

Enjoying the life of an artiste

ROBENA REZA

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Robena Reza has been working in the television industry for more than a decade. She earned accolades with projects like Mostofa Sarwar Farooki directorial "Television" and Raihan Khan's web-series "Dour". Her spouse, prominent actor Mosharraf Karim shared, the screen with her in both of the films, as well as the recent "Tin Shoroter Golpo".

In conversation with The Daily Star, she speaks about her career in acting, future plans and more.

You have been working in the industry for a long time. What is your philosophy of being an artiste?

I feel lucky to be an artiste, as it offers me to experience various facets of human psyche. Although it is not easy to portray different roles, this is a challenge that I love to take. Whenever I play a role, I pay full concentration to it, to make it look alive.

War-based projects. I always try to pick roles which are different from one another.

What are your biggest achievements in your acting career?

All the appreciations that I receive from my audience. The fact that people recognise me as an actress is the greatest achievement of my career. I am enjoying the life of being an artiste.

You and Mosharraf Karim have been married to each other for many years. How would you evaluate his acting skills?

To comment on his acting skills is a tough job. He is one of the finest actors we have in the industry. As his life partner, I can say that he is my ultimate support system. Overall, he is a great human being.

Both of you are busy with your work. How do you spend your leisure time?

Both of us love travelling. Whenever we get time, we go to trips. If we get more time, we go out of country. We also love exploring beautiful places within the country. During the pandemic, we had a lot of free time. During that break, we watched movies, spent quality time together discussing over many things. We also do yoga together on a regular basis.

Translated by Sharmin Joya



Liger trailer introduces Vijay as MMA fighter

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The first trailer for Vijay Deverakonda's Bollywood debut film Liger has been released, and it explains why his character was referred to as a "crossbreed" in promotional posters.

Vijay plays an MMA fighter in the film, and the trailer features several fight scenes with him. But, as he struggles with his speech, he is looked down upon, only to roar when it is most needed. Mike Tyson makes a cameo appearance in the film.

Liger is expected to hit theatres on August 26 this year.

Russo Brothers call Dhanush 'most amazing actor on the planet'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Indian premier of the Netflix film "The Gray Man" took place on Wednesday. In attendance at the event was Indian actor Dhanush—who stars in the movie in a major role—alongside director duo the Russo Brothers.

Russo Brothers talked about their experience of working with Dhanush. They called Dhanush "one of the most amazing actors on the planet", saying that they were lucky to be able to work with the Indian Star.



Is there any role you aim to portray, and haven't yet?

I am keen to portray literary characters. They seem fascinating to me. I have taken up different kinds of roles in my career, from native characters to working in Liberation

NEWS

Let us know

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"This is the big achievement. I hope that all districts and upazilas of Bangladesh will be free from landless and homeless people this way," she said.

Mentioning that every people of the country will have a house and an address, she said, "Insha Allah we will be able to do that and I believe it."

The prime minister also urged the Awami League and all its affiliated organisations, all political parties, administration, law enforcement agencies and public representatives to find out landless or homeless people, if any, in their respective areas to manage houses for them.

"I am asking all . . . to provide information about any landless and homeless people so that we could give them a house and an address," she said.

At the outset of the ceremony, Asrayan Project Director Abu Saleh Mohammad Ferdous Khan made a presentation on the activities of the project.

A video documentary on Asrayan Project and homeless and landless people was screened.

Police official

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Hasan, additional superintendent of police of Magura.

After his night shift, Mahmudul returned to the barracks and apparently shot himself in the head with his service firearm around 7:30am, he added.

Laboni, who hailed from Baralidah of Sreepur upazila, was on leave and had gone to her grandfather's home two days ago, said SM Fazlul Haque, additional commissioner of police (crime) of KMP.

She was of 30th BCS batch. It could not be ascertained immediately whether it was a case of suicide or murder, said Fazlul.

Laboni's father Shafiqul Azam, a freedom fighter and a retired school teacher, said, "Laboni's husband is an assistant director of Bangladesh Bank. He is undergoing treatment in India for cancer. The couple has two daughters."

"Laboni and her husband had conjugal feud. They were staying separately. She made suicide attempts twice earlier," he said.

Make it journo friendly

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of a mass media court for settlement of any dispute between owners of media outlets and employees.

Instead, they suggested that all disputes be settled by the labour court.

Speaking to The Daily Star, BFUJ Secretary General Dip Azad said, "We have proposed removing the provision for formation of the mass media workers welfare association. Instead, we have suggested including the provision for forming trade unions at media outlets."

Journalist leaders proposed to reduce the minimum weekly working hours to 40 from 48 as mentioned in the proposed law.

They also proposed two days off each week instead of existing one day.

Another suggestion was made for introducing pension for those employees who worked for a media outlet for 10 years.

Other proposals include increasing the overtime allowance for media employees and raising their retirement age to 67 from 59.

Hasan Mahmud assured journalists leaders of submitting the proposals to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for consideration.

BFUJ President Omar Faruk,

Tell govt about your demands

FROM PAGE 2

It proposed formation of an election-time government with representatives of parties that have had MPs in parliament since the independence, except those elected in controversial polls.

2 ministries ask officials to cut energy expenses

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Soon afterwards, the water resources ministry ordered its officials to avoid personal use of government vehicles and to set the thermostats to 26 degrees Celsius at Pani Bhaban.

Meanwhile, State Minister for the Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) Farhad Hossain yesterday said if reducing power consumption has the desired effect, there will

Secretary General Dip Azad, DUJ President Sohel Haider Chowdhury, General Secretary Aktar Hossain, DRU President Nazrul Islam Mithu, TCJA President Mahub Alam, General Secretary Shahidul Haq Jibon, DSEC General Secretary Abul Hasan and BJU President Swapan Khandkar were present.

The information minister had placed the bill in parliament on March 28. It was later sent to the parliamentary body for scrutiny.

Different journalist platforms, media outlet owners' associations, and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) strongly opposed various sections of the proposed law.

The Editors' Council (Sampadak Parishad) in a statement on April 19 said the space for independent media would shrink further if the bill was passed by parliament.

"The newspaper industry is going through trying times, still reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Many daily newspapers at home and abroad have either started curtailing their print editions, or stopping their print circulation altogether," Editors' Council said.

Upon analysis of the proposed law, the council observed that 37 out of its 54 provisions were not journalist friendly.

The EC's latest talks with political parties started on Sunday. Thirteen parties have participated while the BNP, Bangladesh Kalyan Party and Bangladesh Muslim League refused to join.

be no need for shortening work hours.

"If it [shortening work hours] is necessary, it will be done. Right now, saving power consumption by 25 percent is enough," he told reporters at the ministry.

There are 15 lakh government officials in the country. If they go for austerity measures, it is possible to reduce power consumption by 25 percent, he said.

Fingers pointed at BCL men

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The victim, who is a first-year student of the Arts Faculty, filed a case against unidentified people under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Hathazari Police Station on Wednesday night.

In the case statement, she said that on Sunday night a group of five men forcibly picked her and her friend up from Hotashar Mor to the Botanical Garden.

They first beat the two up and then tied up the plaintiff and sexually assaulted her. When her friend tried to save her, the abusers snatched one of their mobile phones and left the area.

Before filing a case with the police, the victim filed a complaint with the proctorial body.

The CU admin, instead of taking measures to punish the perpetrators, instructed the female students to return to their dormitories by 10:00pm "to avoid such situations".

'NEGLIGENCE' The proctorial body did not inform the police about the sexual assault, a criminal offence, even after receiving a complaint, CU students said.

Proctor Robiul Hasan Bhuiyan, however, refuted the allegation, saying they had informed the police but the victim was unwilling to cooperate initially.

"The [victim] student came to us on Monday morning [a day after the incident]. We immediately started checking the CCTV footage, but she did not recall the exact time. We then asked her to go to the police, but she said she would think about it."

"When she agreed, me and two assistant proctors took her to the police station."

An additional secretary who was present at yesterday's meeting at the MoPA told this correspondent that officials often left rooms without turning off the AC, lights and the TV, assuming that the support staff would turn them off. "The officials themselves were asked to switch these things off before leaving a room."

Besides, the commissioner of the transport pool was directed

There was no negligence on the university authority's end, he added.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Protests against the incident began on Wednesday night, as hundreds of female resident students laid siege to the vice chancellor's office.

They also placed a four-point demand, which included assurance of justice and punishment to the attackers within four working days, and round-the-clock security for all students.

The protesters further demanded the proctorial body step down if it failed to bring justice within four days.

The female students also asked the administration to properly investigate all the complaints filed with the CU Sexual Harassment Prevention Cell.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of students from CU's chemistry department staged a demonstration in front of the university's administrative building from around 11:00am.

Several teachers from different departments joined them.

Under the banner of Progotishil Chhatra Jote and General Students of CU, the students also brought out a procession from the administrative building and marched towards the Central Shahid Minar.

Addressing the demonstrators, Vice Chancellor Shireen Akhter said the demands would be met as soon as possible.

CU BCL STATEMENTS

Meanwhile, BCL central unit has served a show-cause notice to Rezaul Haque Rubel, president of CU BCL, a day after the incident, for violating the organisation's discipline.

BCL insiders said Rubel was served the notice as he had asked the victim not to file a complaint with the CU authorities.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Rubel, however, said he was asked to show cause as he failed to discharge some of his organisational duties. "But my rivals are now trying to link me to this incident."

He claimed he did not ask anyone not to file a complaint; instead, he directly informed the matter to an assistant proctor and an on-duty police official.

Iqbal Hossain Tipu, general secretary of CU BCL, told The Daily Star, "We demand exemplary punishment to the abusers. Their only identity is that they are abusers."

Former CU BCL president Md Alamgir Tipu said, "Those who are directly involved should be punished both academically and legally. If any leader tried to cover up the incident, they should also be withdrawn from their post."

Fazle Rabbi Sugan, former general secretary of CU BCL, told The Daily Star, "As a former BCL leader, I am ashamed. BCL is a renowned organisation and always stands for student rights."

WHERE IS THE VICTIM?

The information about the victim's whereabouts is now being protected. CU Proctor Robiul Islam said, "She is in a safe place under our supervision. We are providing everything she needs. However, for the sake of investigation, her location cannot be disclosed."

Two crashes

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34, Hiramon Biswas, 45, and Mohammad Reza, 41, of Laxmipur village in Kashiani upazila, died on the spot, said Shofikul Islam, chairman of Parulia Union Parishad.

All of them were passengers of the three-wheeler, he added. The workers were returning from work, said Masud Rana, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Railway Police Station.

The injured was rushed to Kashiani Upazila Health Complex, he added.

[Our Faridpur and Gazipur correspondents contributed to this report.]