



I wanted to break myself as an artiste: Peya Jannatul

‘Chitmahal’ in theatres from today

Renowned model, anchor and actress Jannatul Ferdous Peya has always been selective about her silver-screen projects. After “Chorabali” and “Gangster Returns”, she will be seen in H R Habib directorial “Chitmahal”. The film released theatrically today.

The artiste, who is also an established lawyer, shared her experience in working on the project, and more. Even though the film released today, it was announced back in 2015. “We have waited for this release for a long time,” says the actress, “The entire crew is relieved that it could finally hit theatres,” says Peya.

Inspired by the true events of the lives of the enclaved people during the partition of India in 1947, “Chitmahal” was filmed in Panchagarh, Maroa Chitmahal.

“We cannot fathom the social and mental sufferings of an orphan who lives without the identity of their roots,” she asserts. “Enclaved people are unrecognised citizens, who have no identity of their land, and they are deprived from



citizen rights.” Peya says that while filming, a few old women came to see the shooting, and were emotional when they learned the film is based on their lives.

Peya will be portraying the role of a widow in this film. “I wanted to break myself as an artiste, I wanted to come out of my ‘western’ image, and experiment with something new,” she says.

Peya informs that while shooting the film, she was not as aware of these subjugated people. “Some films are made to document history, and this is one such film. The audience will get to be empathetic towards the suffering of these people.” The film will have a special screening for the residence of the said ‘Chitmahal’, on the day of release. Apart from acting, modelling and anchoring, Peya Jannatul is also an extremely busy lawyer. “It gets tough for me to manage the time. I have signed two films: Jaaz multimedia’s “Masud Rana” and Raihan Rafi’s “Shwapnobaji”, while shooting for “Chitmahal”.

“Chitmahal” also features Moushumi Hamid, Shimul Khan, and Arman Parvez Murad, among others.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



20th Dhaka Int’l Film Festival kicks off tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 20th edition of the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) is set to be inaugurated tomorrow at the Bangladesh National Museum Main Auditorium.

The festival has been arranged by Rainbow Film Society, an organisation dedicated to promoting a healthy cine-culture in Bangladesh since 1977.

During the programme, organisers expect to screen around 225 films from 70 different countries. The screenings will take place at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, STAR Cineplex, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Central Public Library, and Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium.

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Megan Fox, Machine Gun Kelly engaged

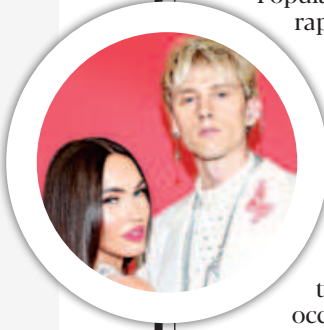
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular American actress Megan Fox and rapper Machine Gun Kelly are engaged.

Each posted a video on social media announcing their engagement. Fox shared a video on Instagram of Kelly kneeling in front of her at the top of a flight of outdoor stairs under the tree where the two said they fell in love in July 2020, as per reports.

Kelly also posted a video on Instagram, showing Fox wearing the two merged rings the rapper made for the occasion, with a diamond and an emerald that form “the obscure heart that is our love.”

Fox also wrote in her post that that she and the 31-year-old musician ‘drank each other’s blood’ to celebrate the occasion, which took place outside of the Spa Botánico at the Ritz-Carlton Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico.



COUNTRYWIDE

Women, new voters

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vote for. “But I want continuation of the development works in the city. I hope the city will be free from eve-teasing and separate toilets will be set up for women.”

Another university student Abdul Alim said he wants a drugs- and corruption-free green city where there will be no traffic jam.

“Teenage gang is a new worry for city residents. There are a number of such gangs in the city. The new mayor must take stern actions against those,” he said.

Voters are also worried about using EVM as many are going to use it for the first time. They said the voting may progress slowly due to use of the machine, which might have an impact on the polls results.

Sixty-year-old Tarikat Hossain said he has little idea about EVMs. “I never cast my ballots using an EVM. I may be able to use it, but what about uneducated people? Would they be able to cast their ballots? This will be a big issue.”

While campaigning in the city’s Paschim Dewbhog area, Ivy yesterday said she would carry out her duties honestly to fulfil the wishes of the new voters if she won the election.

“I have served the Narayanganj city residents rising above party and personal interests. I speak clearly and I never resort to lies. That’s why new voters will vote for me,” she said.

Taimur yesterday said he wants to bring a change in the city corporation and relieve city dwellers of the burden of city corporation tax.

“I am an independent candidate and I have been with the people for 50 years. So, if the voting is held in a peaceful manner, people from all walks of life will vote for me,” he added.

Although local AL lawmaker (Narayanganj-4) Shamim Osman extended his support to Ivy a few days ago, many believe it is still not clear what his role would be on polling day.

They said if Shamim’s supporters vote for Taimur, it would be tough for Ivy to win a third term as Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) mayor.

Rafiur Rabbi, senior vice president of Nagorik Committee of Narayanganj, said city residents will vote against criminalisation of politics and also in favour of development.

“New and women voters will play a key role in the election. It seems to me that women voters have a soft corner for Selina Hayat Ivy,” he said.

Nur Uddin, president of Amra Narayanganjbashi, a non-political and social platform, said women voters will play a key role in the election outcome as they usually cast their ballots in high numbers.

“The use of EVM is another key issue. If voters fail to cast their ballots due to technical glitches, it would be disastrous for the major contenders,” he said.

Young, experienced makes the difference



SHYKH SERAJ

The combination of experience and the spirit of youth could become good partners, whether in building society or running any organization. I have seen many successful examples built with this combination. A few days back, I went to see a wonderful initiative at Kachina village in Mymensingh’s Bhaluka upazila. Four visionary youths and three experienced farmers have joined hands to build an integrated farm. Such agricultural initiative is now an example of success to many. They have a project to cultivate malta, lemon and fish on 20 acres of land, combining agricultural experience of three pro-farmers and four tech-savvy young men.

“While studying, we always thought about how our higher studies in computer science would have an impact in our lives and we could stay close to the nature as well,” shared one of the youths. “Your agricultural reports on YouTube opened our eyes and we thought cultivating high-value fruit crops can be a great option,” added another young entrepreneur.

“We had the indomitable will and knowledge to use technology for the betterment of farming,” said another entrepreneur Shariful, who was talking

to me while working on a laptop. I felt good that intelligent youth are coming closer to the soil. Finally, their initiative started in 2017.

Shamsul Haque Suruj, aged around 60, is also a part of this initiative. “I have been working in the farming sector, especially paddy, jute, wheat and sugarcane, for many years now. But, I never thought I would join these boys and cultivate malta and orange. It was new to us. The young boys showed us your YouTube videos and we learned everything very fast. The video on the malta orchard of Shakhawat Hossain of Chuadanga inspired us a lot,” Suruj said.

“After visiting Shakhawat’s orchard I bought 1,700 malta saplings,” Suruj said. Besides, the government’s agriculture department first gave them 120 saplings and guidelines and later provided them another 300 saplings. “We bought another 230 saplings and extended our cultivation on one acre,” Suruj added. Let’s talk about the harvest. They sold about three tonnes of malta. Usually, the yield comes low in the first year. During the second harvest they got a bumper yield. “We sold 18 tonnes of malta and after all the expenses, we made a profit of Tk 15 lakh (USD 17492),” he added. They do not use pesticides, instead they use

sex pheromone traps that costs only Tk 5000 (USD 58) a year. Sometimes they all stay at the farm, because it is a dream for them.

Now farming has become technology-based. It can be said that technology is the foundation of such entrepreneurs. Another entrepreneur Engineer Moazzem Hossain Badal left his job opportunities in the IT sector. Now he is contributing his ICT skills in farming. His main goal is to build a modern farm, not just a conventional one. He wants to bring the world’s most advanced high-yielding crops into production. Badal said, “We decided to cultivate organically, because currently the world has a huge market for organic agricultural products.

Although local malta prices are half that of the imported ones, they are not unhappy with the price, compared to their production costs. Shariful Islam is working on the price, market policy and strategy. He said more fruits are sold online. He, however, mentioned some problems. Many people order for five or ten kilogram of malta, but there is no opportunity to deliver such a small amount online. The same happens during the mango season. Now, there are many courier services available for mango delivery and it would be nice

to have a year-round service available. Shariful’s words seemed to suggest another possibility.

Last year, they sold malta worth about Tk 43 lakh. This time, they are expecting to harvest at least 40 to 50 tonnes of malta and believe the profits would be much higher than the previous seasons. Another member of the team Mojibur Rahman, who has been engaged with farming for long, thinks integrated farming initiatives are gradually becoming more successful. He has seen a new life in diversified crops, especially high-valued crops like malta and other fruits. Now he’s looking at farming in a different way.

If you hold on to take any farming initiative with courage and devotion, one day you will find the path towards success. Today, agricultural projects of young entrepreneurs are the evidence of such success. Success in farming at Kachina village is an example. The hard work of educated youth, mixed with experienced farming brains, is just a perfect match. Successful aspects of technology-based organic farming practices are becoming popular now. I believe this will play a vital role in overall agricultural development in Bangladesh.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh’s pioneer development journalist. He received country’s two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he’s the Founder Director and Head of News. He’s also Director and Host of Channel i’s popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



◀ **A group of young entrepreneurs and experienced farmers at their integrated farm at Kachina village in Mymensingh’s Bhaluka upazila.**

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH