



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Will deliver an amazing news this month

SOHANA SABA

For me, life is doing something for others, no matter how small it might seem. Life, sometimes, can be inconsequential and purposeless – the older ones will leave, and others will take their place.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

“Aayna”, “Khelaghor,” “Priyatomeshu”, “Brihannala” and “Chandragrahan” – Sohana Saba’s list of memorable films do not end here. However, the talented actress is bringing another good news this month, which she shares with The Daily Star.

What kind of good news are we talking about?

My film production company is called Khamarbari, and we will soon start a project from here. I will be able to divulge all the details at the end of August – I just want to do good work, and stay with high-quality productions.

Do you think that people are returning to films?

That not only depends on what kind of films are being produced, but the quality of films that are releasing now. You will notice that the people are interested in cineplex. Halls all over the country will have to reach a minimum standard, in order to similarly interest the audience.

You love to travel. When did you realise that this was a hobby?

Thanks to my work, I have shot across many countries in the world. Bangladesh itself is inexplicably beautiful – and I did not realise when this became an addiction for me. I’ve travelled to Egypt, Maldives and many other countries, and want to do a Europe tour next.

I really want to travel the world; this is one of my only hopes in life.

You recently posted about marriage on social media.

Getting wed to someone is a big step – and I have announced that I will do it. When that will happen is a different question – we all have to find the right person, don’t we. I need



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

someone who will understand me.

What is life, according to you?

For me, life is doing something for others, no matter how small it might seem. Life, sometimes, can be inconsequential and purposeless – the older ones will leave, and others will take their place.

Translated by Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz.



Prachyanat stages ‘Bon Manush’ after four years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular theatre troupe, Prachyanat brought back their adaptation of Eugene O’Neill’s “The Hairy Ape”, after almost four years. This was the 27th production of Prachyanat’s adaptation, which is titled “Bon Manush”. The production was staged yesterday, July 31, around 7 pm at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy’s Experimental Theatre Hall.

The production is directed by Bakar Bokul and choreographed by Parvin Sultana Kolly. Rifat Ahmed Nobel is in charge of sound management, while ABS Xem will be the one responsible for stage and lights.

Chanchal Chowdhury’s latest TV drama

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Starting August 1, Maasranga Television will introduce a new drama series titled “Pita Bonam Putro Gong”. The series is written by Brindabon Das and is directed by Shokal Ahmed, while popular actor Chanchal Chowdhury will be one of the stars of the show.

The show will be aired at 8:40 pm every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. “Pita Bonam Putro Gon” also stars Nadia Ahmed, Pran Roy, Moushumi Hamid, Azizul Hakim, Shahnaz Khushi, along with many others.



NEWS

Place of birth

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“I don’t know how to react to it and what to do next,” she added.

Another applicant, seeking anonymity, said he had to make numerous trips to the upazila election commission office in the last two months to make a correction on his NID.

“Finally, I received the card on Saturday and the authorities mentioned my birthplace as Venezuela,” he said.

SM Sadiqur Rahman, upazila election officer, said, “I have informed the Election Commission about it. Hopefully, it will be fixed soon.”

Chinese rocket

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“Most of its devices were ablated and destroyed during re-entry,” the agency said of the booster rocket, which was used last Sunday to launch the second of three modules China needed to complete its new Tiangong space station.

Malaysia’s space agency said it detected rocket debris burning up on re-entry before falling in the Sulu Sea northeast of the island of Borneo.

“The debris of the rocket caught fire while entering the Earth’s airspace and the movement of the burning debris also crossed Malaysian airspace and could be detected in several areas including crossing the airspace around the state of Sarawak,” it said.

Nasa administrator Bill Nelson criticized Beijing on Twitter, saying the failure to share details of the rocket’s descent was irresponsible and risky.

The Tiangong space station is one of the crown jewels of Beijing’s ambitious space program, which has landed robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon, and made China only the third nation to put humans in orbit.

The new module, propelled by the Long March 5B, successfully docked with Tiangong’s core module on Monday and the three astronauts who had been living in the main compartment since June successfully entered the new lab.

When China launched its first Tiangong module in April 2021, there was a similar frenzy around the possibility of damage caused by an unpredictable booster reentry.

Objects generate immense amounts of heat and friction when they enter the atmosphere, which can cause them to burn up and disintegrate. But larger ones such as the Long March-5B may not be destroyed entirely.

Negotiations resume

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Two weeks after Li Jiming’s letter, the ERD on April 26 also wrote to the rail ministry, warning it that a “unilateral” decision to cancel China’s funding for the project may deteriorate bilateral relations between the two countries.

The move to find an alternative financier for the project, for converting the existing Akhaura-Sylhet metre-gauge (MG) railroad into a dual-gauge (DG) one, may also create problems when trying to undertake future projects with Chinese funds, it said.

The ERD is a division under finance ministry that deals with foreign-funding related issues on behalf of the government.

In this situation, the negotiation committee at a meeting on May 25 decided to form the technical committee to provide recommendations, sources said.

The Akhaura-Sylhet project was among those for which Dhaka and Beijing signed a memorandum of understanding – during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Dhaka visit in October 2016 – to implement with Chinese assistance.

The Ecneec approved the project in April 2019 in a bid to improve the rail link between the capital and Sylhet.

China was supposed to finance 66.16 percent of the total project cost as loan, and the China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co Ltd was appointed as the contractor to implement the project.

However, the Prime Minister’s Office in October 2020 had formed

the negotiation committee to review the contract prices of three projects involving China.

The two other projects are Joydebpur-Ishwardi Double Line and Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur DG Conversion.

The Ecneec approved the Tk 14,250.61-crore Joydebpur-Ishwardi Double Line project in November 2018 to make the section a DG double line. The third project has not been approved.

In November 2020, the PMO directed BR to slash the cost of Akhaura-Sylhet project by Tk 3,354.31 crore – 20.8 percent of the total outlay.

It also gave directions to lower costs of the two other projects. But the contractors of all three projects refused to work with the reduced budget, BR documents show.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government early last year informed Bangladesh that it would not fund the Joydebpur-Ishwardi project for a “lack of in-depth preliminary work and insufficient feasibility study”.

China declined to review the decision following Bangladesh’s request.

In this situation, the railways ministry in October last year wrote to the ERD, asking it to search for alternative funding for Akhaura-Sylhet and Joydebpur-Ishwardi projects.

The Daily Star could not reach Railways Secretary Humayun Kabir and BR’s Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder over phone for comments.

Mosaddek, Liton

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damage as they registered a 55-run broken stand of 48 deliveries.

Earlier, Mosaddek Hossain became the first off-spinner from Bangladesh to bag a fiver in T20Is to cause early trouble for the hosts after they had sent Bangladesh to field first.

Mosaddek got his team off to the perfect start with the ball, bagging Regis Chakabva with the first ball of the innings as the opener nicked one through to wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan Sohan before the off-spinner removed reliable Wesley Madhevere off a loose shot which was caught at point in the last ball of the first over. Captain Craig Ervine departed in Mosaddek’s next over before the off-spinner scalped Sean Williams and Milton Shumba in his second spell to finish with five for 20 runs.

Sikandar Raza, who was the tormentor-in-chief in the first T20I with a match winning 65 off 26 deliveries, once again came to his side’s rescue. He stitched an 80-run sixth-wicket stand with Ryan Burl to bring Zimbabwe out of trouble. Burl struck a 31-ball 32 before he departed to pacer Hasan Mahmud, getting an inside edge onto his stumps. Raza followed suit the next over after a 53-ball 62, skying a Mustafizur Rahman delivery which was taken by Munim as Zimbabwe managed 135 for eight. Mustfizar and Mahmud finished with one wicket apiece.

AL’s income more

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crore less than that of 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, AL disbursed a lesser amount of money among the party activists, which eventually resulted in lower expenditures.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, earned over Tk 2 crore in 2021, as per its financial statement submitted to the EC yesterday by Rezaul Islam Bhuiyan, additional secretary general and presidium member of JP.

The party’s expenditure in 2021 was over Tk 84 lakh, it said.

Earlier, on Thursday, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, submitted the party’s financial statement. In contrast to the AL, the party spent more than what it earned.

BNP’s expenditure last year was Tk 1.14 crore higher than its income.

Hasina, Modi to inaugurate

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Before PM Hasina arrives in Delhi, trial runs between Kolkata-Chattogram-Mongla ports for India-Bangladesh trade will begin, posting a new chapter in the bilateral ties.

The first vessel from Kolkata is expected to reach Mongla Port on the Pashur River on August 5, carrying 16 tons of iron pipes in a container with destination Meghalaya using the Tamabil-Dwaki border points and 8.5 tons of pre-foam in another container for Assam using the Birbirbazaar-Srimantpur border points, the Indian daily reported.

This exercise will create cheaper and alternative routes for India to reach its northeast region while at the same time carrying export-import containers for Bangladesh, the daily reports.

Prime Minister Hasina last visited India in 2019. Last year, Modi as well as then Indian President Ram Nath Kovind visited Bangladesh, coinciding with the golden jubilee of the country’s 1971 independence and birth centenary celebrations of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen

HC gets 11 new judges

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Justice KM Emrul Kayesh (former metropolitan sessions judge of Dhaka), Justice Fahmida Quader (former district and sessions judge of Tangail), Justice Md Bashir Ullah (former DAG), and Justice Md Ali Reza, Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolan and Justice AKM Rabiul Hasan (former SC lawyers).

Later in the day, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique administered the oath to the new HC judges at the Judges’ Lounge of the Supreme Court where judges of the SC’s appellate and high court divisions were present.

Law minister, attorney general and some SC lawyers expressed satisfaction with the appointments, but they felt that more judges should have been appointed to this court.

“I hope the rate of case disposals at the High Court will increase and therefore, justice for the litigants will be ensured following the appointments of 11 new judges,” Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin

visited New Delhi in late June to hold a joint consultative commission meeting with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar when he proposed the timeline of Hasina’s visit to Delhi.

He then told the media that Dhaka and New Delhi decided to implement the bilateral decisions ahead of Hasina’s India visit while Dhaka expected the much-awaited Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting to be held by then.

Over the last 50 years, especially in the last two decades, the relationship between Bangladesh and India has improved significantly. The two close neighbours settled the border and maritime disputes.

Bangladesh implemented its zero-tolerance policy by not sheltering any insurgents on its soil for creating violence in India’s northeastern states.

The connectivity between India and Bangladesh also improved significantly in all modes – land, river and railways.

Bangladesh is eager to improve the relationship in water sharing and basin-wide river management aspects, while also bringing the deaths at the borders to zero.

said, “Appointment of judges is a continuous process. I hope more judges will be appointed to the High Court in phases, and there will not be any crisis of judges in this court.”

Md Abdun Nur Dulal, Supreme Court Bar Association secretary, told this correspondent, “We are happy at this appointment to the High Court, though we expected more judges would have been appointed as it is burdened with a huge number of pending cases. Only 11 judges’ appointments are not sufficient in this situation. I hope at least 50 more judges will be appointed to the appellate and high court divisions soon to tackle the pressure of pending cases.”

The HC judge crisis started following retirement and deaths of some judges and elevation of four judges to the Supreme Court. Of the 84 other HC judges, three are judges of the International Crimes Tribunal. Three others are barred from judicial duties.

The number of pending cases in the HC was 4,52,963 as of December 31, 2020, according to the SC.