

# I focus on my work, not my co-star

Keya Payel

ZAHID AKBAR

Keya Payel is one of the rising stars of our television industry, winning over fans with her acting prowess and simplicity. Recently the actress has impressed the audience with some of shows aired during Eid.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, she spoke about her plans in acting, syndicate in the industry and more.

Several of your projects aired during Eid-ul-Fitr, have been appreciated. How do you feel, after getting appreciation for your work?

It feels great to know that I am being welcomed by the audience. I am overwhelmed with all the love that they have showered upon me. I am still getting compliments for my role in “Bhulona Amay”. I am being called by my character's name, and it doesn't get much better than that for an actor.

Do you have any particular role that attracts you, and you haven't played yet?

I usually like characters that are full of life. Depressing roles do not attract me. It is also true that my career just began, thus I try to focus on the story and the roles I play with full dedication and my love for acting.

Do you feel like you've done justice to the roles that you portrayed during this Eid?

Although I have worked on these projects in different times, they were all aired during Eid. Honestly, the reason that I signed up for

so many projects was to gather experience. I am happy to get the opportunity to act in various roles, as I believe that this will help improve my acting skills.

It is often heard that a certain group have created a syndicate in the media.

They are also alleged to select actress through this syndicate. Have you ever faced that?

Frankly speaking, I am not aware of this, as I have worked with almost every actor in the television industry. I noticed that it is the directors who select the cast, and not the actors. However, while taking up a project, I focus on the story and my role, not on who is my co-star.

You made your silver screen debut in 2018, with the film “Indubala”. Do you think that it was a wrong decision? How long will your fans

have to wait to see you on the silver screen, once again?

As a newcomer, I had no experience of working in this field at the time. I honestly do not have any regrets, as I am still learning. I would definitely take up silver screen projects, but I will be more careful about choosing scripts, characters and the director.



PHOTO: COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK



## Karan Johar to launch Saif Ali Khan's son in Bollywood?

From introducing Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan in “Student of the Year” to providing the successful launch pad for Ananya Panday and Janhvi Kapoor, Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar has played a vital role in the careers of several star kids.

Now, he is reportedly all set to launch Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh's son Ibrahim Ali Khan in Bollywood with the Hindi remake of the popular Malayalam film, “Hridayam”.

Ibrahim, who is Sara Ali Khan's brother, is already working on the sets of Johar's “Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani” as an assistant director.

## Fans hail ‘Top Gun: Maverick’ as ‘the best sequel of all time’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Coming back in theatres after nearly four decades, “Top Gun: Maverick”, the Tom Cruise-led sequel, is already a blockbuster. The film was released on May 27 and is the second part to “Top Gun”, which came out in 1986.

Fans on Twitter had an explosive reaction to watching “Top Gun: Maverick” as the majority hailed the film as ‘the best sequel of all time’.

If you have seen the original “Top Gun”, the first frame of the sequel to the moment where the opening credits end is all nostalgia guaranteed.

# NEWS

## My men

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pressure on your fingers. If you can't push [EVM buttons], I'll keep people there to do it ...”

“You must come to cast votes because it is EVM voting. If the voting was not held using EVM, I would not have been looking for anyone. I would have stamped the ballots as much as I could.”

Contacted, Mujibul dismissed the allegation, claiming that the video was fake.

“I am not a child. I am the incumbent chairman. Can I give such a childish speech at a public rally?” he said.

“My rivals made it and disseminated it to tarnish my image,” he said, adding, “I will go for legal action.”

Faisal Alam, Banshkhali upazila election officer, said Mujibul has been asked to explain his speech. “We are taking action.”

## Dhaka Wasa

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Wasa got 13 percent.

Dhaka WASA's ADP allocation shows an upward jump over 2019-20 to cover the cost of delays in implementation of big projects while Khulna, a climate hotspot, receives a paltry allocation unchanged over the years, said the speakers.

Resolving the governance challenges, like low performance amid continuous project delays and cost overruns, should be a priority to ensure more effective utilisation of budget allocations, they added.

The speakers included PPRC Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman, WaterAid Country Director Hasin Jahan, and PPRC Senior Fellow Mohammad Abdul Wazed.

## Interference by goons at booths

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stations and journalists would observe the election.

“If there is any report of such incident in the presence of any presiding officer, action will be taken against that official.”

At the EC office yesterday, Ahsan observed the customisation of EVMs, which will be used in the Cumilla elections, in the presence of representatives of mayoral and ward councillor candidates.

## Advise on how to buy Russian

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cooperation in the wake of global geopolitical changes, especially in the aftermath of the Ukraine war that is affecting trade and supply chains.

“We want to have stronger regional organisation for stability and security. We are proponents of multilateralism. We don't want to weaken it,” said Momen.

Momen said when the whole world was struggling to recover from the Covid pandemic, a new war broke out between Russia and Ukraine and it rages on even after four months.

In the wake of a sharp rise in the demand for energy, food and other commodities, countries like Bangladesh are facing huge challenges.

On floods in Assam and Sylhet region this year,

Customisation of EVMs means giving inputs of information of voters and candidates in cards to be used in EVMs.

This is the first time the EC showed the representatives of candidates the customisation of EVMs and how the machines work. Twenty-one representatives of the candidates in the Cumilla polls were present at the event.

Kazi Mashur Rahman, a representative of ward

councillor candidate Kazi Mahbubur Rahman, said he sought information on the source code of software used in the EVMs.

Syed Rakibul Hasan, project director of the EC's EVM project, said they would not provide the source code to anyone.

“A source code is a programming language created by a programmer.

It is related to security issues ... It will never be given to anyone.”

## Woman

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into hiding after the incident and frequently changed her location and phone number to evade arrest, he said.

The elite force handed her over to Bhairab Railway Police yesterday afternoon.

Police produced her before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court and sought five-day remand. The court granted three days, said Ferdaus Ahmed Biswas, officer-in-charge of Bhairab Railway Police Station.

This is the second arrest over the incident. Earlier, a man named Ismail Hossain, a resident of Budiamara village in Narsingdi Sadar, was arrested on May 21 after Narsingdi railway police filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against 12 people.

Later, Ismail was produced before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court which sent him to jail.

On May 18, the female student along with her two friends was assaulted over her outfit while waiting for a Dhaka-bound train at the station.

A middle-aged woman, who was also waiting at the station, first started hurling abusive words at the female student for what she claimed was “indecent outfit”. Then some men joined the woman and launched an assault. The girl ran to the stationmaster's room for shelter.

Police rushed to the spot after getting a call on 999. They later helped the three board a Dhaka-bound train.

A video clip of the incident did the rounds on social media, sparking storms of protest by different rights organisations and netizens.

## Rescuers find nearly all victims

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Nepali soldiers and rescue workers had retrieved 20 bodies from the wreckage, strewn across a steep slope at an altitude of around 14,500 feet. They were trying to recover another body they had seen, officials said.

The government said it had set up a five-member panel to determine the cause of the crash and suggest prevention measures for the future.

The difficult terrain and poor weather have hampered the search

parties. An image published in Nepali media showed uniformed rescue workers moving a body from the wreckage and using ropes to haul it onto a stretcher and up a steep, grassy ridge.

“There is very thick cloud in the area,” Netra Prasad Sharma, the most senior bureaucrat in the Mustang district, where the crash took place, told Reuters by phone.

In Kathmandu, the capital, relatives of victims waited for the bodies to be brought back from the

crash site.

“I am waiting for my son's body,” Maniram Pokhrel told Reuters, his voice choking. His son Utsav Pokhrel, 25, was the co-pilot.

Operated by privately owned Tara Air, the aircraft crashed in cloudy weather and the wreckage wasn't spotted until yesterday morning by Nepal's army.

The plane was headed to Jomsom, a popular tourist and pilgrimage site that lies about 80 km (50 miles) northwest of Pokhara - usually a 20-minute flight.

## E-gates to ease air travel

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after analysing information from the e-passport chip.

The e-gates will identify air passengers after scanning the verification of travel documents. Global travellers will have a hassle-free experience at the airport.

The government launched the e-passport programme and automated border control

(ABC) management in January 2020, aiming to modernise the immigration process and to enhance the acceptability of the Bangladesh passport.

The e-passports add a layer of security to traditional passports by embedding an electronic chip that stores the biographical information visible on page 2 of the passport and a digital

security feature. The chip also contains the photo, fingerprint and iris data of the passport holder, according to DIP.

After the e-gates were set up in 2019, officials received training on operating them.

The e-gates were installed at the airport by Veridos GmbH, a German company, which got the contract for the ABC project in July 2018.

## DGHS inundated with licence

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authorisation. We will form a panel for speedy authorisations,” Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general of the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Sunday, an unlicensed hospital in Narayanganj showed the height of inhumanity when its officials fled, leaving a mother and her just-delivered newborn on the operating table, after hearing that health directorate officials were raiding illegal hospitals in the area.

Padma General Hospital had started operating

three years back, on the third floor of Haji Rozob Ali Super Market in Narayanganj's Shimrail.

Locals said previously the hospital was known as “Popular General Hospital”, which was renamed as Padma General Hospital after Rab arrested a fake doctor from there on July 9, 2019.

After talking to locals, this newspaper came to know the names of its three owners – Mosharraf Hossain, Md Sujon, and Dr Arif Hossain.

But this correspondent could not contact any of them. One of the staffers of

the hospital, identifying himself as Alamgir, picked up the phone when this paper dialled the number on the hospital signboard.

He said he was not aware of what happened as he was on leave. “There are eight owners of this hospital. But I don't have any phone number of them.”

Ahammad Ali, director of the Rozob Ali Super Market, told this newspaper yesterday, “The hospital has been there for three years. They [owners] have not paid the rent for the last two years.”

[Our Narayanganj correspondent contributed to this report.]