

# Nawshaba back in her element

SHARMIN JOYA

Popular actress Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed made her debut in theatre with the play “Sonata” in 2011, and on television with the fiction, “Chhotobela Borobela”. Her first silver screen appearance was in the film “Udhao”, released in 2015. She continued to impress the audience with her acting prowess in films like “Chhuye Dile Mon”, “Dhaka Attack”, “Bhuban Majhi” and “Chandrabati Kotha” among others, since then. She also worked on television projects and TVCs, besides being a voice artiste. She has voiced the Sisimpur character Bhuto, and directed her own puppet shows for three consecutive years.

Nawshaba also played a pivotal role in “Mishti Kichu”, the second episode of Nuhash Humayun’s anthology series for Chorki, “Pett Kata Shaw”.

She will star in the Eid special serial “Bhai Khub Sensitive” in six different avatars, in each of its seven episodes.

“We shot for this project in three days, which was really challenging. I acted in two different roles each day, beginning from morning till evening,” she says.

The serial is written and directed by Harun Rusho. Nawshaba plays an actress, a beggar, house help, doctor, pregnant woman living in a slum and hijacker in it.

“Layered with comedy, the serial carries social messages.

I hope the audience likes our effort,” she asserts. “The script really amazed me, and I believe

that if we had a bigger budget and produced it for OTT platforms or the silver screen, the story would have worked better.”

“Bhai Khub Sensitive” also features Mukit Zakaria, Syed Shiplu, and Anila Tanjum among others.

Nawshaba will also be featured on “Chader Haat”, a family drama slated for release on the night before Eid. It is directed by Eamin Elan. “I am always up for projects that focus on family bonds, as right now, people seem quite detached from one another,” she adds. The tele-fiction also features Fakhrul Basher Masum, Mili Basher, and Evan Sair among others.

Nawshaba has also worked on a musical film, which is expected to release this Eid.

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PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR, HEEMEL

## Robert Pattinson returning for ‘The Batman’ sequel

Warner Bros and DC Films have officially announced a sequel to Matt Reeves’ “The Batman”.

According to reports, Robert Pattinson will reprise his role as the Capes Crusader and Reeves, who served as the writer and director for “The Batman”, is set to write the script for the sequel.

The Batman stars Pattinson as Bruce Wayne and sees him contend with the likes of The Riddler (Paul Dano), Carmine Falcone (John Turturro) and The Penguin (Colin Farrell). However, he’s not alone in his crusade, as

he’s joined by Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz) and Lt James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright).

The film has impressed audiences and critics alike, with many praising its grim and gritty aesthetic and noir themes.



## Bijori Barkatullah and Anisul Islam Hero to perform together this Eid

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular dancer Anisul Islam Hero and renowned actress and dancer Bijori Barkatullah are collaborating for a dance programme after a decade. The show, titled “Nritttyo Chhonde”, is set to air this Eid on BTV. The duo has performed together numerous times on stage.

“Bijori is one of the nicest people I know, she is really hardworking. I am elated to work with her after a long time, that too, on an Eid show,” says Hero.

“Nritttyo Chhonde” is produced by Imam Hossain, with Hero as the supervisor.



# NEWS

## Air tickets get

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Since the Saudi authorities will allocate a slot to Biman, the final decision to begin the hajj flight depends on their permission, Ali said, adding that it is expected to start from May 31.

The Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), a platform of more than 1,500 hajj operators, are not happy with the airfare.

“We as well as the religious affairs ministry had recommended fixing the hajj airfare at Tk 1.25 lakh. But the ministry didn’t pay heed to our demand,” M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president of HAAB, told The Daily Star.

After a gap of two years, Bangladeshis will once again be allowed into Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

In 2019, a total of 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj.

This year, the Saudi government will allow one million people from around the world to perform Hajj, with 57,585 being Bangladeshis.

## Hefty loss

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FY2016-17: Tk 1,325.20 crore in FY2015-16; Tk 872.84 crore in 2014-15; Tk 801.51 crore in 2013-14; Tk 758.11 crore in 2012-13; Tk 963.68 crore in 2011-12; Tk 862.27 crore in 2010-11; Tk 690.9 crore in 2009-10; and Tk 547.39 crore in 2008-09, show the books.

## China detects first human case of H3N8 bird flu

AFP, Beijing

China has confirmed the first known human case of the H3N8 strain of avian flu, but health authorities say there is a low risk of widespread transmission among people.

## DB holds back suspects’ party affiliation

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injured, including journalists, students, and cops. The cases are now under investigation.

The DB is probing two murder cases.

About the development in the investigation into the murder of delivery man Nahid Mia, the DB official said they would soon be able to share information on the arrests of suspects.

The 19-year-old was beaten and hacked during the clashes between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers on April 19. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital that night.

“We have identified some people through

analysing video footage. Dhaka College hostels are closed now. Some suspects have gone into hiding. Several DB teams are trying to arrest them,” the official said, expressing optimism that they would be able to give some “positive news” soon.

After identifying around a dozen suspects, the investigation was now focusing on two people – Kaiyum and Emon Bashar – both activists of Dhaka College Chhatra League, said investigators.

Kaiyum, a Dhaka College student, in a blue T-shirt first hit Nahid with an iron pipe and Emon hacked the delivery man with a machete, showed footage

and photos.

Emon is a second-year honours student of Bangla at the same college.

**MORSALIN MURDER**

The DB joint commissioner yesterday said they were still clueless about the murder of clothing shop salesman Md Morsalin, 27.

“There’s still no clue to the murder. We primarily suspect that he might have been hit by chunks of bricks and later died of his wounds. We are yet to confirm the location from where the chunks of bricks were hurled,” Mahbub told reporters at the press briefing.

He said those who hurled chunks of bricks or led mobs during the

clashes cannot avoid their responsibilities. “We are trying to identify and interrogate them.”

Morsalin, who suffered head injuries during the clashes, died early on April 21. The 27-year-old was a salesman at a clothing shop at the New Super Market.

Also yesterday, a Dhaka court sent Mokbul Hossain to jail after police produced him before it on expiry of three-day remand in a case filed in connection with the clashes.

Mokbul is a member of the Dhaka South BNP convening committee and also a former president of the party’s New Market thana unit.

## Railway service revamped

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The PM said once it was advised that BRTC be shut down as it was not a profitable venture.

“What matters most for a state-owned agency is how much service it renders to the people, not how much profit it makes.”

The premier blasted the railway’s property through arson attacks in the name of movement.

“When we procured new coaches and locomotives, BNP unleashed arson

violence. The most unfortunate thing is that new train coaches carrying passengers were set on fire.... What type of movement was it? Those were rather terrorist activities,” she said.

About the newly commissioned locomotives, the PM said it would help the people travel smoothly to their homes to celebrate the coming Eid-ul-Fitr with their families.

Hasina commissioned 30 meter-gauge locomotives and 16 broad-

gauge ones by flagging those off. She also opened the two mobile rail museums on the occasion of Mujib Borsho.

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Railways Ministry, also spoke at the programme, presided over by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon.

PMO Senior Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas were present.

## Home’s inaction to blame

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from the home ministry, he said.

Shahriar said lifting of the sanctions would take time.

Bangladesh would not have been in such an unpleasant situation had that information been sent to the countries and organisations concerned, Shahriar said, according to the minutes of a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs held in February.

The minutes were approved at another meeting of the JS body yesterday.

At the February meeting, the parliamentary body blasted the foreign ministry for “being oblivious to the impending US sanctions on Rab”.

The JS body said it considered it a complete failure that the Bangladesh embassy in the US “had no idea about the US decision against such an important law enforcement agency in Bangladesh”.

The parliamentary watchdog asked the foreign ministry if any other country or organisation was considering similar sanctions. Besides, it

advised that the missions abroad, especially in the US and Europe, play a more proactive role.

On December 10 last year, the US imposed human rights-related sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former top officials.

According to the meeting minutes, the chairman of the committee, Muhammad Farooq Khan, said it was an utter failure of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC.

Nahim Razzak, a member of the committee, said a vested group was pushing propaganda for a long time to make the Bangladesh government controversial before the world by recruiting lobbyists in different countries.

But the foreign ministry had failed to deal with this propaganda, he said.

Shahriar said the ministry and the missions were working hard to tackle the propaganda.

Minister Momen said Bangladesh missions abroad work as lobbyists. But the lobbyist firms appointed by others are more influential because the embassy officials

are not so close to the lawmakers of that country.

On the other hand, the question of accountability comes while spending public money to hire lobbyists.

“So, there are restrictions on hiring lobbyist firms abroad by spending huge sums of money,” he said.

Fayaz Murshid Kazi, DG of the US wing of the foreign ministry, said no communication was possible between the Biden administration and the foreign ministry because of the Covid-19. The US did not raise or discuss the issue of sanctions against Rab in any forum, they did it very secretly, he said.

## Russia destroys

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yesterday that it has banned entry to 287 British MPs in response to the UK’s sanctions against Russian parliamentarians over the war in Ukraine.

The ministry also said it had traded Trevor Reed, a former US Marine held in a Russian jail, for Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko, who was serving a 20-year sentence in the United States.