

Gias Uddin Selim believed that I was his KAJOL REKHA

MONDIRA CHAKROBORTY



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MONDIRA

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Mondira Chakroborty is set for her silver screen debut with Gias Uddin Selim's "Kajol Rekha", playing the titular character. The budding actress gained popularity after becoming the 2nd runners up at 'Channel i Shera Nachiye 2012', and has made a name for herself as a model.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Mondira talked about her upcoming film "Kajol Rekha", and what inspired her to become an actress.

"From an early age, I was passionate about dance. However, my mother wanted me to see me as an actress," she shared.

"After becoming 2nd runners up at 'Shera Nachiye', I got a lot of offers, but was choosy regarding my work. When I saw Gias Uddin Selim's 'Monpura' in 2012, I instantly knew that I wanted to work with this masterful director."

The model had been training under Gias Uddin Selim for a year and a half, before being finally selected for the movie.

"He saw a spark in me when he first came across a television series I had appeared in, alongside Yash

Rohan. He thought I had great potential, and I was given the opportunity hone my craft under his guidance," adds the actress.

"Finally, after a lot of training, he gave me the script of 'Kajol Rekha', but didn't tell me which character I would be playing. Finally, when he announced that I would be playing the titular role, I was completely speechless. Selim *bhai* believed that I was his Kajol Rekha," says an elated Mondira.

"Kajol Rekha", also starring Sariful Islam Razz and Rafiath Rashid Mithila in pivotal roles, dives deep into the 400 year-old folk tale.

"Kajol Rekha is a sweet and simple girl who becomes a victim of child-marriage. She is constantly at tussle with the first wife of her

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husband, Konkon Dashi (played by Mithila), who tries to dominate her," mentioned Mondira.

Her co-actors helped her throughout the rehearsal. "I am sure that the audiences will appreciate Razz and our chemistry," she shared.

The shooting of the film will begin from next month. However, the actress is quite nervous about shooting a major scene.

"There is this scene where I have to jump from a ship, and I am not a good swimmer," shares an anxious Mondira. "I am worried as I am yet unsure if I can pull the scene off."

The promising actress has a lot of OTT offers on her radar at the moment. However, she choose to dodge them all for her upcoming film.

"I want to focus on the film for now as I believe, too many projects will distract me and it will effect my performance. I have a lot of expectations riding on my shoulder, and I want Selim bhai to be proud of me," concluded Mondira.



DU Annual Central Theatre Fest starts today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 15th Annual Central Theatre Festival, organised by Dhaka University, will kick off from today.

The festival has returned with an arrangement of six days, featuring nine plays. The inauguration of the festival will be held at the Natmandal auditorium at 7 pm, tonight.

State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid will attend the event, while Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman, will inaugurate the festival. Treasurer Mamta Uddin Ahmad will grace the occasion as special guest, while the Chairman of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, MD Ashiqur Rahman, will preside over the programme.

The organisers will also felicitate legendary cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar.

Kanye West banned from performing at the Grammys

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Controversial rapper Kanye West, now known as Ye, has been barred from performing at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards due to his erratic online behaviour.

According to Variety, a representative for Kanye West, revealed that he received a phone call citing that the rapper had been 'unfortunately' removed from the performance lineup due to his "concerning online behaviour."

Previously, Kanye West had won 22 Grammys from 75 nominations, and is up for five awards this year. The rapper's name wasn't among the first list of performers, but he was scheduled as a planner performer at the event.

COUNTRYWIDE



PHOTO: STAR

Duping poor with lure of valuables

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A clique has been allegedly earning a huge amount of money in the name of 'raffle draw' from the month-long fair organised by Ishwardi municipality.

The fair kicked off on March 11 was given permission by the district administration on condition of no gambling, said Abdulla Al Mamun, additional district magistrate (ADM) in Pabna.

Asked about the sale of lucky coupons or the so called raffle draw, the ADM said they gave no such permission for this.

"If any unlawful practice goes on in the fair, the local administration will take action," he also said.

Visiting the area, it was seen that men in over a dozen battery-powered three wheelers were advertising the lottery tickets in the municipality area and the adjoining areas. Each ticket was being sold at Tk 20.

"We are selling tickets in different areas and the poor people are buying them hoping to win valuable prizes like car, motorbike and refrigerator," said a ticket seller wishing not to be named.

Talking with The Daily Star, Ishwardi municipality Mayor Ishhaque Ali Malitha said that they have organised the fair in order to expedite the development work of Ishwardi stadium.

"We have organised the fair for the development of the stadium taking permission from the district administration; we don't patronise any sort of gambling or circus," he added.

Asked, who are the patrons of the daily raffle draw? the mayor, however, said that those who have organised the fair are organising the raffle draw as well.

"Actually an influential quarter is running the lottery and we have no involvement with it," the mayor added.

413-year-old Atia Mosque needs urgent renovation

MIRZA SHAKIL

Over four hundred years old Atia Mosque, one of the important archaeological sites in the country, located in Tangail's Delduar upazila has been in a dilapidated condition for long due to lack of care and maintenance.

Built in the early 17th century, the 413-year-old mosque has already lost much of its grandeur, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

Besides, the ornamental terracotta plaques on the nine-feet-wide walls of the ancient mosque already wearied away.

The thick walls of the mosque also got discoloured while some of its bricks are damaged.

Mawlana Mozammel Haque, imam of the mosque, said lack of care and renovation work have resulted in wearing away of many terracotta plaques of the mosque while the unique decorations of the mosque are falling off.

He, however, said a number of visitors, both locals and outsiders, come to visit the mosque every day.

A group of students from Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology



Four century-old Atia Mosque in Tangail's Delduar upazila is on the verge of ruination, thanks to the negligence of the Department of Archaeology, who took its charge in 1978.

PHOTO: STAR

The mosque is located next to the shrine of Hazrat Shahan Shah, who came to Atia from Kashmir in 913 Hijri along with his 49 followers to preach Islam in the region.

University were visiting the year-old mosque when this correspondent went to the ancient site recently.

Expressing his frustration, one of the students Raihanul Islam said they were looking for a board that contains history of the mosque, but found only

a plaque containing names of the founder and others who repaired it.

According to the officials of Department of Archaeology and local historians, the then Zamindar of Atia, Syed Khan Pannee, had built the mosque on the bank of Louhajang river in 1609.

He received Atia Paragana from the Mughal Emperor Jahangir as a gift in the beginning of the 17th century.

The mosque is located next to the shrine of Hazrat Shahan Shah, who came to Atia from Kashmir in 913 Hijri along with his 49 followers to preach Islam in the region. Their graves are near the mosque.

The mosque was badly damaged in the devastating earthquake of 1800.

Later, Rowshan Khatoon Chowdhurani, a female merchant from Delhi, restored the damaged mosque in 1837.

The Zamindar of Delduar Abu Ahmed Ghuznavi Khan in cooperation with Wazed Ali Khan Pannee and other Zamindars repaired it again in 1909.

The Department of Archaeology took over the responsibility of the historic mosque in 1978 and put up a notice board in front of the ancient site that says it is a government property and legal actions would be taken if anyone harms the mosque.

However, no initiative has been taken to restore the mosque or protect the structure.

Mohammad Zahid, a resident of Atia

village, said villagers along with local administration had tried to take steps to protect the historical mosque on several occasions, but Department of Archaeology told them not to do so.

Caretaker of the mosque Syed Monirul Haque said the worn out mosque was partially repaired in 2000 and in 2009.

Local resident Shakil Ahmed said the beautiful mosque is now on the verge of ruination and we urge the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to save the structure.

Rakhi Roy, regional director of Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh Divisions), said they will hold renovation work of the mosque next year.