

# ‘I did not expect this unnecessary drama’

PUJA CHERY

ZAHIK AKBAR

Puja Chery has charmed her fans with her versatility and charisma in films like “Poramon 2”, “Dohon” and “Shaan”. Her film “Golui”, which was recently released at Jamaica Multiplex in New York, also brought with it praise for the actress.

Marking Eid-ul-Azha, her latest film “Psycho” was released and is currently running in 17 cinema halls across the country.

We caught up with Puja to find out more about her recent endeavors and future plans.

**How did your fans respond to the theatrical release of “Psycho”?**

Having worked in commercial projects like “Prem Amar 2”, I had high expectations from “Psycho”. I was offered the role of a smart and intelligent girl. However, I was anxious if the audience would accept me in this character.

My anxiety was replaced by joy when I visited the theatres to watch “Psycho”, as the audience loved the movie. They also cheered for my performance and their praise has motivated me to keep experimenting with new and unique roles.

**You visited your hometown, Khulna to promote your film. How was the experience?**

The love and warmth I received from my hometown was amazing. The day I went to see “Psycho”, the show was houseful. I am blessed to have such fans who appreciate my efforts.

**You previously shared the screen with Shakib Khan and Siam Ahmed. How was the experience of acting alongside Ziaul Roshan?**

Shakib Khan can’t be compared with anyone in this industry. He is the superstar of Dhallywood. He kept the cinema industry ahead. However, in recent times, Siam and

Roshan are making their place in the industry. The audience appreciated my chemistry with both of them. Roshan works really hard on his acting skills, and he has a drive to perform to the best of his ability. I think this will take him far in this industry.

**You gave a status on your social media that reads, “We don’t talk. Our audience talks for us”. What’s the story behind this status?**

This Eid, three films titled “Din – The Day”, “Poran” and “Psycho” were released in theatres. Whenever I go on social media, I see people belittling each other’s films. They fight with each other about whose movie is better. I do not expect this type of unnecessary drama, mostly when the cinema industry is struggling. I am not pointing at anyone specific, but I hope everyone’s movie does well. That’s why I posted this status.

**Your film “Golui” has now been released in the USA. How have you felt about this achievement?**

I feel very proud at this moment. I want Bangla cinema to get global attention. It is a great achievement for all of us if our films make a place for themselves worldwide.



## SI Tutul ties the knot in the US

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Renowned Bangladeshi singer SI Tutul has tied the knot with television presenter Sharmina Siraj Sonia. The couple got married on July 4, in the United States of America.

Tutul’s new marriage came a year after his divorce with renowned actress Tania Ahmed.

“Tania and I were separated for five years. Our official divorce was last year”, said Tutul to The Daily Star. “Since then, I’ve been working in New York for concerts. I met Sonia through the reality show ‘Bangla Gayen’ on RTV.”

## Jennifer Lopez, Ben Affleck get married in Las Vegas



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular celebrity couple Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck have finally said “I do” on Sunday. The couple rekindled their romance after almost 20 years.

The couple known popularly as “Bennifer” got engaged in April of this year. According to a newsletter, Jennifer changed her name to “Mrs Jennifer Lynn Affleck” after the marriage.

The couple announced their matrimony in a newsletter from Lopez revealing that they flew to the desert city in Nevada to gain a marriage license, and were wed at a chapel late Saturday.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Auto rice mill near school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An influential quarter is setting up an auto rice mill close to a government primary school at Atharodana in Ghatail upazila, ignoring local people’s objection.

Villagers said if the rice mill near Atharodana Badeparshi Government Primary School goes into operation, it will destroy local environment and pose health risk to the students and teachers of the educational institution.

Meanwhile, agitated locals staged a demonstration recently and demanded to stop the ongoing construction of the rice mill there.

Local administration, however, could not stop the construction work as the owner of the mill got approval from the Directorate of Environment (DoE).

Locals said construction of Dhaleshwari Agro Food Mills, which is only a few hundred feet away from Atharodana Badeparshi Government Primary School,

started in October last year.

They also submitted a complaint to the local administration and DoE in this regard, but to no effect, villagers further said.

A number of guardians including Anwarul Kabir and Azmat Ali said if the mill is constructed there it will badly hamper the kids’ education.

“If the mill is constructed beside the school, I will have to shift my son to other school,” Anwarul said.

Headmaster of Atharodana Badeparshi Government Primary School Khorshed Alam said although they raised their objection against the construction of the rice mill, the owner did not bother.

Contacted, Anwar Hossain, owner of the under-construction rice mill, said before the start of the mill construction work, an advertisement was published in the newspapers, saying if anyone has any objection in this regard, but no one raised any objection then.

Later, I got approval from the DoE, he said, adding that although

construction of another mill is going on some distance away, a section people is instigating the villagers to raise objection against his mill.

When asked about the environment pollution, Anwar said now everything is automated.

Because of using modern technologies, it will pose no threat to local people and the school kids, the further said.

Ghatail Upazila Education Officer Masudur Rahman said although investigations had been conducted in this regard on several occasions, the construction work is still going on.

Ghatail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Munia Chowdhury said the mill owner has valid approval from the DoE.

Md Ziaul Haque, director of DoE (Dhaka region), said they held three hearings in this regard. Although the mill owner appeared in the hearing, the school authorities did not, he added.



Despite protest by locals, construction of an auto rice mill is going on near Atharodana Badeparshi Government Primary School in Tangail’s Ghatail upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Special drive today

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in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services.

During the same period, 1,072 people tested positive for the infection after 10,974 samples were tested across the country.

The positivity rate stood at 9.77 percent.

With the latest, the total number of deaths rose to 29,241.

## Ghazal legend

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on February 6, 1940 in Amritsar, performed on Delhi’s All India Radio at the beginning of his career, while also being associated with its famed Doordarshan Center.

He was also proficient in guitar and violin.

In 1962, music director Madan Mohan gave him his first break and called him to Bombay to lend his voice to the song “Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bulaya Hoga” with Mohammed Rafi, Talat Mahmood and Manna Dey in Chetan Anand’s “Haqeeqat”.

Bhupinder was given his solo break in the film “Aakhri Khat”.

The artiste is remembered for his unforgettable works in films “Mausam”, “Satte Pe Satta”, “Ahista Ahista”, and “Dooriyan”, amongst many others.

A few among his many hits are “Dil Dhoondta Hai”, “Naam Gum Jaayega”, “Ek Akela Is Shaher Mein”, “Beeti Na Beetai Raina”, “Huzoor Is Kadar bhi na Itra ke Chaliye”, “Kisi Nazar Ko Tera Intezar Aaj Bhi Hai” and “Baadalon Se Kaat Kaat Ke”.

He also sang populist Bengali tracks, including “Kobe Je Kothay”, “Keu Bhul Kore”, “O Amar Monjusa” and “Tomay Cheye Ar Na Chawa”.

He was known for his deep voice and unmatched work ethic.

As a guitarist, he played in classics like “Dum Maro Dum”, “Chura Liya Hain”, “Chalte Chalte”, “Mehbooba o Mehbooba” and “Chingari Koi Bhadke”.

In the mid-1980s, Bhupinder married the Bangladeshi singer Mitali. He is also survived by his son Nihal Singh, also a musician.

## HC orders judicial probe

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officials and police should not be declared illegal.

The home ministry secretary, inspector general of police, deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Narail and officer-in-charge of Narail Sadar Police Station are respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty and Justice SM Maniruzzaman delivered the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Ain O Salish Kendra

(ASK).

During hearing, ASK lawyer ZI Khan Panna told the court that Swapan’s humiliation would not have happened if those who humiliated teachers Shaymal Kanti Nag in Narayanganj and Hridoy Mondal in Munshiganj were given exemplary punishment.

Lawyers Aneek R Haque and Shahinuzzaman Shahin also represented the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Samarendranath Biswas represented the state.

## Police backup came a little

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that the administration would take care of the matter. To appease the irate crowds, Akash’s father Ashoke Saha was taken into custody.

A police official, who accompanied the UNO, said, “After we assured [the attackers] that Akash would be arrested and justice would be served, the crowd left. However, it returned after a while.”

Around 5:00pm, a rally congregated again and police dispersed it by charging batons.

Half an hour later, it came back stronger than before, and there were only 20 police personnel to handle the situation.

“We had nothing to do. There was no way to tackle such a large rally. They were retaliating and even harassed a police officer, who did not have a name tag, calling him a Hindu,” a sub-inspector of Lohagara Police Station, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star.

“We did not have any sound grenades. We only had a few tear-gas shells... But around evening, when more people started pouring in from every direction to attack the village, we had nothing to do except leave the area.”

“They were pelting us with brick chips,” he said, adding that they were fearing the consequences of going on a stronger offensive.

Abu Hena Milon, officer-in-charge of the station, said they fired at least 25 rounds of live ammunition and lobbed eight tear gas shells.

Sahapara village is around eight kilometres away from the station, with no police camps in between.

Shibnath Saha said, “When the attacks began, [most] police [officers present] watched silently. We implored them to take action when the house next to ours was being vandalised. They did nothing... Additional forces came around 11:00pm.”

Prabir Kumar Roy, superintendent of police in Narail, said, “It is true that police [reinforcements] took a while to reach the locality. The district police camp is 30km away. However, we had enough force to cover the area.”

Meanwhile, a case was filed against around 250 unnamed people over the attacks.

Mizanur Rahman, sub-inspector of Lohagara police and investigating officer in the case, said they have identified 15-20 people from different video footages of the incident.

“We have arrested five people -- Sayeed Sheikh, Rasel Mridha, Kabir Gazi, Rezaul Sheikh and Masum Billah. They are all residents of Lohagara.”

Each of them has been taken into a three-day remand.

“We are hoping to find the main instigator after questioning them during the remand.”

Akash Saha was arrested on July 16 in a case filed under the Digital Security Act. He too was placed on a three-day remand.