



Mehazabien in and as ‘Sabrina’.

“Sabrina is someone we all know closely. I have seen Sabrina in my mother, my friends, Sabrina is me,” said Orsha.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

A rather curious audience, consisting of primarily journalists and media personalities, took their seats in The Daily Star’s A S Mahmud Hall. “Who is Sabrina?” was a question – more of a marketing strategy, to Hoichoi and Ashfaq Nipun’s next project, “Sabrina”. Present during the press conference were Hoichoi’s Bangladesh lead Sakib R Khan, director Ashfaq Nipun, actors Mehazabien Chowdhury, Nazia Haque Orsha and Runa Khan. As the 60-second teaser pointed out, quite eloquently, that the marketing was not just a gimmick – the cast and crew of the upcoming project was quite determined to portray that Sabrina could be any woman, from any background, facing any level of challenge that the patriarchal society throws in front of them. The teaser, initially featuring a startled Mehazabien and Orsha responding to the call “Sabrina”, cuts out to dozens of women

from diverse backgrounds doing the same. As it turned out, “Sabrina” will look to tell the stories of struggle and triumph, in an ‘avant garde’ take on a string of familiar issues, according to the director. “The biggest challenge for me was to be in the shoes of Sabrina, which was extremely tough for me,” said Ashfaq Nipun. “I could easily have focused on the sequel to the extremely successful ‘Mohanagar’, as it is an ‘alpha-male’ oriented story, and the audience is generally more receptive to it. However, I felt like Sabrina’s story just needed to be told.” “It is sad that at this time, we don’t get to see much of female-centric work”, said Mehazabien. “We have so many excellent female artists, yet we are not able to utilise them, or write good scripts for them. I thank Ashfaq Nipun and Hoichoi for this initiative.” “Sabrina is someone we all know closely. I have seen Sabrina in my mother, my friends, Sabrina is me,” said Orsha. This is the actress’ first outing with the streaming

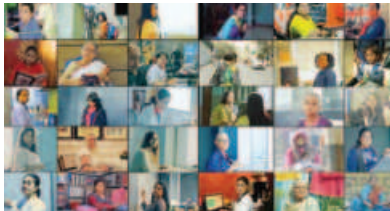


PHOTO: COURTESY OF HOICHOI

platform. Veteran actress Runa Khan echoed the same sentiment, saying that every woman, at one point, faces the same, tired set of circumstances set by patriarchy. The web-series, which releases on March, has the entire media world invested in it; not only because of the premise, but the track record that director Ashfaq Nipun boasts while handling sensitive topics.

## ‘MISSION EXTREME’ to release in Malaysia

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhallywood superstar Arifin Shuvoo and Miss World Bangladesh winner Jannatul Ferdous Oishee starrer police action thriller film, “Mission Extreme” released simultaneously on December 3 in Bangladesh, as well as the USA, England, France, Ireland, Scotland, and Australia. Now, the Cop Creation film is set to be released in Malaysia. It will be screened at TGV Cinemas and KLCC in Kuala Lumpur from March 11. Jointly directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faissal Ahmed, the film also features Sadia Nabila, Sumit Sen Gupta, and Taskeen Rahman, among others. A sequel of “Mission Extreme” is already in the works.



## Dua Lipa slammed with second copyright infringement suit

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular British singer Dua Lipa has been engrossed in another legal suit, after she has been slapped with a second copyright infringement suit. A pair of songwriters has claimed that the hit “Levitating” is “substantially similar” to their 1970’s disco song “Wiggle and Giggle All Night” which was written by L Russell Brown and Sandy Linzer. The lawyers for the two songwriters has claimed that the songs signature melody is an absolute copy of the opening melody of “Wiggle and Giggle All Night”.



# NEWS

## Carbon user fee to cut emission

FROM PAGE 1  
A carbon fee in Bangladesh will also help with revenue mobilisation that could be effectively recycled to protect the economically vulnerable, support firms in their decarbonisation process and create jobs through investment in climate projects. Furthermore, carbon pricing could also help negotiate better terms for prospective border carbon adjustments abroad and/or more favourable trade deals in the run-up to least-developed country graduation. Assuming advanced

economies and higher-income emerging and developing countries reduce their emissions by 60 and 30 percent respectively, and lower-income emerging and developing countries reduce their emissions by 10 percent, a \$25 carbon fee for Bangladesh would also be consistent with the global collective target of keeping warming to 2C. The \$25 carbon fee is IMF’s proposal for an international carbon floor price for low-income countries in consideration of international equity and competitiveness. But Bangladesh needs to

act fast and decisively. It is ranked among the top ten countries in the world most affected by extreme weather events during 1998-2017, the report said. Losses linked to such events were estimated annually to average 1.8 percent of GDP between 1990 and 2008. In addition, rising sea levels and coastal erosion is expected to result in a significant loss of land surface, food production and displacement of people. “Not only Bangladesh is highly exposed to climate change risks, but also has

limited adaptive capacity to cope with these risks.” The World Bank estimates that Bangladesh would need \$5.7 billion per year as adaptation finance by 2050, more than five times higher than its current expenditure of about \$1 billion a year on climate change adaptation. In fact, total climate-relevant budgetary allocations for both mitigation and adaptation has been less than 1 percent of GDP annually, well below the 3-4 percent of GDP needed per year for climate and biodiversity preservation mandated

by the Sustainable Development Goals. Adaptation investments, which are expected to be met through a combination of domestic and external funding, are significantly higher than mitigation investments. “There can be no adaptation without finance.” Bangladesh has an extensive pipeline of adaptation projects through its Delta Plan 2100 and is currently working on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2030, a strategic investment framework to mobilise financing.

## Free speech, privacy

FROM PAGE 12  
draft will “undermine end-to-end encryption” and enable the targeting of journalists, dissidents and activists. Forcing intermediaries to block an ambiguous range of content, including content “insulting”, “harmful”, “offensive” or “breaches secrecy of the government”, is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to freedom of expression, it said. The draft regulation is inconsistent with the international human rights framework, including the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it added. “Efforts by telecommunication regulators to change regulations to address concerns around ‘over-the-top’ (OTT) services can have significant negative impacts on human rights as well as broader principles such as network neutrality, if done improperly...The BTRC must frame its consultation around the exact problems it wishes to address and engage with stakeholders on what regulatory

options are best suited to address them, rather than forcing an overbroad set of regulations,” the letter mentioned. The statement said that the absence of a safe harbour provision and spectre of penalties for intermediaries and their employees, will have a chilling effect on free speech and result in over-censorship. “We respectfully call upon the BTRC to withdraw and reconsider the draft regulations, as they erode digital security and put human rights and freedoms at risk,” said the letter.

## Home beckons

FROM PAGE 1  
On February 22, the ship had started from the Port of Karadeniz Ereğli of Turkey for Olvia port to carry clay for transporting to Italy. The ship reached the Ukraine port the very next day. “Everything was normal when we had reached the port. Then on February 24, Russia started invading Ukraine,” the crew member said on condition of anonymity as the person was not authorised to talk to media. The ship had been stranded at the port since then. But on March 2, frustration at being stranded turned into terror and trauma. “It was around 5:05pm when a missile hit the ship, sparking fire. Our Third Engineer Hadisur Rahman was talking on the phone on the navigational bridge at that time,” the crew member said. At that time, the assistant chief engineer, second officer, and deck cadet were also on the

navigational bridge. Soon after the attack, fire broke out in the ship and all three, except Hadisur, ran away from the area. “I was just 10 feet away from Hadisur. I was also talking on the phone. I thought I lost my limbs. It took around 30 seconds for me to regain some composure and realise that I was not hurt. The whole ship jolted with heavy vibration. We had no idea then that Hadisur was killed,” he said. All the crewmen started to douse the fire. It took around three hours to bring the fire under control. Then they went to the engine control room, the lowest level of the ship and considered the safest place. “As per our rules, head counting started and that is when we realised Hadisur was missing,” the crew member said in a shaky voice. All crew members went to the navigation bridge area to find Hadisur, only to find his body. “I thought he jumped in the water and he was

saved but I was wrong. We recovered the body and kept it in the fridge of the ship.” Soon after the attack, the electricity of the ship went off as the generator had been damaged. “We stayed in the control room the whole night. It was a horrific time as we were literally out of all kinds of contact.” The following day at 2:30pm, they were rescued from the ship and taken by a tugboat to a safe bunker. “We stayed there for two days. We had internet connectivity there, but we could not bring any of our clothes from the ship with us.” The sailors were rescued with the help of Bangladeshis in Ukraine and the authorities of Olvia port, according to a press note of the Bangladesh embassy in Poland issued the day after the attack. Leading up to the rescue, the Bangladesh government sent a letter to the Ukrainian authorities mentioning the abandonment of the ship, which eased the process. The crew members stayed

in the bunker till March 5. They were supposed to go to the Moldova border a day before, but they could not do so due to safety issues. On March 5, all of them started for the Moldova border around 8:15am on two microbuses. However, it took four hours to get clearance from the Ukrainian authority. The crewmen had to cross a total of 17 military checkpoints on way to the Moldova border and were escorted by Ukrainian soldiers in areas considered to be risky. “All the checkpoints were being manned by Ukrainian military personnel. They helped us a lot,” the crew member said. “We entered Palanca in Moldova around 12:20am on March 6 and arrived at the Moldova-Romania border around 5:30am. We crossed the Romanian border around an hour later and reached the hotel in Bucharest around 1:00pm,” he said. He said during their journey from Ukraine to Romania, immigration

officials in both Moldova and Romania expressed sorrow when they heard about the sailors’ plight and helped them cross the border quickly. “When we reached a hotel in Bucharest, we were extremely tired but relieved that we had come to a safer place. We have no words to express our gratitude to everyone who worked for our safe return,” the crew member said. On the night of March 7, they went to the house of the Bangladesh ambassador in Romania for dinner. Since the “missile” attack till they reached the hotel in Buchares, none of them were able to eat a proper meal. “We carried some dry food with us when we left the ship. We lived four days on some cookies, puffed rice, high-protein biscuits, potatoes and wheat that we brought with us.” “All of us have seen death very closely. It’s a new lease of life. I can’t express in words. Please pray for us so that we can arrive home safely.”

## US, UK ban Russian oil

FROM PAGE 1  
But Ukraine accused Russia of attacking a corridor from the beleaguered southern port city of Mariupol,

where aid workers said tens of thousands were living in “apocalyptic” conditions. Biden said Ukraine would “never be a victory”

for Putin, as he announced the measures targeting the energy sector that props up the Russian economy and its war effort.

## Stock sufficient, price still high

FROM PAGE 12  
Another major issue is the disbursement of supply order. Legally, one must collect commodities within 15 days of placing supply order. However, some dealers collect oil even a year later, he further said. He also requested the authorities to issue an instruction in this regard and urged DNCRP to stop their drives. DNCRP chief, however, said they would continue their drives and it would go tougher from March 9 to execute the power entitled to them by the law. Harunur Rashid, an edible oil dealer of Moulovibazar, said at least 750 trucks leave his district with oil each day. He urged the DNCRP to check out whether such a number of trucks went out

from the district in the last week. In response, DNCRP chief Shafiquzzaman said they would sit with the refiners today to verify the allegations. “I heard from the FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry) meeting where refiners said they were providing the market with enough supply,” he said. On Monday, FBCCI held a meeting on the current market of edible oil with refiners where big groups that import edible oil said there was no crisis of oil in the market. Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs of City Group, in the meeting, said his company was supplying between 2,000 and 2,500

tonnes of cooking oil every day to distributors. He apprehended that some dealers were hoarding oils in hope of a further price hike ahead of Ramadan. Dealers and retailers could not inform the meeting at exactly what price they buy the oil from refiners as they do not receive a voucher from the millers. Int’l Women FROM PAGE 12 extraordinary women from around the world who are working to build a brighter future for all. The first lady of the United States, Jill Biden will deliver remarks in the recognition of the courageous accomplishment of this year’s awardees.