Nawshaba back in her element

I am always up for projects that focus on family bonds, as right now, people seem quite detached from

one another.

Popular actress Ouazi 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.



TERTAINMENT

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

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 "Nrittyo 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,"

"Nrittyo Chhonde" is produced by Imam Hossain, with Hero as the supervisor.



NEWS

Since the Saudi authorities FROM PAGE 16 /Ill 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.

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 machete, showed footage or led mobs during the

analysing video footage. and photos. Dhaka College hostels are Emon is

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"

After identifying around 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

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. the delivery man with a hurled chunks of bricks

clashes cannot avoid their FROM PAGE 1 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

Mokbul is a member

of the Dhaka South BNP convening committee and also a former president of the party's New Market thana unit.

Air tickets get DB holds back suspects' party affiliation Railway service revamped

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 BNP for damaging the railway's property through arson attacks in the name of movement.

"When we procured new coaches and locomotives, unleashed arson

thing uniortunate carrying passengers were set on fire.... What type of movement was it? Those were rather terrorist activities," she said.

About the 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 locomotives and 16 broad-

violence. The most gauge ones by flagging those off. She also opened advised that BRTC be that new train coaches the two mobile rail museums on the occasion of Mujib Borsho.

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

PMO Senior Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah and US Ambassador to meter-gauge Bangladesh Peter Haas

100 officials going abroad

ministry issued a circular, suspending 50 percent of and asking for abandoning the pavilion. of all routine tours.

The money can only be spent for emergency purposes and considering unavoidable circumstances, stated the circular.

The government spends between \$200 and \$1,000 per day as daily allowance, including hotel bills, of an official, according to a finance division circular issued last year.

Former World Bank lead economist Zahid Hussain said the government should have had a cost-benefit analysis before sending so many officials.

"If there is any benefit, people with the technical and marketing know-how should be there instead of high-ranking officials," Zahid Hussain told The Daily Star recently.

He said the commercial

wing of the Bangladesh director for each country at On July 1, 2021, the finance foreign mission in the Netherlands should have taken care of logistical this fiscal year's allocation arrangements related to

> 'There is no need to send high-ranking officials to the work in the pavilion," Zahid said, adding that tours possibility of governmentto-government deals.

"For instance, presence high-level officials depending on the status may be needed when the deals are like on duty reduction, harmonisation of customs procedure and arrangements for certification of quality standards," he observed.

> Mehedi Masood, who led theadvanced team that included Additional Deputy Director of DAE Shamim Ahmed, Deputy Director Mohammad Zakir Hossain and gardener Robi Sheikh, recently told The Daily Star that there is a provision for a pavilion director and a deputy

the fair.

"That's why officials will be there," said Masood.

He also said Bangladesh embassy Netherlands could only manage one female Bangladeshi student to work of high-level officials are in the stall for two months justified when there is the as an interpreter, adding that not many Bangladeshi expatriates are interested to work from 10:00am -7:00pm at the stall.

> Masood said the pavilion will showcase Bangladesh's jute products and improved vegetable fruit and production. He said the main theme

> of the Bangladesh pavilion is "back to jute, back to nature". "Around

> products are on display in the pavilion. We will also showcase our achievement in the improvement of fruit production," said Mehedi Masood, project director "Year-round production for nutrition

improvement".

He said jute products are popular in the Netherlands, adding that state-run Karim Jute Mills has got orders worth millions of dollars.

The Bangladesh pavilion been attracting hundreds of visitors, he Masood said Bangladesh

Day will be celebrated as a

mango festival. "It is likely to be held in the first week of July. exported Bangladesh mango to the Netherlands

for the first time last year and there is a huge demand Rab". for it," he said. He also said some private Bangladeshi companies like Jalalabad Foods, Landmark International, Sonargaon International.

participating in the fair. "Most are displaying rooftop gardening, safe nutrition garden and vegetable products," he

Johora Agro Farms are also

Home's inaction to blame

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from the home ministry, he

Shahriar said lifting of the sanctions would take

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 vesterday.

At the February meeting, the parliamentary body blasted the foreign ministry for "being oblivious to the impending US sanctions on

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 Corporation, Sohag Traders, law enforcement agency in Bangladesh".

> The Besides,

abroad, especially in the lawmakers of that country. US and Europe, play a more proactive role.

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

According meeting minutes, the chairman of the committee, Muhammad Farooq Khan, of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC.

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

But the foreign ministry had failed to deal with this

propaganda, he said. Shahriar said

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

parliamentary Bangladesh missions watchdog asked the foreign abroad work as lobbyists. ministry if any other But the lobbyist firms country or organisation appointed by others are was considering similar more influential because it the embassy

advised that the missions are not so close to the

On the other hand, the question of accountability On December 10 last 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 said it was an utter failure 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

FROM PAGE 16

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 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 officials in the United States.