

# I have a thirst for learning

Moutushi Biswas

SHARMIN JOYA

Celebrating the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, Bangladesh has been selected as the theme country in this year's Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). Known as the oldest film festival of short and documentary films in South Asia, it will feature 11 Bangladeshi projects this year, from May 29 to June 4.

Moutushi Biswas will feature in "Araimon Shopno" and "Ripples (Dheu)", among the selected films.

We caught up with the artiste, as she discussed international acclamations, and representing Bangladesh on the world stage.

**Congratulations on being featured in MIFF. What was your reaction upon learning this news?**

It feels like a double treat! I am grateful to the entire team of both of the projects. Apart from putting best efforts, I have immensely enjoyed working in both of the projects.

**Tell us about "Araimon Shopno".**

The project is directed by Abu Shahed Emon, which highlights the struggles of marginalised people amid the COVID-19 crisis. It was one of the shorts featured in the series "Bagh Bondi Singho Bondi", aired in the streaming platform Binge. I feel honoured to have the opportunity of sharing the screen with Fazlur Rahman Babu, in this short film.

**"Ripples" is yet to be released. What is it about?**

Inspired by Purabi Basu's short story 'Eker Bhetor Paach', it is written and directed by Senjutee Suborna Tushee. This is her first project in Bangladesh -- she is a student of Film and Television Institute of India, also known as the Pune Film Institute.

The film is made by a woman, portraying a woman, for women.

We shot the project in Bikrampur during the pandemic. Keeping the storyline off-the-shelf, the presentation has been altered, thereby making it theatre based. I have portrayed a theatre activist, who is also a musician. For this I had to play guitar taking real lessons from a music director. It was challenging but a completely new experience for me. The project will release soon.

It will be premiered in Bangladesh Focus section at the festival.

**Bangladeshi films, and television projects are showing up in international festivals. However, we still lack proper filmmaking institutes and acting**

**schools. What is your insight on that?**

The fact that are trying to learn and making a conscious effort is commendable. Although we have departments on filmmaking, but most of artistes, still come from informal backgrounds. I am in no place to comment, but I can share what I do for myself. I research a lot on acting, I have a thirst for learning something new. Recently, I have enrolled for a workshop arranged by Shadhona, which will be supervised by the great Syed Jamil Ahmed. It is on screenplay writing. As an actor, we must explore and look for every resource we can use for our own improvement.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

I have completed working on "Dear Satyajit", directed by Prashoon Rahman. The film is expected to release soon.



PHOTOS: RAHUL CHOWDHURY LUNA

**The project is directed by Abu Shahed Emon, which highlights the struggles of marginalised people amid the COVID-19 crisis.**

## Shows of Kangana Ranaut's 'Dhaakad' cancelled due to zero audience

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



The Kangana Ranaut-starrer "Dhaakad" was released in cinemas on May 20. The trailer promised a stylish action thriller and attempted to bring something new to the table.

Sadly, according to reports, there was absolutely no excitement among the audience to watch "Dhaakad". There were a handful of viewers in the theatres on the film's opening day.

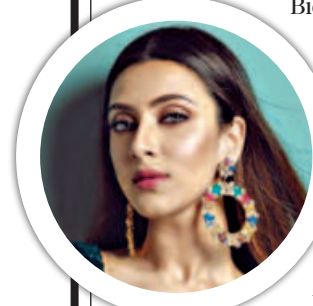
Many shows across India were cancelled due to no audience. On top of it, the word of mouth for the film was terrible.

"Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", meanwhile, has been enjoyed by the audience. As a result, it has grown from strength to strength.

"Dhaakad" collected a mere Rs. 50 lakhs on its opening day.

## Mim leaves 'MR-9'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bidya Sinha Mim has dropped out of "MR-9" due to scheduling conflicts. The actress was supposed to play Sulota Ray, an Indian Raw Agent, and also the love interest of Masud Rana.

Subsequently, Jazz Multimedia offered her the role of Suhana, a character that does not have much screen time in the film. However, Suhana will be the female protagonist in the second instalment of the "MR-9" franchise. Mim has not confirmed if she will play the role yet.

Mim had signed the contract for "MR-9" in November last year. The actress stated that she lost out on some projects due to the delays in the shooting of the film.

# NEWS

## Khaleda sick again

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treatment abroad, party and family sources say.

Khaleda has also long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. She was admitted to hospital on November 13, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same facility, and moved to the CCU the following day.

Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given temporary release on certain conditions on March 25, 2020.

The term of her release

has been extended five times so far. The condition was that she will stay in her Gulshan house and won't leave the country.

Fakhrul also urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to issue "a public apology" for saying "Khaleda Zia should be pushed into the river from the Padma Bridge".

"You issued a death threat to Khaleda Zia. She is the most acceptable and popular leader in the country and was never defeated in any election," he said, adding that it is unimaginable that such an "irresponsible" comment

came from a prime minister.

"People of any civilised country cannot tolerate such a remark. We would like to ask you [Hasina] to offer an apology to the people."

Issuing a warning, the BNP leader said the people will otherwise oust the government and will not offer a scope for apology later.

BNP's Dhaka south and north city units arranged the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, protesting what they said was an "indecent comment" about Khaleda by the prime minister.

## PMO warns

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The DNCC and the Roads and Highways Department have been tasked to keep the road between the airport and the hajj camp unhindered.

Hajj flights are scheduled to start from May 31.

Asked, Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said, "We have been instructed to take maximum preparations ..."

"We have taken all kinds of preparations ... Hopefully, there will be no disaster with hajj flights."

A total of 57,585 Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj this year, likely to be held on July 8.

Due to the pandemic, hajj was held on a limited scale in the last two years.

## 1.5m children

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government and working closely with our local partners."

Unicef is supporting the Bangladesh government's flood response by supplying clean water, hygiene kits, therapeutic milk and learning kits.

The statement said Unicef also works closely with the Department of Social Services to protect the safety and security of children.

## You can't

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deputy commissioner's office for conducting a hydraulic survey of the land and extraction of sand from the river, the lawyer added.

Last month, a senior metropolitan special judge's court issued a travel ban on Salim, also the chairman of Chandpur's Laxmipur Union Parishad.

Salim was allegedly involved in the price manipulation of the proposed land for Chandpur Science and Technology University (CSTU).

Bangladesh has been recommended to graduate from the LDC category in 2026. "It is the global recognition of our planned development journey that we have been following for the last thirteen years."

Hasina said Bangladesh expects enhanced focus and active support of the international community for safe, sustainable and dignified return of the Rohingya.

She said people are at the centre of our development pursuit and so are the SDGs. "Our government has been working diligently to build a hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh which is the main theme of SDG-1 and SDG-2."

The PM said the pandemic battered the health systems and economies of most of the countries across the world and the poor and developing countries were the worst sufferers.

"In Bangladesh, while tackling the pandemic, we have tried to strike a balance between lives and livelihoods. Our timely and prudent interventions

## Act fast, act in unison

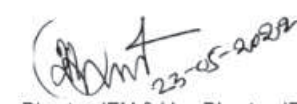
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"Bangladesh has been hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. This humanitarian crisis poses a serious security threat," she said.

Hasina said Bangladesh expects enhanced focus and active support of the international community for safe, sustainable and dignified return of the Rohingya.

She said when the world is struggling to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war came as a huge blow to the global economic and social stability.

The PM said the theme of the session, "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", is rightly chosen to strengthen regional cooperation, partnership and solidarity for a sustainable world.

She mentioned that

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Directorate General of Family Planning				
IEM Unit				
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
Invitation for Tender				
Memo: DGFP/IEM/SP-8/226/2022/632			Date: 23/05/2022	
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division.		
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning		
3	Procuring entity name	Director, IEM & Line Director IEC		
4	Procuring entity code	None		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Selecting Media/Advertising firm for procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
7	Invitation Ref No.	DGFP/IEM/SP-8/226/2022/		
8	Date	23/05/2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	OTM (NCS), National		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of fund	RPA (GOB)		
11	Development partner	IDA		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code	5/2781-5350		
13	Project/program name	Information, Education & Communication (IEC) under HPNSP		
14	Tender package no	SP-8/2021-22		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
16	Tender publication date	24/05/2022		
17	Tender last selling date	08/06/2022 during office hours.		
18	Tender Receiving date & time	09/06/2022 up to 12.00 Noon		
19	Tender opening date & time	09/06/2022 at 1.00 PM		
20	Name & address of the office(s) of selling, receiving and opening of tender document	1. Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. (Selling, Receiving and opening)		
21	Place/date/time if pre-tender meeting (optional)	None		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	The firm shall have to fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and other required conditions mentioned in the Tender Document and Technical Specification		
23	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Price of tender document	Taka 1000/- (One Thousand) (nonrefundable) per schedule & the aforesaid amount of taka should be paid through Treasury Challan of Bangladesh Bank/ Sonali Bank in favor of Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, in the following code '1-2781-0000-2366'		
26	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security
		Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215	45000/- (Forty five Thousand Taka)
				Completion time (in Weeks/Months)
				Four (04) months from the date of signing the contract
Procuring entity details				
27	Name of official inviting tender			
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 88-02-55012350, email:iemdgfp@gmail.com		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all tenders without showing any reason.				
 Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
GD-1043				