come to visit us with a promise to help us but they never keep their words,” they resented.

“We have been fasting for days.

Tonight, we could manage some arum leaves,” they said.

“Nobody cares for us; we go to bed unfed most of the nights,” said Mohanlal Kurmi.

It could be learnt that Mohanlal Kurmi and Jasanti Kurmi belonging to the Mahato community are physically challenged. Mohan Lal is speech impaired and physically challenged. Each of the two children—Arjun Kurmi, 15, and Malati Kurmi, 13,—is also visually impaired.

Jasanti is the breadwinner of the family. She somehow supports the family by working as a day labourer and tending betel plantation.

Mohanlal also tried to add to the family income but he could

not continue because of his physical challenges.

According to them, their one child is entitled to a government allowance of Tk 750.

Mohanlal Kurmi’s younger brother Chunulal Kurmi said, “I am also a very helpless person yet I try to help them. But sadly, that is not enough.”

Shakhawat Hossain, Kulaura upazila social welfare officer, said that according to the policy, more than one person in the same family will not get the allowance.

Saidul Hasan Shipon, general secretary of Kulaura Sangbadik Samity, said he also visited the family earlier.

If the family is not given quick support, all the people in the family will starve to death, he added.

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e-Tender is hereby invited through National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of the works	Date & time of closing
01	647437	INF-2020-21-603626-01	(A) Construction of Fish Shed at Mirashi Hazi Bazar, (B) Construction of Wash Block at Mirashi Notun Bazar & (C) Construction of Wash Block at Chandi Tea Garden in Chunarughat Upazila, Habiganj District.	31 January, 2022 BST 11:00:00
02	647614	INF-2020-21-603626-02	(A) Installation of Solar Light at different important Roads in Chunarughat Upazila, Habiganj District.	31 January, 2022 BST 11:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies are allowed. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Any others conditions for this tender is stated in TDS. Interested tenderers may communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Abdullah Al Baker Mazumdar
Upazila Engineer
Chunarughat, Habiganj
Phone: 08325-56189
ue.chunarughat@lged.gov.bd

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