

Putul excited for new journey

Putul Sajia Sultana rose to prominence with the singing reality show, “Close-Up One”. For the last 16 years, she has proved her prowess as one of the most prolific singers in the industry. She is also a passionate writer, lively anchor and soon-to-be mother. We talk to her about her exciting new projects, upcoming journey, and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

What are you currently busy with?
I have been working on new music at my studio. I collaborated with Rongon Music for a new track this Eid. It was written and composed by Syed Reza Ali. On the other hand, I have been releasing a new song every month from my official YouTube channel, PutulGaan. I released a new song during Eid as well.

What inspires you to release a new song monthly?

I want to keep making music as regularly as possible, and stay connected with my listeners. I have been able to do so as I have my own studio, and my life partner is also associated with music. I am dedicated to honing my craft. My fans are my inspiration. They have certain expectations from me, and I hope to live up to them.

You have been in the industry for 16 years. How do you look back on your journey?

I did not just want to be known as a singing reality show contestant. My biggest accomplishment has been carving a space for myself in the industry, on my own. I am lucky that people have given me so much love over the years, and I still have a long way

to go.

Have you been writing any novels lately?
I have been writing a novel. I hope it will be available for readers in the upcoming Ekushey Boi Mela. I truly enjoy writing, and I hope to keep it up regularly.

You are also about to be a mother. Yes. I am excited for this new journey in my life. Hopefully, we will welcome our baby by the second week of July. Please keep us in your prayers.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

‘No Land’s Man’, ‘Anyadin’ selected for Sydney Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki’s “No Land’s Man” and Kamar Ahmad Simon’s “Anyadin” (Day After...) have been selected for this year’s Sydney Film Festival.

While “No Land’s Man” will be screened during the event on June 16 and 19, “Anyadin” will be screened on June 14 and 18.

“Anyadin” is the second instalment of Simon’s Water trilogy. Earlier, the film was selected for the 2021 international competition at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam.

“No Man’s Land” premiered at the Busan International Film Festival, and was also nominated for the Kim Jiseok Award. The predominantly English film stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui, along with Tahsan Khan and Australian actress Megan Mitchell, among others.

The Sydney Film Festival will run from June 8 to 19.



Raveena Tandon recalls being fat-shamed after childbirth



Noted actress Raveena Tandon revisited the time when she and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan were trolled for putting on weight after welcoming a child.

In a recent interview, she recalled, “I had put on a lot of weight, and I had just delivered my son, and I had already started working again. Journalists were fat-shaming me, they were fat-shaming Aishwarya Rai. I said we’ve just had a baby. I want to nurse my baby, I don’t want to go on a diet.”

Her sassy response to a reporter was, “I can reduce my weight. But what will you do about your face?”

COUNTRYWIDE

Mushroom in the hills

SHYKH SERAJ

For Nipu Tripura life was full of uncertainty like the other women in the hills. During the bad days of COVID-19 she couldn’t even run her grocery store. But overcoming all obstacles she has now become an agricultural entrepreneur. Before telling her remarkable story, I would like to say that television, particularly media, has played a big role in her agricultural development. She has not only written her success story, but made employment opportunities for many others. Nipu, a resident of Thakurchhara Notun Bazaar area in Khagrachhari, watched one of my episodes on mushroom cultivation of Magura’s Babul Akhter on my YouTube channel and felt she could also start mushroom cultivation like Babul.



Nipu Tripura is seen working at her mushroom farm in Khagrachhari’s Thakurchhara Notun Bazaar area.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

entrepreneurs across the country, many women are also doing it at their homes. By reading news and watching TV and social media contents many mushroom farmers have emerged with diversified farming ideas and products now.

In the first year, Nipu earned Tk 9 lakh (USD 10,387) by selling commercial mushroom spawns. Now, she is developing and producing 10 to 12 thousand spawns every month, but she dreams of producing 25,000 spawns per month. She has employed eight women at her mushroom farm and established herself as a woman entrepreneur within a short time. She has also formed a cooperative society with 20 women members and giving them free training. Nipu is now dreaming of mother culture of mushrooms and expecting government’s assistance in this regard as well.

In the context of Bangladesh, mushroom is a promising crop and has a great importance as it is nutritious, tasty and a major medicinal food. In densely populated and rapidly growing Bangladesh, the demand for food is increasing, but the supply is facing the imbalance. Besides,

huge quantities of mushrooms can be produced in a small fallow land. Moreover, the climate of the country is favourable for the cultivation throughout the year. Mushroom farming is environment friendly and tolerant to natural disasters. According to Mushroom Development Institute, the opportunity of mushroom production is increasing rapidly. At present, about 40,000 tonnes of mushrooms, valued around Tk 800 crore (USD 92.3 million), are being produced every year. About 1.5 lakh people are involved in the production and marketing of the food items. There are opportunities to export mushrooms to different countries as almost all the economically developed countries of the world import mushroom.

Mushrooms can add a significant contribution to our agriculture sector and courageous woman entrepreneur like Nipu has shown us the way. We can ensure employment of many unemployed as well. Nipu is one of those who are showing us the light of hope. I hope that the country will move forward towards extensive mushroom cultivation and the government will take necessary measures for its betterment.

A cautionary tale for Bangladesh

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fails to make up the deficit with remittance, Bangladesh’s foreign exchange reserves will also start to deplete very soon, he said.

“We kept on taking one project after another, without any proper

economic feasibility studies. This kind of random decision-making has motivated discussions such as building a new airport, a second Padma bridge, launching another satellite, shifting Dhaka city elsewhere and starting bullet train service between

Dhaka to Cox’s Bazar. All of these are unnecessary projects. If implemented, all would require additional debt. Our loan instalments will surpass \$4 billion by 2025.

“We also have a huge amount of internal debt. If we add these two, our debt

to GDP ratio will surpass the 50 percent mark. It is a very risky situation. We are going towards it fast. If we cannot restrain ourselves from taking local and foreign loans and random projects, we too will reach Sri Lanka’s situation within 4-5 years.”

Motorbike accidents drove up death toll

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easy bikes (battery-run three-wheelers), monitoring by police and steps taken by different government agencies.

But the operation of a large number of motorbikes caused a sharp rise in road crashes, he pointed out.

Mozammel said people chose small vehicles due to absence of adequate public transport, high fare and traffic congestions on roads, but this trend led to an increase in road accidents, he added.

He demanded that the government ban import of motorbikes and easy bikes.

The Road Safety Foundation in its report said at least 376 people were killed and over 1,500 injured in 283 accidents in 14 days from April 25, meaning around 27 people died every day.

The accidents and deaths were 18.41 percent and 19.74 percent higher respectively than the last year’s Eid, the organisation said in a press release.

At least 156 people (41.48 percent of the total deaths) were killed in accidents involving motorcycles while 78 (20.74 percent) were killed in crashes involving three-wheelers, the report said.

Last year, at least 134 people were killed in 121 accidents involving motorbikes, meaning accidents saw 5.74 percent rise and deaths rose by 16.41 percent.

The platform said the number of motorbikes running during the Eid rush this year was unprecedented although long journey by two-wheelers is very risky.

At least 51.42 percent victims of the motorcycle accidents were aged between 14 and 20, it said.

EXPERT’S VIEWS
Speaking at the Jatri Kalyan Samity’s programme, Prof Hadiuzzaman, director

of the Buet’s Accident Research Institute, said the rise in the number of motorbikes and crashes are directly linked.

The government’s wrong policy led to the sharp rise in the number of motorbikes and this has now appeared like a cancer, the expert said.

He said the country would be in a dire situation if the number of bikes were not controlled or if the government allowed motorbikes with higher engine capacities to operate. Currently, motorcycles with an engine capacity of up to 165cc are allowed to operate in the country.

Cops should be more careful

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their profession as well as protecting human rights of the citizens along with other rights enshrined in the constitution,” the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court said in the verdict.

The 10-page full text of the verdict was released on Wednesday.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman, delivered a short verdict on April 6 this year following an appeal filed in 2004 by two then cops of the Teigaon Police Station, including OC Abdul Gaffar, challenging a High Court verdict.

The HC on June 25, 2001 announced the verdict following a writ petition filed by one Mohammad Ali challenging the legality of the action of the police personnel who harassed the petitioner’s family members.

In the verdict, the HC directed the police personnel to give Tk5,000 as token compensation to the writ petitioner, Ali’s lawyer Shah Monjurul Hoque told The Daily Star.

The Appellate Division in the full text of its verdict exonerated the police personnel from paying the compensation money, but made the observation about the police’s duty.

According to the full

text of the SC verdict, one Md Ashfaq Hussain and his niece Mina Mallik came to Bangladesh from India on November 14, 1994 to attend the wedding reception of the petitioner’s daughter in Dhaka.

Ashfaq stayed in the house of his brother-in-law Dr Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank and Mina became the house guest of the petitioner.

On November 17, 1994, Mina along with Ashfaq went out to see the city taking some apples with a fruit knife in her bag.

The writ petitioner’s wife and his family came to know that Ashfaq and Mina were arrested when

the police personnel, including some constables, forcibly entered the petitioner’s house at 10:00pm on November 17 and conducted a search without any warrant. They found nothing incriminating.

Still police members entered and searched the petitioner’s house on November 18, 19 and 20 in 2004 during odd hours after midnight. On November 19 that year, cops took away Mina’s bag without giving any receipt or preparing any seizure list, but left her suitcase locked and also harassed them at different times, according to the full text of the verdict.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh’s pioneer development journalist. He received country’s two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak. At Channel i, he is the founder director. He is also director and host of Channel i’s popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



Later, Nipu, who had no formal training in mushroom farming, went to Khagrachhari but couldn’t obtain any training from there. But that couldn’t stop her. She then decided to meet Babul in Magura. Last year, she took a short training from Babul and started mushroom cultivation by taking Tk 3 lakh (USD 3462) from her husband. During the early 90s, I did a documentary on renowned mushroom farmer Jahangir on Bangladesh Television’s Mati O Manush (Soil & People) programme. Back then, Jahangir was also very young and enthusiastic, like Nipu. Among numerous mushroom