



The audience will discover me in new ways

TASNIA FARIN

"Shorna is a Managing Director (MD) of a reputed bank. Bold and confident, she is the youngest MD there – like a role model for young women. This was a challenging character for me. But I tried to portray the character just like the script."

ANTARA RAISA

Chorki original series "Syndicate", directed by Shihab Shaheen, was just released on Eid day – being the focal point of many discussions. At the helm of the project was young Tasnia Farin, who is making waves in our entertainment industry. She prides herself on her role in the web-series.

"Shorna is a Managing Director (MD) of a reputed bank. Bold and confident, she is the youngest MD there – like a role model for young women", said Farin. "This was a challenging character for me. But I tried to portray the character just like the script."

She shared the screen with Alran Nisho and Nazifa Tushi in this series. Besides them, she has also acted with the likes of Shatabdi Wadud and Nasiruddin Khan, and more than held her own.

She said, "The lead and supporting cast are brilliant actors in their own right. I learned a lot from seniors like Shatabdi Wadud and Nasir Uddin Khan. The series was shot in some beautiful locations, that I had never been to

before. Overall, it was a good experience."

Having earned her place in tele-fictions and web-series, Farin is all set to make her silver screen debut with the Tollywood film "Aro Ek Prithibi", directed by Atanu Ghosh. She plays Protikkha, who is on a journey of finding solace and shelter amidst her own struggles.

"She has been on the quest for her own place since she was 11 years old, and that journey has led her to London," says Farin. "Through this journey, the audience will discover her in different ways. When she reaches London, she finds the connection between the incidents of her past and present. It's a story of realisation, finding your root and home."

When asked about why she chose a



Tollywood film to make her silver screen debut, she said, "I wanted my first film to be very special and close to my heart. When you choose a film, there are a lot of factors that comes with it. It does not entirely depend on my choice. This was the right script for me."

The actress has recently completed the shoot for the Hoichoi original series "Karagar", directed by "Taqdeer" famed Syed Ahmed Shawki.

"When the director narrated the story to me, I was awed by it. My character here is unique. I can't reveal any more details, but it's a one-of-a-kind series."

To Tasnia Farin, the medium is secondary for an artiste.

"I don't plan as much for the future. I just try to pick out the best scripts."

Shakib Khan attends New York premiere of 'Golui'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



The US premiere for "Golui" took place at the Jamaica Multiplex Cinemas in New York on Saturday. The premiere was attended by Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan, who is also the star of the film. Khan took a picture of himself standing next to a cut-out of his character in "Golui". This is the first time a film of Shakib Khan has been released in the US, and the superstar looked quite thrilled with the occasion in the pictures from the event. S A Haque Olike, the director of "Golui" was also in attendance at the New York premiere of the film.

Salman Khan to triple his remuneration for Bigg Boss 16?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular reality TV show, Bigg Boss is going to return for its 16th instalment soon. Salman Khan has hosted the show over the last thirteen years, and the actor recently agreed to host the latest season of the show. Currently, rumours are circulating that the actor has demanded three times his previous remuneration for the latest instalment of Bigg Boss. If the rumours ring true, then Salman will be paid BDT 1,238 crore for hosting the 16th season of show. In the previous season, he had received BDT 413 crore.

Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter makes onscreen debut

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter, Navya Naveli Nanda will be making her on-screen debut in a Loreal Paris advertisement. Navya shared an Instagram post for the commercial with the caption, "What is the meaning of self-worth? Stay tuned to find out more."

The video showcased the beautiful Navya wearing a pair of formal pants and a suit while talking about 'self-worth' in the short commercial. The advertisement video will be aired soon.

COUNTRYWIDE



This narrow bridge over the Ratnai river at Kalughat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila is a setback for development, depriving people of getting benefits of the newly-built Dharla Bridge. PHOTO: STAR

RAMSHACKLE RATNAI BRIDGE

An impediment of development

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Economic activities in four upazilas including three in Kurigram district and one in Lalmonirhat could not gain the momentum as desired despite the inauguration of the Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge over the Dharla river in 2018.

The Bailey bridge over the Ratnai river in Kalughat area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, the doorway of the newly-built Dharla Bridge on Lalmonirhat-Phulbari road is vulnerable and narrow and may collapse anytime.

Local business people and traders said that the business as well as development activities in the region especially in Phulbari, Nageshwari and Bhurungamari upazilas of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila could not pick up the pace due to the ramshackle Bailey bridge over the river Ratnai.

The derelict bridge remains an

obstacle to the movement of larger transports and cargo vehicles on the road connecting Lalmonirhat with Kurigram and other parts of the country, they also said.

Sahidur Rahman, a businessman from Phulbari upazila in Kurigram, said that they were unable to take the advantage of the new Dharla bridge as the narrow Bailey bridge over Ratnai stands in the way of transporting larger payloads.

"Due to the precarious and narrow Bailey bridge over Ratnai, we are deprived of the benefits of the newly-built Dharla Bridge," he said.

To expedite the socio-economic development in the region, the new Dharla bridge – built at a cost of Tk 206 crore and 85 lakh – has to be used to its full potential, said Moktarul Islam, another businessman from the same upazila.

To achieve that objective, the Bailey bridge over the river Ratnai

needs to be replaced with a stronger and wider bridge as soon as possible, he also said.

Echoing the same, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Babu, president of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Lalmonirhat, said he has been pursuing the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) for a new bridge on the Ratnai, but his efforts so far have borne no result.

"If a new bridge is built replacing the vulnerable Bailey bridge over Ratnai River, it will tremendously benefit us," he said.

Executive Engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat Khalid Saifullah said a tender will be invited soon for constructing the 138.44-metre long and 10.25-metre-wide concrete bridge replacing the Bailey bridge over the Ratnai river at a cost of Tk 36 crore.

"The work for constructing the new bridge will start in September this year," he hoped.

Malaysia starts process of hiring workers

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was Tk 40,000, which was later raised to Tk 1.6 lakh.

This time, after the signing of the MoU, M Saravanan, Malaysia's human resources minister, wrote to Ahmad on January 14 informing him that they would select 25 Bangladeshi agents and 250 subagents for the recruitment of workers.

This sparked protest from the other recruitment agencies, who said a syndicated system of recruitment would increase migration costs and lead to exploitation and money laundering, as was the case in the past.

In his reply to his Malaysian counterpart on January 18, Ahmad called for allowing all valid recruitment agencies in the hiring process to ensure transparency, highlighting the Bangladesh

Competition Act 2012 and the ILO charters on overseas labour recruitment.

The Bangladesh government also handed over a list of 1,520 valid agencies to Malaysia.

Against this backdrop, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in early July started an investigation into the allegations of syndication in the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers.

A MACC team raided the office of Bestinet, a Malaysian IT firm involved in the manpower recruitment process, and interrogated the officials.

Bestinet provides the software solution Foreign Workers Centralised Management System to the Malaysian government.

The move came a day after the youth wing of the Malaysian

political party, People's Justice Party, submitted a complaint to the MACC.

The complaint also said Bestinet founder Mohd Amin Abdul Nor, a Bangladesh-origin Malaysian, had influenced the Malaysian government to limit the number of agencies supplying workers to 25 companies only.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Competition Commission has formed a team to probe the allegations into the syndicate on labour recruitment.

It sent a notice to Ruhul Amin (Swapan), the owner of Catheris International, a recruitment agency, to appear at a hearing today.

Asked about the matter, Ahmad said as per the MoU, the issue of selecting the recruitment agencies is not in the hand of Bangladesh.

"But if there is anything illegal going on, we will surely play our role."

MP beat me up and it was all planned

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where the principal, sitting next to him, said he was not assaulted and the reports were false.

Meanwhile, Asaduzzaman Asad, former general secretary of Rajshahi district Awami League, held a press conference at his city office yesterday in which he gave reporters an audio clip of a conversation between Salim and former local union parishad chairman Akteruzzaman.

Salim is heard in the clip saying that there was no meeting between the MP and college principals on July

7. "I was called there only to be beaten up."

Contacted, Akteruzzaman said the clip was an extract from a July 9 phone conversation between him and Salim.

"I called him after I heard about the assault," he told this correspondent.

Salim could not be reached for comments. But several individuals close to him said the voice heard in the clip was his. He has not left his house since July 7, they added.

In the audio clip, Salim was heard saying that the MP started acting

aggressively from the moment he saw him.

The lawmaker asked Salim a question, and as soon as the latter said he didn't understand it, Omor started screaming.

"Then he stood up from his chair and started punching and kicking me. At a point, he loudly asked someone to bring him a hockey stick. And then he started hitting me with something blunt."

Salim then said he was tortured for at least 10 minutes in front of several other college principals.

Man kills wife, children, turns himself in

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Chapatola Nagarghat village in the upazila the same night and filed a case against Zahirul.

AKM Shamim Hasan, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station, "We are investigating to find the motive behind the triple-murder."

Sabina's father, Mujibur Rahman, said, "Zahirul married my daughter around 13 years ago. Since then, they would fight a lot."

Last month, Sabina went to her father's house with her children and were there till Friday afternoon, when Zahirul picked them up.

"That day, Sabina and Zahirul got into a fight again," Mujibur said.

"Zahirul's father called me suddenly and told me that his son is being arrested. When I asked why, he told me to go to their house and see."

"When I went there, I saw my daughter and grandchildren dead."

Crisis-hit Lanka moves to elect new president

FROM PAGE 12
armed masked soldiers on guard and roads near the building closed to the public.

More than 100 police and security personnel with assault rifles were

deployed on the approach road to parliament.

Al Jazeera's Minelle Fernandez, reporting from Colombo, said police officers were manning barricades and a water cannon to prevent any unrest,

though protesters had yet to arrive.

"The protesters seem to be adopting a wait-and-see approach to marshal up their energies and resources, because they say they are in it for the long haul," Fernandez said.