

A new start for a young director

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

“I want to produce multi-dimensional projects under the banner of my company.”

SHARMIN JOYA

Raka Noshin Nower has been an ad-film maker for the past ten years, associated with companies like Applebox Films. She made a name for herself with her debut tele-fiction, which was aired on Valentine's Day—“Aar Theko Na Durey”, one of the stories of Closeup Kachhe Ashar Didhahin Golpo”, this year.

Raka recently began a new journey with her own company, Studio Yellow Something Limited, which she announced in June. In conversation with The Daily Star, the director shared her thoughts about the limitations of working in the creative field, her inspirations and future plans.

What was the idea behind Studio Yellow Something Limited?

The colour yellow has always been a symbol of happiness to me. While, ‘something’ always pushes me to think out of the box and look for the new and creative ideas. Studio Yellow Something Limited is not just about thinking big, but executing it well.

I want to produce multi-dimensional projects under the banner of my company. We will eventually produce television commercials, documentaries, fiction, non-fiction, OVC, and a variety of other content. We also want to host acting workshops at

some point in the future.

Who inspired you the most to take this step?

I would credit eminent theatre personality, Syed Jamil Ahmed sir for helping me transform into the person I am today. I did four workshops on theatre studies with him, and was able to learn many things. As a result, my vision for life and work was completely changed.

What are the limitations of filmmakers in our country?

We create our own limitations. In most of the cases, lack of courage to take risks is one of those factors that still holds us back. We do face a lot of hurdles, as we don't have enough support or even resources. Yet, our productions are receiving international acclaim, which means that we are on the right track.

Our country does not have proper institutes for filmmaking, so we tend to take technical support from outside the country. What are your thoughts on this?

It is true, yet I believe, very soon we will reach the stage where our productions will be 100 percent locally made. I want my company to be one of those to take this initiative.

Could you tell us about your upcoming projects?

I am in the talks with Chorki about a web-film. The script for the project is almost ready and we are planning to begin shooting in August. Also, I will keep working on ad films, which is my area of expertise. Simultaneously, I also want to keep collaborating with Children's Film Society (CFS). These kids amaze me with their innovative thoughts and their clear vision for their ambitions.

What are your future plans and where do you see your company in the next five years?

See, I consciously kept myself away from making beauty product ads, because there is this conventional idea that female ad-filmmakers can only work with feminine products. This sort of stereotyping does not sit right with me. I was one of those directors who brought changes in the sanitary napkin advertisements by showing red liquid instead of blue. This is one way in which I tried breaking the bias.

In the next five years, I want to take my company to an international level. At the same time, I want my company to be associated with each and every sector in Bangladesh. I want to highlight the banner of Studio Yellow Something Limited, under which the dreams of many youngsters will come true.

26 years later, Maqsood and Prince Mahmud collaborate once again

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted musician Maqsoodul Haque, from the band Maqsood O Dhaka, lent his voice to a new song “Shatey-Panchey” composed by renowned music director and lyricist Prince Mahmud.

The last collaboration between Prince and Maqsood took place over 26 years ago with “Khawma”. Few days ago, Prince Mahmud shared the song “Keno Mon Niye Eto Dao Jontrona” which made the fans nostalgic.



Siam to work with Prosenjit for the first time

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actor Siam Ahmed is all set to work alongside Indian actor Prosenjit Chatterjee for his first Kolkata film. The title of the movie is yet to be finalised, but the film will centre around the theme of family relationships.

Filmmaker Sayantan Ghosal will be directing the film, where the lead characters will be played by Prosenjit Chatterjee, Srabanti and Ayoshi. Siam Ahmed will be seen opposite Ayoshi in the film. The shooting for the film will begin in London this August.



NEWS

Biman

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A similar incident took place in April, which cost Biman a considerable sum in reparation costs, according to Biman officials.

The national airliner had suspended its five officials, including its principal engineer, for their negligence in carrying out their duties.

Earlier on June 16, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner of Biman collided with the boarding bridge at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

On June 4, a trolley-dolly of US-Bangla Airlines hit a Boeing 737 aircraft of Biman at the Dhaka airport.

On February 15, a Boeing 737 aircraft of Biman was brought back from Malaysia after a windshield crack was noticed mid-flight en route to Kuala Lumpur two days earlier.

In April, a Dash-8 aircraft of Biman remained grounded for around three months due to “damaged engines caused by pilot error”.

These incidents could have been avoided with careful operation of the aircraft and advanced maintenance, according to aviation experts.

The rules or protocols that are in place when taking out and keeping the aircraft in the hangar are not followed properly by those in charge of the ground handling service, according to Biman officials on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the issue.

“This leads to such unwanted collisions, which cause huge losses to Biman in terms of monetary and image,” said ATM Nazrul Islam, an aviation expert.

Legendary director

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moved to the ICU on Sunday, where he was put on a ventilator.

Born on January 8, 1931, in what is now Bangladesh's Bogra, Tarun, a Chemistry student in Kolkata's Scottish Church College, made a name for himself with his works like “Balika Badhu” (1960), “Smriti Tuku Thaak” (1963), “Palatak” (1963) (1976), “Kuheli” (1971), “Shriman Prithviraj” (1972), “Ganadevata” (1978).

His Dadar Kirti (1980) had a significant impact in uplifting the Bengali film industry in West Bengal from the 60s to 80s.

Several of his films also had superhits songs by Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and Manna Dey.

Among his other major box office successes are “Kancher Swarga”, “Bhalobasha Bhalobasha”, “Sangsar Simante” and “Nimantran”.

Govt plans ‘underpass’

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The meeting was attended by representatives from the army; Road Transport and Highways Division; the CAAB; the RHD; Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) which is implementing the metro rail projects; Bangladesh Railway; and Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Ltd. They also made a field visit.

“We convened the meeting for better integration of different stakeholders concerned,” DICA Executive Director Neelima Akhter told The Daily Star.

“The underpass will be built for better connectivity between the airport, the airport railway station and the hajj camp,” she said, adding that the air passengers will be able to easily access the

bus rapid transit and the metro rail. Various government agencies are implementing a number of projects near the airport. The DMTCL will build the country's first underground railway from the airport to Kamalapur, while a dedicated bus corridor is being developed from the airport to Gazipur.

Besides, Bangladesh Bridge Authority is building two elevated expressways — one from the airport to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway and the other from the airport to Dhaka EPZ on the Nabinagar-Chandra Highway.

The CAAB is constructing a third terminal for the Dhaka airport.

“I have always been intrigued by human relationships and values. I think the quest of a man is to become a better human being. I think I understand the middle-class milieu better and hence, interpreted it in various ways on celluloid,” Tarun had said back in 2015.

While Tarun has worked with many notable actors like Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Chhabi Biswas, Soumitra Chatterjee, Sandhy Roy and more, he was more importantly known to introduce actors like Tapas Pal, Mausumi Chatterjee and Mahua Roy Chowdhury.

Honoured with the prestigious Padma Shri — the fourth highest civilian award of the Indian government — in 1990, the veteran filmmaker won four national awards, Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards, among several others, during his lifetime.

integrity of all these projects to reap the maximum benefit.

Mohammed Shamim Al Mamun, executive engineer of the RHD's Dhaka Division, said the underpass will connect all three terminals at the airport with the railway station and the hajj camp.

The army is now carrying out a feasibility study and working on the alignment of the underpass, the hajj camp and the airport railway station.

The study is expected to be completed by two-three months. Then, the RHD will take up an investment project to build the underpass, he told this newspaper yesterday.

Replying to another question, he said it was not possible to tell the possible cost of the project at this moment.

Tarun came to cinema under the banner of Yatrik — a group of filmmakers that broke up in 1963.

It was in 1965, he made his solo debut as a director in the film industry with Basanta Choudhury in “Alor Pipasha” and Soumitra Chatterjee-starrer “Ektuku Basha”.

Ganadevata, based on Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay's novel, won Tarun a national award for Best Feature Film with Mass Appeal, Wholesome Entertainment and Aesthetic Value in 1978.

In 1984, he went on to win another national award for Best Scientific Film (including Environment and Ecology) for “Aranya Aamar”.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed deep sorrow over Tarun Majumder's death, saying his passing was a big loss to the entertainment world.

8 sent to jail

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the promised paddy. To settle the matter, Ashim called for a village arbitration, where it was decided that Nur would have to repay his debt by November 15.

Ashim the called Nur and Jimi to his house around 11:15pm on Sunday to discuss. During the talks, they got into an argument.

At one point, Ashim and his men started attacking Nur with sharp weapons. When Jimi stepped in to save her husband, she got stabbed as well.

Locals rushed the couple to Muksudpur Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared Jimi dead. Nur was later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College.

Abu Bakar Mia, officer in-charge of Muksudpur Police Station, said, “On information, a police team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. We recovered the body and sent it to Gopalganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.”

The arrestees were produced before a court, which sent them to jail yesterday.

Newly identified

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It was named in honour of Bolivian research partners and one of the South American homes of the waterlily.

Scientist Natalia Przelomska from Kew Gardens said “in the face of a fast rate of biodiversity loss” describing the new species “is a task of fundamental importance”.

In a paper published in Frontiers in Plant Science yesterday, a dried specimen of the plant that has been held in Kew's Herbarium since 1845 was finally identified after almost two decades of investigation.

492 officials get reduced pay

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Contacted, Mina Parvin, the first project director, told The Daily Star that it was a mistake.

“We have given the first circular and appointment letter mentioning a salary of Tk 27,100 for the post. But only officials in metropolitan cities were supposed to get that amount,” said Mina, an additional secretary on Post Retirement Leave since October 2.

“The officials, who worked at the upazila level, are supposed to get a salary of Tk 24,700, which we started paying four months after their recruitment.”

About the “mistake” being repeated last

year, Parvin suggested talking to Sakeun Nahar Begum, executive director (Additional Secretary) of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha.

Contacted, Sakeun said, “We are paying the salary as per the finance ministry's order issued on January 14, 2016, which stated that the grade-10 post officers will get Tk 24,700 while they work at the upazila level.”

Sakeun, acting project director during the recent 37 appointments, then suggested communicating with the project director and the deputy project director.

Keya Khan, an additional secretary, is the current project director.

“I have taken charge

only seven days ago, so I have no idea what happened earlier. I only know that the officials are getting the salary stipulated by the finance division,” she told this newspaper on June 22.

Nazimul Islam, deputy project director, told The Daily Star that it was an “unwanted mistake”.

“We have revised the development project proposal (DPP) after the first mistake in the circular and appointment letter. But the second circular may not have been issued after reading the first DPP.”

He added, “We are embarrassed. We are liable for this and have no appropriate answer for it.”

Make sure no one suffers

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in using energy like electricity.

“Even big countries like America and England are now suffering from food crisis. We are still in a good position and trying to be well. It requires help from all.”

Hasina, also the AL president, asked all to bring every inch of land across the country under cultivation to grow more food so that Bangladesh doesn't face such a crisis.

She said her government has built the Padma Bridge, provided electricity to every house, is giving home to every landless and homeless people and ensuring food security for all aiming to continue Bangladesh's progress.

Despite all these, some people at home and abroad have been trying to oust the AL government, the PM said.

“What is the fault with Sheikh Hasina's government? For what offences they want to dislodge the Awami

League government?” she questioned.

Describing the AL grassroots activists as the party's lifeline, the PM said grassroots activists always take right decisions and hold up the organisation.

Hasina said the AL is always powerful as a political party as it has trusted grassroots activists.

“The power of the people is the main strength to me. Attempts have been made on my life time and again. But Almighty Allah saved me to do something for the welfare of the country.”

That's why the AL government had been able to construct the Padma Bridge with own funding and implement other development projects to ensure the country's overall development, she added.

Earlier in the day, Hasina reached her ancestral home in Tungipara for the first time via the Padma Bridge at 11:40am. She was accompanied by her son Sajeb Wazed and daughter Saima Wazed.

The PM offered prayers

at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On her way to Tungipara, the premier and her family members spent some time on the Padma Bridge and took rest for a while at the Zanjira end's service area.

Hasina returned to Dhaka at 5:30pm.

Six shot dead

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little store. It just makes me feel like we're not safe anymore.”

Witnesses said they believed the shooter was on the roof of a store and fired into the crowd, WGN television reported.

Social media video showed a marching band in the parade suddenly breaking formation and running away, and a Chicago Sun-Times columnist posted a picture of a pool of blood at the foot of a bench.

People fled the scene upon hearing several loud bangs, CBS 2 television of Chicago reported, citing a producer who was at the parade.