



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Model-dancer-actress Nadia Ahmed has been busy shooting for her upcoming Eid productions. Alongside single-episodes, she is also gearing up for television serials. We caught up with Nadia to know about her recent endeavours and upcoming productions.



How busy are you with special Eid productions?

I have already finished shooting for "Bujhle Bujhpata", a seven-episode Eid production, directed by Shamim Zaman. We have also packed up shooting for another Eid productions directed by Mir Sabbir, but the

name of the drama is not finalised yet.

I am yet to shoot for a few projects. However, I am regularly shooting for tele-serials. Thus, have been unable to focus on Eid projects with undivided attention.

Tell us a bit about something about your tele-serials that are on air.

"Bokulpur" is currently on air on Deepto TV. We had shot for this fiction in Manikganj. "Demag" and "Odol Bolod" are also being telecast on Maasranga TV, regularly.

I have to keep shooting for these serials, as the audience keeps expecting new episodes every week. Thus, I have to schedule back-to-back shoots.

Are you looking forward to releasing any new projects recently?

I will start shooting at Gazipur for "Karim and Sons", from April 5. The production is directed by Shokal Ahmed. I will be seen playing the role of a smart, witty, and agile village girl in the series.

You seem to appear in productions that are mostly set in the rural setting. What is the reason for such choices?

It's not my call. Rather, it's the director who crafts characters and decides whom they want to see in that role.

I am being offered such roles in abundance in recent times and I have been enjoying it too.

I like playing characters that radiate our essence, as there is more variation to their persona. It keeps me focused and also helps me work harder to make my character more believable on the screen.

Are you looking to perform any dance routines on air this Eid?

I have already agreed to perform for two channels and will shoot the performances soon. Dancing demands a lot of rehearsing and I know that some intense practice sessions are in line for me in the upcoming weeks.

I have always loved dancing and will never let go of it.

'Within the Hindi film industry, we are struggling to find good stories'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor's forthcoming film, "Jersey" is a redemptive drama about a former cricketer picking up the bat again for his son.

It is the second film where the actor is working on a South Indian remake after the success of "Kabir Singh", the Hindi version of the Telugu film, "Arjun Reddy".

"I do feel within the Hindi film industry, we are struggling to find good stories. Today, a real star or superstar or someone who is widely connecting with people would be the kind of person, who collaborates with the right kind of content creators," he told Indian media recently.

'PAYER TOLAY MAATI NAI' wins Gautam Buddha Award at Nepal Int'l Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Mohammad Rabby Mridha directorial "Payer Tolay Maati Nai" (No Ground Beneath the Feet), bagged the Gautam Buddha Award for best

feature film at the 5th Nepal International Film Festival recently.

The event was organised by the Nepal Film and Cultural Academy and the Film Development Board of the Government of Nepal.

Abu Shahed Emon,

Golpo Rajiyo Films, Impress Telefilm Limited, and Batayan Productions have produced the film.

This is the first time that "Payer Tolay Maati Nai" won a best feature film award by participating in the main competition section of a festival. The film stars Deepanwita Martin, Mostafa Monwar, and Priyam Archie among others.



COUNTRYWIDE

Will their thirst be ever quenched?

Pure drinking water a far cry for Hajong people in Netrakona

MD AMINUL ISLAM

There seems to be no let-up in the sufferings of the Hajong people for pure drinking water. The century-old suffering of the indigenous people living in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila is yet to be mitigated despite umpteen pledges of the public representatives.

On various occasions, candidates of both national and local polls pledged this indigenous community of easy access to pure drinking water but the pledges were never fulfilled, lamented the locals.

"Though we have long been waiting for an easy source of drinking water for decades, it still seems to be a far cry," said Sajol Hajong, a former member of Lengura Union Parishad (UP).

The indigenous people, mainly the Hajong people, have been living in the bordering villages—Lengura, Rongchhati and Kharnoi—for some 400 years but they have never got easy access to pure drinking water, said Sajol.

"We are unfortunate that an available source of pure drinking water, one of the most fundamental requirements, is a far cry for Hajong people in the locality", said Nayem

Hajong of village Gopalbari Chengri in Kalmakanda.

The people get a respite only in the rainy season when they can harvest rainwaters for drinking and household purposes, said Nayem, a master's student at Dhaka College.

Still hundreds of Hajong people, mainly women have to cross long distances to fetch water from small springs or wells as there is no source of water near their homes in the bordering villages.

There are around 10 ring wells at Gopalbari Chengri village where more than 70 families live and only three to four wells can supply pure drinking water, Nayem also said.

Some 3,000 Hajong people of the community collect water enduring such plight for years for want of tube-wells or deep tube-wells in their area, said the youth.

The situation turns difficult in the dry season when the flow of water from the springs ebbs and the level of groundwater dips.

As there is no river and canal adjacent to the area, the indigenous people living here are the worst sufferers, said Geetika Hajong, a school teacher.

When the government has been

doing huge development work throughout the country and then setting up reasonable numbers of deep tube-wells in this hilly area is not a tough task, said a 45-year-old housewife Gyanota Hajong.

Md Saidur Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of Lengura UP, said the area is at an end of a slope of the Meghalaya Hills and it is very costly and difficult to set up 1,000-foot deep tube-wells.

Around 50 ring wells have been set up in the union in the last three years from where the indigenous people collect water standing in a queue but the number is insufficient, said the chairman.

Around Tk 10 lakh is needed to install a deep well and it is not impossible if the authorities concerned take the initiatives, the locals said.

Admitting the acute shortage of water in the area, Kazi Md Abdur Rahman, deputy commissioner in Netrakona, said they have already taken a project to install 10 deep tube-wells in Kalmakanda and Durgapur to mitigate the serious water crisis.

The work of the project will start in the next fiscal year, said the DC.

Won't interfere in policy matters

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intelligence chief".

"Right now we are looking at the law and Constitution," the CJP replied, adding that all the respondents would be told to focus on this matter at the moment.

"We prefer that a decision be taken on this matter only," CJP Bandial said. "We want to see if the court can review the ruling of the deputy speaker."

The court, he added, didn't interfere in the state or foreign policy. "We don't want to indulge in policy matters."

Justice Ahsan, too, said that the court only wanted to see constitutional matters for now.

The PML-N's counsel, however, argued that the court could judicially review an illegal and unconstitutional move. Justice Akhtar said the NA and provincial assembly were masters of their respective houses.

The distribution of powers was also enshrined in the constitution, the judge added.

The court adjourned the hearing till 11:30am today. Meanwhile, Russia

has lambasted "another attempt of shameless interference" by the United States in the internal affairs of Pakistan, adding that it sought to punish a "disobedient" Imran Khan.

In a statement, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Russia had noted that President Dr Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly on April 3 on the prime minister's advice as well as the events preceding it.

"Immediately after the announcement of the working visit of Imran

Khan to Moscow on February 23-24 this year, the Americans and their Western associates began to exert rude pressure on the prime minister, demanding an ultimatum to cancel the trip," she said.

The Russian official said that further development of the situation left no doubt that the US "decided to punish the 'disobedient' Imran Khan", noting how lawmakers from within the PTI switched sides to the opposition while the no-confidence vote was submitted to the Parliament.

Why inmates on trial in condemned cell

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lawyer Mohamad Shishir Manir told the HC that convicts are kept in condemned cells in a degrading manner which contradicts article 35(5) of

the constitution.

Referring to an Indian Supreme Court judgement, he said no convict can be kept in the death row until his or her case is finally disposed of by the apex

court.

As of September 20 last year, 1,987 death convicts were in condemned cells across the country, Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

Among them, 1,933 are

male and 54 female, he said, citing a statement from Shuraiya Akhter, assistant inspector general of prisons.

Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state at the hearing.

Opposition MPs

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disqualified for subsequent election as a member of parliament.

Speaking on this issue, JP MP Mujibul Haque Chunnun raised a question whether parliament have much power.

"All power is in the hands of the leader of the majority party in parliament. Does anyone have the power to say anything against the decision of the party because of Article 70 of the constitution? Will anyone be able to remain as MP speaking against his/her party," he asked.

Chunnun, also JP secretary general, said as long as there is this article, parliament members do not have freedom.

He added that there is no participation of lawmakers in the budget discussion. There is no scope to speak

freely.

Rumeen Farhana, BNP MP from reserved seats for women in parliament, said there are questions about the power of MPs due to this article.

Another JP MP Shameem Haider Patwari said he wanted to know from Dr Kamal Hossain, one of the framers of the country's constitution, why this article was incorporated.

Dr Kamal told him that votes of lawmakers were bought and sold following the creation of Pakistan. From this experience, Article 70 was included in Bangladesh's constitution.

"But now the reality is that nothing can be said against the party, let alone vote against the party. As a result, hopes and aspirations of people are not being reflected in parliament," Shameem added.

Cities drive climate change, and can provide a solution: UN

REUTERS

The world's cities are a big driver of planet-warming emissions, but can play a major role in addressing climate change in the near future.

U.N. scientists on Monday laid out ways to rein in emissions and curb climate change, including a chapter on actions that city planners can follow.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report found urban infrastructure and activities caused about two-thirds of today's emissions.

That means that cities can potentially "solve two-thirds of the problem. So that's pretty exciting," said Yale University geographer Karen Seto, a lead author of the chapter.

Many cities are already acting. London has introduced fees on highly polluting vehicles in the city center, and Paris has outlawed diesel cars.

Other actions cities can take include improving energy efficiency in buildings, designing streets to avoid traffic congestion, planting "green roofs" and incorporating more parks and trees that help remove some carbon dioxide emissions and also help to keep cities cooler, the report says.

Hajong women are seen collecting water from a narrow flow at Gopalbari Chengri village in Kalmakanda of Netrakona.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

