

'I want to ensure legal rights for artistes'

URMILA SRABANTI KAR

The election for Actors' Equity Bangladesh, the biggest association for television actors, will be held on January 28. Renowned actress

SHARMIN JOYA

Urmila Srabanti Kar is one of the candidates contesting for the position of Law and Welfare Secretary.

She is making waves on social media, as many celebrities are showering their support for her vocal personality.

Urmila earned appreciation for her acting prowess over the years, sharing the screen with noted actors Mosharraf Karim and Afran Nisho, among many others. In the previous term, she served as the panel's Publicity and Campaign Editor. "Since I was a student of law, many of my colleagues supported and inspired me to participate in the election in this position," shared the actress.

The former Lux Superstar contestant is also a classical dancer, with appearing in numerous TVC, and small screen projects. She has been participating in social welfare, whenever she can.

"My initial aim is to ensure legal rights for artistes through the association," she says. "You see, when an artiste gets into any legal issues, they have to go through a lot of harassment." She is also focused on establishing systematic shooting environments, creating more awareness on the anti cyber bullying act, and creating a secured future for artistes among others.

"Although people appreciate us, we are still neglected, and our

when an artiste gets into any legal issues, they have to go through a lot of harassment.

profession is still not as socially recognised as other professions are," says Urmila.

The actress is constantly in collaboration the nonprofit organisation Bidyanondo foundation, supporting them in many of their projects, including their signature project 'Ek Takay Ahar'.

The blend of experience in the industry in and legal knowledge makes her a strong candidate for the election. "I am hopeful and eager for January 28," concludes Urmila.



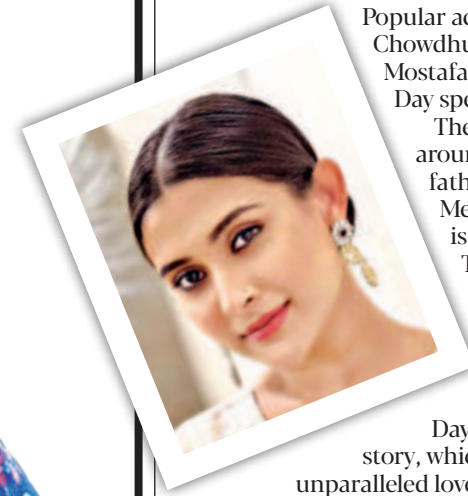
Mehazabien in 'Kajol', working in Raz after two years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Mehazabien Chowdhury will be seen in Mostafa Kamal Raz's Valentine's Day special tele-fiction, "Kajol".

The drama will center around the story of a father and a daughter. Mehazabien's father's role is essayed by noted actor Tariq Anam Khan. Milli Basher and Opshora will also be seen in pivotal roles in the tele-fiction.

"For Valentine's Day, I wrote a beautiful story, which centers around the unparalleled love between a father and his daughter," said Mostafa Kamal Raz. "Kajol" will be released on Cinemawala's Youtube Channel on Valentine's day.



Priyanka Chopra opts out of 'Jee Le Zara', wants to spend time with newborn

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Priyanka Chopra might opt of Farhan Akhtar directorial film "Jee Le Zara", after welcoming her first child with husband Nick Jonas via surrogacy.

Priyanka has told producers Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani to replace her with another actress, according to reports by

Bollywood Hungama. The "Matrix" star wants to devote her time to the little newborn, and the producers are also on the search for a suitable replacement in the film.



COUNTRYWIDE



This bridge at Ramakantapur village in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila is virtually useless due to lack of approach roads.

PHOTO: STAR

NO APPROACH ROADS

Bridge lies unused for 2 decades

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A bridge on a cropland at Ramakantapur village in Sujanagar upazila has remained unused since its construction over two decades ago due to lack of approach roads on either side of the unplanned bridge.

During the dry season villagers use a narrow earthen road, built beside the bridge later, to go to their destinations.

Locals said once most parts of Ramakantapur village under Dulai union and Ghoradah village under Tatiband union and a few other adjacent villages in Gaznar Beel area remained waterlogged round the year.

As there was no road link, the then upazila engineering office constructed a concrete bridge between Ramakantapur and Ghoradah in 2001, spending Tk 10 lakh, Dulai Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Sirajul Islam Sajahan said.

The bridge, built 20 to 25 foot high from the ground, brings nothing for the villagers, but left signs of unplanned work, he said.

"I was a young man back then when the bridge was built and it still of no use for the villagers," Aftab Pramanik of Ramakantapur said.

"We use small boats during the monsoon, but in the dry season we have to walk on foot over the marshy fields for years," Alam Sarkar of the village said.

Mannan Sarkar, a resident of Ghoradah village, said the unplanned bridge is nothing but complete waste of the government fund.

Contacted, Sujanagar LGED Upazila Engineer Rakib Hosain said he has no update information in this regard as the bridge was built years ago.

A tale of torture, deprivation

Birangana Shila Guha's quest for the status ever elusive

MINTU DESHWARA

"I can't pay the rent of the house in which my daughter and I live. The landlord called us and insulted us for nonpayment. Now, I don't see any alternative to committing suicide," Birangana Shila Guha said.

The 70-year-old war heroine now has to beg for survival.

"All these years, I have been waiting for the recognition of my sacrifice but nothing has happened so far. The prime minister assured me that I would be recognised as Birangana by December 16 last year but it has not happened till today," she said.

She is now living with her daughter and grandson in a rented house on Jalalia Road in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila.

Talking with this correspondent, she recently recounted the harrowing experience she went through during the Liberation War.

Shila said she was 15-16 years old in 1971. At that time she was the heroine of the theatre troupe 'Moon Light Opera'. The troupe went to Kurigram where they had been staying at Ulipur High School next to the stage. They were supposed to perform at the night when the Liberation War broke out.

According to locals, razakar Shahab Uddin of Ulipur along with his cohorts was supplying women to the Pakistani soldiers to rape.

Shila said one evening, the razakars came to Ulipur Girls' School by a jeep with the Pak troops.

The male members of the theatre group were out then.

"At gunpoint, they picked me, Sabita and Minu to an army camp at a local bungalow. There I was tortured along with a few others," she said.

She was raped by several army members, she added.

Day after day, Shila and other young women were raped by the Pakistani troops.

"Due to excessive torture, I would lose consciousness. The troops used to seal my skin with burning cigarettes. One day they threw me in a nearby paddy field thinking

that I was dead," Shila said.

"Next morning, local Abul Hossain and his brother Sattar found that I was breathing. They then left me in a house for treatment. But as the news spread, the army asked them to again send me to the camp. But Hossain and Sattar refused to send me there. They sent me to the house of a man named Madhu. After that I went to India with Madhu's family," she recollected.

They had two daughters. But after a few years, her husband came to know about the torture. After that, her husband left her.

Later, Shila came to Sreemangal and took shelter, with the help of a relative.

Shila said after returning from India, she has worked with many troupes. She married her two daughters off with great difficulty but the younger one returned to her after being divorced.

Shila's daughter Roma said, "My mother



Shila Guha

Shila said after the independence of Bangladesh, she returned to her home in Kachur Hathkhola of Piyazhati in Bagerhat.

"My father Bihari Lal Saha already got the news from the locals that his daughter had been tortured by the Pak troops. Thinking of other sons and daughters, my father did not give me a place in the house," she said.

She said with tears rolling down her cheeks, "My father who failed to save me from the criminals was the one to judge me as impure. I again joined another theatre troupe called Banasree Opera."

Shila said a few years later, she married Jatin Guha, the driver of the troupe.

spoke to the prime minister in a video conference on June 20 last year at the inaugural function of the Sreemangal Ashrayan project."

"After hearing about the hardships of my mother's life, the PM assured us that due respect would be given to my mother but it has not happened till today. Now she is living by begging," she added.

Contacted, Sreemangal Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam said the documents of Shila Guha have been sent to the authorities concerned. It is very sad that she is begging now.

"A few days ago, she came in my office; I gave her taka two thousand," he added.

Man gets life term for killing boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in connection with a case for killing a minor boy in Ishwardi upazila in 2014.

The convict is Mohammad Russel of Rahimpur village.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shyam Sundar Roy also fined the convict Tk 11 thousand. In default, he is to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the case statement, convict Russel lured seven-year-old Mohammad Rahim, son of Joglu Shah, to a litchi orchard at Maniknagar village on February 24, 2014, and killed they boy.

Abducted teen still traceless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Abducted college student Durjoy Chandra Roy, 19, who went 'missing' from Aditmari upazila about seven months ago, still remained traceless.

Victim's father filed a case with Aditmari police station accusing Shakil Mia, 19, and some other unnamed, but police are yet to rescue the boy.

Durjoy was abducted on June 28, 2021.

Victim's mother Chandana Rani said they don't even know if their son is alive.

OC of Aditmari Police Station Mokterul Alam said they were trying to rescue the college boy unharmed and arrest the culprits.