



Behind the scenes of 'Ei Muhurte'

TOTINI living in the moment



PHOTO: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

I would love to learn more and be steady in creating benchmark for me," she shares. "I want to enjoy my work and believe in the characters that I am portraying on the screen.

SHARMIN JOYA

A young lady steals the show portraying the character of Kolpona in "Ei Muhurte", in the chapter directed by Piplu R Khan. The Chorki project is the first of many for Tanjim Saiyara Totini, a first-year student of North South University.

The fresh face had the chance to share the screen with heavyweights like Sara Zaker and Zahid Hasan, in the project.

"I had to give 3 screen tests before I was finally selected for this role," shares the dedicated actress. Totini began her journey in the industry three years ago with a Runout Films' TVC, directed by Subrina Irene. "I can't thank Piplu sir enough for how effortlessly he had handled the project, and assisted me in adjusting to this new environment."

As Totini shares her experience working with the "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" famed director, she mentions that she has learned a lot of things from this project, which she will carry throughout her career. "As I read the script, I was excited to get the role I was dreaming as of yet, at the same time, I was tensed if I can pull it off!"

The actress explained that while the role was challenging, the entire team supported

her a lot to pour the character within herself. "Kolpona is a victim, and she is suffering from a trauma," she says. "The director created a musical playlist for Kolpona, and during my downtime, this kept me from becoming sidetracked by anything in the outside world."

According to Totini, those little tips helped her believe in the character. It gave her the confidence to portray it as naturally as possible on the screens.

She played a cameo role in Syed Ahmed Shawki's "Taqdeer", and made a guest appearance in television series "House No 96". "I got frequent offers for tele-fictions, but the roles never attracted me," asserts the actress. "Even though it was a small role, working in a project led by Chanchal Chowdhury was an honour to me." The

actress further says that she is a big fan of the "Aynabaji" famed actor, alongside Afsana Mimi, Subarna Mustafa and Jaya Ahsan.

The name Totini translates to 'small river', and the young diva wants to graph her career at a slow and steady pace, reminiscent of it. "I would love to learn more and be steady in creating benchmark for me," she shares. "I want to enjoy my work and believe in the characters that I am portraying on the screen."

She will be featured in two Eid projects -- Mizanur Rahman Aryan's "Shuhashini" her first romantic tele-fiction co-starring with Farhan Ahmed Jovan, and Vicky Zahed's "Bachibar Holo Tar Shadh", opposite Afran Nisho, to be aired on RTV. She will also be seen in a role in Piplu R Khan's upcoming project, which remains to be titled.

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor announce first child

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular celebrity couple, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are expecting their first child together. The couple tied the knot on April and are super excited to become parents for the first time.

Alia Bhatt shared pictures from the hospital where she and Ranbir Kapoor are looking at the sonogram of their baby. They captioned the photo "Our baby coming soon."

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor got married in an intimate wedding ceremony amidst their close friends and family on April 14 of this year.

'Elvis' and 'Top Gun' tied for box-office crown

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Baz Luhrmann's Elvis Presley biopic "Elvis" has taken theatres by storm, gathering an estimated USD 30.5 million in weekend ticket sales. In a rare turn of events, the biopic tied "Top Gun: Maveric" for the spot of 'No. 1 in theatres'.

Shah Rukh Khan mistakenly reveals Salman is in 'Pathaan'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

On June 25, Shah Rukh Khan celebrated his 30th anniversary of working in Bollywood. The superstar took to Instagram live to talk to his fans about his

feelings on the occasion and to share details of his upcoming film "Pathaan".

During the discussion, the topic shifted to Salman Khan, with Shah Rukh expressing his admiration for the actor. He then mentioned that he would be making a cameo appearance in Salman Khan's "Tiger 3" and that Salman would be in "Pathaan". Upon revealing this secret, Shah Rukh immediately stopped, realising his mistake and added that he perhaps should not have revealed this information.

NEWS

Teacher dies after student

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on Sunday over the incident accusing the attacker and several unidentified people.

Meanwhile, teachers, students and guardians formed a human chain on the school premises yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the

accused and his associates.

Sub-Inspector Emdadul Haque said the school's CCTV cameras were not working during the incident. "The school authorities said the cameras were not operating as there was no power at that time."

Police yesterday handed the body to the teacher's family after an autopsy was carried out at the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College.

The Daily Star is not making public the identity of the accused as he is a minor.

Torture still go-to tool

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Police investigations in the country are completely based on extracting confessions from the accused, while circumstantial evidence is not taken into account, said advocate Jibananda Jayanta.

As a result, physical violence and torture is used while getting these confessional statements.

Even though the Torture and Custodial Death Prevention Act exists, the victims routinely face challenges when filing cases, with the police choosing to file such cases under the penal code instead, the speakers said.

The custodial torture prevention act is a stricter law with life imprisonment being the highest punishment that could be awarded to errant law

enforcers.

Even though it has nearly been a decade since the law was enacted, only 24 cases have been tracked as having been filed.

On the other hand, Ain o Salish Kendra's statistics show that just in the past two years, 28 people were killed by torture in custody. Five of them were killed this year alone.

Torture survivor Limon Hossain, who was shot in the foot by Rab when he was just 16 years old, spoke about how it has been over 10 years and yet the investigation into his torture case has not yet been completed.

"I was shot in 2011, after which I lost my leg. The deputy commissioner's office in Jhalakathi had initiated an investigation but the report is yet to see the light of day," he said.

Speakers questioned

why the investigation reports in custodial death cases are never made public.

Intiaz Hossain Rocky, another torture survivor, spoke about how families have to undergo harassment during the investigation and trial processes.

"The whole family becomes the victim." In 2014, Rocky lost his brother at the hands of the Pallabi police.

Kazi Zahid Iqbal, a Supreme Court lawyer, said even the constitution cannot stop torture as long as loopholes are used to abuse laws.

SM Rezaul Karim, legal adviser of BLAST, Nur Khan Liton, human rights activist, and Advocate Ainun Nahar Siddiqua also spoke at the event held at the Bishwa Shahitya Kendra.

Security

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bridge. Moreover, traffic police is on duty near the toll plaza. Efforts are going on to implement various instructions of the Bridges Division, he added.

Mahmudur Rahman, executive engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority, said vehicles crossed the bridge smoothly throughout the day yesterday.

In another development, a truck overturned on the bridge around 5:00pm, leaving four people injured.

Three people were wounded when another truck carrying 136 sacks of onion hit the exit ramps of the bridge.

The accident happened around 5:30pm when the driver lost control near the Mawa toll plaza.

A patrol team of security personnel seized another truck as it hit their vehicle when they were rescuing the injured.

The Bridges Division on Sunday night banned motorcycles on the bridge from 6:00am yesterday as thousands of bikers queuing up to cross the bridge overwhelmed the toll plaza employees and two bikers died in a crash on the bridge.

Scientists find

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University of California, Riverside in the US, said this natural process is inefficient with only about 1 percent of the energy found in sunlight ending up in the plant.

They are currently assessing ways of producing crops like cowpea, tomato, tobacco, rice, canola and green pea that utilise carbon from acetate when cultivated in the dark.

"Imagine someday giant vessels growing tomato plants in the dark and on Mars – how much easier would that be for future Martians?" said Martha Orozco-Cárdenas, the director of the UC Riverside Plant Transformation Research Center.

Floods take heavy toll

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said classroom activities of 3,272 primary schools – 1,185 in Sylhet district, 1475 in Sunamganj, 488 in Habiganj, and 128 in Moulvibazar – are currently suspended.

Mojahidul Islam, deputy director of DPE Rangpur division, said classrooms of 423 primary schools – 394 in Kurigram, 110 in Gaibandha, 14 in Lalmonirhat and five in Nilphamari – are closed for now.

"Meanwhile, student

attendance in schools that are still open has decreased."

Of the fully affected schools – 35 are in Habiganj, 288 in Sylhet, 265 in Sunamganj, 40 in Moulvibazar, nine in Gaibandha, 55 in Kurigram, five in Brahmanbaria, seven in Tangail, 28 in Jamalpur, 32 in Kishoreganj, 122 in Netrakona, eight in Bogura, 18 in Sirajganj and one each in Lalmonirhat, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Narsingdi and Manikganj.

Dhaka-Bhanga to be tollway

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percent, a car 25 percent and a motorcycle 5 percent.

In that case, the toll for a bus would be Tk 9 per km, Tk 5 for minibus, Tk 2.5 for car and Tk 0.5 for bike; and thus, the total toll for a bus would be Tk 495, for minibus Tk 275, for car Tk 137.50 and Tk 27.50 for bike for using the 55km expressway.

However, the rates would be fixed soon by rounding the figure so that people can easily pay the tolls, Sabuj Uddin Khan, additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), told The Daily Star yesterday.

Currently, a medium-sized truck pays a toll of Tk 2,100 for using the Padma Bridge. The rate is Tk 2,400 for a bus, Tk 750 for a car and Tk 100 for a motorcycle. The bridge was opened to traffic on Sunday following its inauguration by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday.

A truck has to pay about Tk 2,650 for using both the expressway and the bridge, a bus Tk 2,895, a car Tk 888 and a bike Tk 127.50. However, the amount could vary once those figures are rounded by the authorities. Hasina in March 2020 opened the expressway,

officially named as Jatir Pita Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Highway, implemented at a cost of Tk 11,003 crore, making it the country's most expensive road (considering per kilometre expenditure).

The finance ministry in April last year approved Tk 10 as the base toll, proposed by the Road Transport and Highways Division, for an interim period until the opening of the Padma Bridge.

But the RHD early this year proposed four base tolls – Tk 18.40, Tk 25, Tk 33.71 and Tk 34.70 – 84 to 250 percent higher than the rate fixed earlier. As the division could not fix the new rate, it will impose the interim rate, sources said.

The Sunday's circular said the base toll of Tk 10 per km has been fixed for an interim period and the authorities will fix the final rate later.

MANUAL TOLL COLLECTION FOR NOW
On June 22, the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the proposal to give a joint venture firm, led by Korean Expressway Corporation (KEC), the responsibility of collecting tolls, among others works, on the expressway.

The ones

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On September 14, 2016, the ACC submitted the final report to the lower court concerned, saying the charges could not be proved, he said.

Upon concluding hearing for the day, the bench said it would hold further hearing today and pass order on the matter.

On February 15, 2017, another HC bench issued the suo motu rule asking the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to form an enquiry commission to identify the "culprits who made up false stories" about the corruption

conspiracy and why it should not be ordered to bring them to justice.

The then HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah had issued the rule following media reports citing a Canadian court's decision to acquit all the three accused in a corruption conspiracy case involving the bridge project.

The World Bank, which was supposed to be the lead financier of the project at that time, raised the allegation in 2011 and eventually withdrew from the project.

Later, Canadian police sued some top officials of SNC-Lavalin, a Canadian construction firm that was vying to get picked by Bangladesh Bridge Authority as a consultant for the project.

On Sunday, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik put forward a request to the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo for holding hearing on the rule and its disposal.

Contacted, DAG AKM Amin Uddin Manik said various government agencies had held discussions on formation of an enquiry committee following the HC rule five years ago.

Vehicles using two service lanes along the expressway would not have to pay tolls, he added.

AFP, ELMAU CASTLE

President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are set to make contact in the "next few weeks," a senior US official told reporters yesterday.

They "will have the opportunity to engage over the course of the next few weeks," National Security

Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

A new call between the leaders of the world's two biggest economies has been long expected amid tensions over trade, China's sabre rattling around Taiwan, and pressure on Beijing not to help Russia get around Western sanctions over the Ukraine invasion.

A week ago, Biden said

he planned on "having a conversation with President Xi."

"We haven't set a time yet," he said, while a few days earlier he'd said the call could be "soon".

The last video conference between the two leaders was on March 18, when Biden warned Xi against assisting Russia in its invasion of Ukraine.