

Fans in Valencia are shouting 'Rehana, Rehana'

Badhan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Azmeri Haque Badhan is currently at Valencia, Spain, where she represented Bangladesh and the "Rehana Maryam Noor" team at the Valencia International Film Festival - Cinema Jove. She won "Best Actress" at the prestigious festival, and "Rehana Maryam Noor" won "Best Film" at the recently concluded event.

The Daily Star got in touch with the actress over the phone about her wonderful achievement.

International accolades are not something new for you. How do you feel after winning this time?

As an actor, it is always a

“They were constantly telling me that they could not believe that such a production was made in Bangladesh – it filled my heart with joy.”



Badhan (M) at the festival.

PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

privilege to represent my country. I am beyond elated, as there are no other Bangladeshis here. I am spellbound by their hospitality towards us, and the fact that they are talking to us about our production and dialogue is a great feeling as well.

Did you talk to journalists there as well?

Some television channels and magazines took my interview.

They praised me for my acting, as well as the entirety of "Rehana Maryam Noor". They were constantly telling me that they could not believe that such a production was made in Bangladesh – it filled my heart with joy.

How did the audience react?

The way that the audience reacted was the icing on the cake. When they saw

me, they screamed 'Rehana, Rehana' to get my attention. They did not know who I was, but still gave me so much love – it made me emotional.

How are you enjoying Valencia?

It is a beautiful city, and I'll take the time to wander around today. I've walked almost two kilometres as of yet. I'll try out the local food, and maybe shop a little.

Has "Rehana Maryam Noor" changed your life entirely?

It has undoubtedly given me a lot. Young girls reach out to me over social media and tell me that not only my screen presence, but my real life struggles inspired me a lot, since I had to work really hard to overcome them. When they tell me that I am one of their heroes, it really makes me emotional.

Any dreams regarding cinema?

Dreams just won't do anymore; you have to look at reality. I have been acting for 16 years – I now need roles according to my age. I just want to keep on acting.



Ustad Rashid Khan to sing in 'Coke Studio Bangla' season two

Eminent Indian classical singer and musician Ustad Rashid Khan is all set to perform in the upcoming second season of the popular musical show Coke Studio Bangla.

According to Ananda Bazar, the Padma Bhushan singer will be performing along with his son, Arman Khan in the popular franchise.

'Karan Johar is the reason behind unhappy marriages'



Last month, Karan Johar announced that "Koffee with Karan" will return on July 7.

In a recently released teaser, which is the third one since last couple of months, Karan Johar gave a sneak-peek into the guest list viewers can expect from the show. During the same, we spotted Samantha Ruth Prabhu making an appearance with Akshay Kumar. "You are the reason behind unhappy marriages – you showcase it as K3G, but in reality it is KGF!", she had said.

Lindsay Lohan celebrates birthday with Dubai resident 'husband'



Lindsay Lohan has secretly tied the knot with beau Bader Shammam just hours before her 36th birthday.

The actress announced the news on her Instagram account along with a picture.

"I am the luckiest woman in the world. You found me and knew that I wanted to find happiness and grace, all at the same time. I am stunned

that you are my husband. My life and my everything," the post read.

NEWS

US man, his dog spent 7yrs walking

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Almost nine years after he first came up with the idea, Turcich took the first step of his walk around the world. He set off on April 2, 2015, just before his 26th birthday.

The first stage of the trip saw him walk from New Jersey to Panama. Around four months in, Turcich acquired his walking companion, puppy Savannah, from an animal shelter in Austin, Texas.

Much of first 2 years, they walked across South America and took a voyage to Antarctica.

After arriving in Europe, the pair walked through Ireland and Scotland, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, and Portugal.

He and Savannah then crossed over to North Africa, where they walked through Morocco, Algeria, where he had a police escort, and Tunisia.

From here, they moved through Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. After Greece, they headed to Turkey, where Turcich became the first private citizen to be permitted to cross the Bosphorus Bridge on foot.

Then they traveled to Georgia and Azerbaijan. The Covid-19 pandemic closed the borders and this ultimately meant they were forced to remain in Azerbaijan for at least six months.

"Then it was just kind

of waiting until we could get into any of Central Asia," says Turcich, who'd originally aimed to travel through Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, before flying to Australia, and then back to the US.

Unfortunately, the strict travel restrictions in place at the time meant Turcich had to abandon plans to visit Australia and Mongolia.

After walking across Kyrgyzstan, he and Savannah flew to Seattle in August 2021, and began making their way home to New Jersey.

During their world walk, the pair walked across six continents and 38 countries together, spending most nights camping.

Guinness World Records sets the requirements for a circumnavigation on foot as traveling 18,000 miles (around 30,000 kilometers) and crossing four continents – a goal surpassed by Turcich. On an average day, he and Savannah walked between 18 to 24 miles (around 29 to 38 kilometers).

When asked if he's itching to get back on the road, Turcich says that it's the furthest thing from his mind. In fact, he has no plans to go anywhere for a long time.

"I want to enjoy life without walking and even traveling," he says. "I'm so over it right now. I just want to be in one place and get into a rhythm."

A roof over their heads is all they need now

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His only source of income is begging on the streets.

"Without help from others, I will not be able to keep the roof over my family stable," he told this correspondent.

His elderly mother Gulmala Bibi was seen taking care of his youngest child in a temporary shack they made for themselves.

Like them, thousands of people have become homeless due to the flood that began on June 15.

According to the district administrations in Sylhet division, 63 lakh people are affected so far. Of them, around 60 lakh are from Sylhet and Sunamganj.

In the division, 99,791 houses have been damaged. Of them, most people are poor and ultra-poor, and cannot afford to rebuild their homes now.

At least 1.3 lakh people are now living in 1,168 shelter centres, while thousands of others are living in makeshift shacks built on high grounds.

Kashmir Reza, president of Paribesh O Haor Unnayan Sangstha, said, "The government should bear the repair cost of all damaged houses and should also allot Tk 10,000 for each household that needs rebuilding."

The prime minister allotted Tk 10 crore for 10,000 flood victims whose houses were damaged in Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Officials of the district administrations confirmed that the allocation was sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund on June 1, and 5,000 families of each district will receive the money from today.

They said the funds were for home repair, purchases of household and educational materials, and other needs.

After several weeks, the people in Sylhet and Sunamganj were finally able to spend two days with clear skies till Sunday.

Visiting the upazila on Saturday, this correspondent saw many people drying whatever possession they could salvage – paddies, straws, furniture, books – in the sun.

Abul Hasnat, of the upazila, said, "My house and tea-stall were both flooded. But now that the sun is out after long, I'm being able to dry everything and clean up."

Due to favourable weather, the floodwater had further receded yesterday.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning

Centre (FFWC) and the Water Development Board (WDB), the Surma river was flowing 47cm above the danger level in Sylhet's Kanaighat at 9:00am yesterday, which is 17cm lower than it was on Friday.

The river was also flowing 63cm above the danger level in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila – 36cm lower than on Thursday.

The water level of the Kushiara also went down 25cm at Amolshid point in Sylhet's Zakiganj and 24cm at Sheola in Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila since Saturday. It has been flowing at 59cm and eight cm above the danger level respectively.

The FFWC forecast also stated that the flood situation in the two districts will stay stable in the 24 hours till this morning.

Lugansk 'liberated'

FROM PAGE 14
39 houses were damaged, including five that were destroyed, Gladkov said on the Telegram messaging app.

Senior Russian lawmaker Andrei Klishas accused Ukraine of shelling Belgorod and called for a stern response.

"The death of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure in Belgorod are a direct act of aggression on the part of Ukraine and require the most severe – including a military – response," Klishas wrote on Telegram.

Moscow has accused Kyiv of numerous attacks on Belgorod and other regions bordering Ukraine since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. Ukraine has not claimed responsibility but has described the incidents as payback and "karma" for Russia's actions.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine and Reuters could not independently verify the

Russian accounts.

In the Russian-occupied southern Ukraine city of Melitopol, Ukrainian forces hit a military base with more than 30 strikes yesterday, the city's exiled mayor said in a video address on Telegram.

The base had been "taken out of action", Ivan Fedorov said.

A Moscow-installed official said several private residential houses near the airfield were damaged.

"Shells fell on the territory of the airfield. There were no casualties," Evgeny Balitsky, head of the Russia-installed council in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, wrote on Telegram.

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said its air force had flown some 15 sorties "in virtually all directions of hostilities".

Reuters could not immediately verify the

accounts.

Separately, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko accused Kyiv of "provoking" his country and said his army intercepted missiles fired from his country by Ukrainian forces "around three days ago".

Belarus is a long-term Russian ally that supported the February 24 invasion and has been accused by Kyiv of launching its own attacks on Ukrainian territory.

But Lukashenko denied any involvement in a recent cross-border incident, which would represent an escalation of the conflict. "As I said more than a year ago, we do not intend to fight in Ukraine," he was quoted as saying by state news agency Belta on Saturday.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and cities levelled since Russia invaded in what Ukraine its Western allies say is an unprovoked war of

aggression. Russia denies targeting civilians in what President Putin calls a "special military operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" its neighbour.

Narail OC

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is posted there, he added.

The incident of humiliating the college teacher came to light after its video clip went viral on social media.

On June 28, the National Human Rights Commission asked the authorities concerned to take legal steps against the police personnel, who played a silent role during the incident.

Meanwhile, a Narail court yesterday placed four arrestees in connection with the incident on a three-day remand.

Around 10 days after assaulting of the college teacher, police filed a case against 170-180 unidentified people on June 27.

Mother, son murdered at N'ganj home

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our prayers, my daughter-in-law Jannatul noticed that the gate and door of Razia's house were open.

"We first thought there was an incident of theft. We called Razia and Talha multiple times. But there was no response. After a while, we entered the house and found

Razia's body on the floor. Then we found Talha's body on the bed in another room and called the police."

Saifullah added that Razia did not have any enmity with anyone.

Razia's elder sister Shaheen Sultana said, "We found a gold chain and land documents in the

almirah. But we are not sure whether there was cash in the almirah."

OC Azizul said the killings might have been committed between 10:00pm of Saturday night and 4:00am Sunday.

Police have seized a kitchen knife that appeared to have been used in the

killings. The bodies have been sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

Inspector Jahirul Islam of Criminal Investigation Department in Narayanganj, said the evidence indicated that the victims were killed by someone who knew them well.

Hong Kong lawmaker tests Covid positive after photo with Xi

AFP, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong lawmaker who posed for a group photo with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the leader's visit to the financial hub this week confirmed yesterday he has since tested positive for coronavirus.

Xi visited Hong Kong under strict security measures to mark the 25th

anniversary of the city's handover from Britain in his first trip outside mainland China since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Steven Ho, a 42-year-old member of Hong Kong's largest pro-Beijing party who sits in the city's rubber stamp legislature, was one of about 100 officials granted close contact with Xi for a photo call on Thursday afternoon.

Ho was standing two rows directly behind Xi, according to the photos released by the government.

The lawmaker tested negative on the first day of Xi's visit on Thursday and returned an uncertain test on Friday, he said.

He did not take part in any events on Friday after the uncertain test result, he said in a statement on social media.