

‘Break the stereotype of male actors saving actresses’

Priyontee Urbee discusses her dynamic roles in OTT

As an artiste, I am truly happy that I was able to explore such a dynamic female character in “Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban”. It’s time we break away from the stereotype of male actors saving an actresses’ life. We are completely capable of protecting ourselves!



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The dynamic Priyontee Urbee enthralled audiences with her performance in the web series “Ei Muhurte”. She also won our hearts with her role as the frantic mother in “Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban”. Now, she will be seen donning a new avatar in Robiul Alam Robi’s web-film, “Café Desire”.

In a candid interview with The Daily Star, Urbee opened up about her journey as an actress, and her experience working on “Café desire”.

From being declared ‘Miss Face of Beauty International Bangladesh’ to becoming an actress, how has your journey been so far?

My love for showbiz is what enticed me to participate in “Miss World Bangladesh” back in 2019. The beauty pageant had a competition called ‘Miss Face of Beauty International’, which took place in the Philippines. Although I won the crown, I couldn’t attend the programme due to some personal obligations.

At that time, Raihan Rafi was looking for a new face for “Sopnobazi”. The director reached out to me and I auditioned for the role. We managed to shoot around 40 percent of the film, but unfortunately could not finish the shoot as the project was shelved. Later on, I debuted in OTT with Mejbaur Rahman Sumon’s “Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban”, which was an episode from the Chorki anthology series, “Ei Muhurte”.

You have garnered praise for your performance as a distressed mother in “Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban”. How challenging was it to portray these emotions on screen?

I remember when we had to shoot the kidnapping scene, I was suffering from a fever and muscle ache. It was difficult for me to even get out of the bed and Sumon bhai insisted on postponing the shoot.

However, I was adamant to keep things on schedule. My character demanded a dishevelled and anxious expression and I shot the scene in extreme pain. By the end of the shooting for the scene, I was in tears because of the severe muscle ache and nausea. Luckily, the scene came out perfect in the end.

Do you think OTT does a good job of exploring female centric plots and characters?

There are many wonderful projects on OTT which centre around strong female characters like the ones in Chorki’s “Tonoya” and Hoichoi’s “Sabrina”. Audiences are loving it and this proves that female centric content has a lot of potential.

As an artiste, I am truly happy that I was able to explore such a dynamic female character in “Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban”. It’s time we break away from the stereotype of male actors saving an actresses’ life. We are completely capable of protecting ourselves!

I have also worked in a female-centric indie film called “June”—based on a 1961 novel—which is yet to be released. The movie dwells on the bonding between a mother and a daughter.

Tell us about your character in Robiul Alam Robi’s anthology web-film, “Café Desire”.

I play the character of a runner, who is a blunt and high-spirited woman. She doesn’t listen to anyone and does whatever she thinks is right. My character’s desire in the web-film is to be a perfectionist. She doesn’t care whether she has anyone’s support.

I had to undergo special fitness training such as boxing, yoga and running lessons to get into perfect shape for the character.

“Café Desire” explores the desires of various characters, and we had about 12-13 artistes working on the project. Almost all of the stories are inter-connected, and the characters are related to one another.



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Kamar Ahmad Simon’s ‘Anyadin...’ wins Best Picture Award at Camden

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Kamar Ahmad Simon’s film “Anyadin...” (Day after...) has bagged the Harrell Awards for the ‘Best Picture’ at the Camden International Film Festival (CIFF)—a leading film festival in North America.

Eight films, including Kamar’s “Anyadin...”, were competing for the prestigious Harrell Awards in the 18th edition of CIFF.

On behalf of the jury panel, renowned film critic Eric Hynes said, “The jury was unanimous in its admiration for ‘Anyadin...’, where an old riverboat seems to contain an entire society’s worth of dreamers, hustlers, politicians and radicals.”

“Anyadin...” will also compete for the ‘Golden Eye’ award at The Zurich Film Festival, which will take place between September 22 and October 2.

Blackpink’s ‘Born Pink’ tops music charts

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Blackpink continues to reign over the music charts with their latest album “Born Pink”. The K-pop girl group released the much-anticipated album on Friday.

Upon its release, “Born Pink” topped the iTunes charts in multiple countries. The group’s agency, YG Entertainment, said the album had topped the iTunes Top Albums charts in at least 54 different regions by Saturday.

According to the K-news site Soompi, “Born Pink” also topped the Apple Music Top Albums charts in at least 60 different regions.

“Shut Down”, the second single from the album, also shot to the top of the iTunes Top Songs chart in at least 43 different regions.



NEWS

7 DB men jailed

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their duty following that case.

Later, on August 4, 2018, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) filed a charge sheet in court against the seven DB members after investigating the incident.

Family of rape

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“The boy was badly injured during the rape,” said Samira Hossain Chowdhury, resident medical officer of the hospital, adding that he was discharged from the hospital on Monday.

The boy’s grandfather, who filed the case, said, “My grandson is under treatment at home and is still unable to walk properly.”

Sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman of the police station said police were raiding different areas, looking for the absconding suspect.

‘Victims’ voices

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peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh should ensure it has a robust system in place for the careful human rights screening of security personnel.”

She also discussed law reforms, to bring domestic legislation in line with international human rights laws.

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances began its 128th session on Monday. During the session, which will conclude on September 28, it will examine 696 cases from 21 countries.

Bangladesh is one of the countries being discussed in the session in terms of enforced disappearances.

The session of the Working Group coincided with the presentation of its annual report to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council on Tuesday.

According to the report, five new incidents of enforced disappearance in Bangladesh were reported to the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances in the last one year, taking the number of cases being investigated by the UN body to 81.

The UN group wrote about the five cases to the government but is yet to receive a response.

Details of these cases are unknown as the group discloses the names only to the government agency it is communicating with.

Gunshots now heard

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from deep inside Myanmar.

However, this is not the first time residents of Bandarban’s bordering areas have heard such sounds. Locals in Ghumdhum border have been hearing gunshots and mortar shelling for about last two months.

Yesterday, the firing and mortar shelling in Myanmar started around 7:00am and continued till around noon, said Gafur Uddin Chowdhury, chairman of Palongkhali Union Parishad, Ukhiya.

This sparked panic among the locals in Anjuman Para, Thainkhali and Balukhali villages under the union, he told The Daily Star.

The UP chairman said these villages are on the Naf river, which marks the border of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Mohammad Hanif Azad, a resident of Ukhiya, said they also heard firing and mortar shelling from Reju Amtoli border point.

This was the first time gunshots and mortar shelling were heard from Ukhiya border. Ukhiya is to the south of Ghumdhum.

Emran Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer of Ukhiya, said local public representatives informed him about hearing gunshots from different areas of Palongkhali.

“Hundreds of Bangladeshi families live within 300 metres of the border and we are keeping updated information on their safety. We will take actions considering the situation,” he said.

The Myanmar military reportedly carried out air and ground assaults against the Arakan Army, an ethnic armed organisation based in Rakhine State, in recent months.

During this period, several mortar shells fired from Myanmar landed in Bangladesh.

The situation worsened on Friday night after a Rohingya youth was killed and five others, including two children, were injured as a mortar shell fired from Myanmar exploded at a Rohingya camp on no-man’s land near Tambru Bazar in Bandarban.

Lt Col Faizur Rahman, director (operations) of BGB, admitted that gunshots were heard from the Ukhiya border yesterday morning.

“We are now trying to verify what is actually happening there.”

Asked about stepping up security, Faizur said, “We always stay alert and maintain strong vigilance to protect our borders. We are on alert so that no person is able to enter Bangladesh illegally.”

Meanwhile, three Rohingya families entered Bangladesh on September 10 and took shelter at a refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar.

Speaking to this newspaper on September 13, the families claimed that they were feeling extremely unsafe about the fighting between the Myanmar forces and Arakan Army since August. That’s why they came to Bangladesh and took shelter at their relative’s home.

However, the Bangladesh authorities have taken special measures to stop entry of Rohingyas.

Yesterday, the Teknaf upazila administration and the fisheries department held a views exchange meeting with boat owners at the upazila parishad office around 10:00am.

About 40 boat owners were present in the meeting, chaired by Erfanul Hoque Chowdhury, acting UNO of Teknaf.

The boat owners were directed not to bring any Rohingya to Teknaf from Myanmar or from the Bay of Bengal. They were also asked to allow their boats for fishing from 4:00am and ensure their return by 4:00pm every day, said meeting sources.

If any boat was found brining any Rohingya into Bangladesh, legal action would be taken against the owner of the boat, the authorities warned.

Erfanul after the meeting said, “R Rohingyas have to enter our country via the sea or river routes by boats. Therefore, the boat owners have been warned of it.”

Regarding the situation in Bandarban, Dil Mohammad Bhuttu, a member of ward-2 of Ghumdhum Union Parishad, said sounds of gunshots far away in Myanmar were heard from Ghumdhum.

“The panic among the locals is far from over,” he said.

Our Bandarban correspondent also contributed to this report.

Law enforces

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banned Islamist groups.”

Earlier, Nurul Islam, father of a missing student of Cumilla Victoria College, said his son used to frequent the mosque where Habibullah worked.

Seven youths went missing from Cumilla city on August 23. Counterterrorism officials later found their links with banned militant outfit Ansar al Islam.

Children

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developed textbooks in the mother tongue of some ethnic groups.

“We are offering education in Myanmar curriculum to millions of children forcibly displaced from Rakhine State and sheltered in our land.”

For quality and inclusive education, Hasina said her government must invest in regular training and incentives for teachers. “We are committed to increasing budget allocation for education in proportion to our GDP.”

She said the development partners of Bangladesh need to live up to their fiscal commitments for SDG 4.

“The Covid-19 pandemic caused learning losses all over. In Bangladesh, we have enrolled six hundred thousand out-of-school students in non-formal education since December 2021,” she said.

BSS adds: Hasina yesterday reached the US from the UK to attend the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

‘We shed tears of joy’

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the field. We knew if we gave 100 per cent on the field, we would eventually get something in return. We finally succeeded.”

Maria also urged the country’s premier football clubs to join the Women’s Football League.

“There is a Women’s Football League but good clubs [big clubs] do not take part. If they participate, the league will be more competitive and players beyond the existing pool will get opportunities to perform and get into the national team and make the team stronger.”

Maria also believed that providing the team with a grass field instead of the astro-turf at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur would help them improve further.

“We usually practice on the astro-turf in Kamalapur and hardly get opportunities to practice on grass. But we practiced on a grass ground at home before this championship. I think we need a grass ground. If we are given adequate practice facilities, I believe we can improve further for the next level,” said Manda, who captained many of these girls to glory in different age-group competitions.

The government and Bangladesh Football Federation were preparing a homecoming for the champions featuring an open top bus that the players would ride from the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to the BFF House in Motijheel.

New twist in Jatiya Party

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started brewing when she suddenly on August 31 convened the party’s 10th council for November 26.

Sources at the JP told this correspondent that pro-Raushan group has planned to oust Quader from the party helm in the council and take its control.

A day after, JP Parliamentary Party on September 1 at a meeting decided to remove Raushan from the post of the opposition leader.

After the meeting, a letter signed by Ranga, lawmaker from Rangpur-1, was submitted to the Speaker, urging her to make Quader the opposition leader.

At present, Quader, the younger brother of Ershad, is the deputy leader of the opposition.

On September 14, Quader removed JP Presidium Member Ranga, who is known to be loyal to Raushan, from all party posts as he talked against the decision to remove her as the opposition leader.

In recent days, Quader is sharply criticising the incumbent

government.

Aggrieved by his criticism, the ruling Awami League high-ups are allegedly backing the pro-Raushan group to put pressure on Quader, sources said.

Feud between Raushan and Quader started over taking the party helm when Ershad fell sick in early 2019. The conflict reached its peak after the demise of Ershad in July 2019.

Raushan, who is being treated at a Bangkok hospital, is likely to return home by the end of this month, Golam Moshir, her political secretary, told this newspaper.

Female BCL activist

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Contacted, Hafiz said the allegations were false and there was no evidence against him.

Officer-in-Charge of Kushtia Model Police Station Delwar Hossain Khan told The Daily Star that the complaint would be verified and action would be taken accordingly.

Police making lists of Ctg

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the letter, containing the format in which the lists would be made, to all police stations and asked them to submit details of the leaders within two days.

Senior CMP officials, however, said they have not received such letters.

Asked about the letter, CMP’s SB Deputy Commissioner Monjur Morshed declined receiving it, saying, “I have no such information. We are not making any lists of BNP leaders, it’s not true.”

ASM Mahtab Uddin, additional commissioner (crime and operations) of CMP, said, “Nothing like this has happened ... you’d better ask whoever you got the information from.”

Preferring anonymity, an officer-in-charge of a police station said, “[Preparing] lists of BNP leaders and workers is not a new task. But this time, the leaders’ details and NID numbers were asked to be added to the list.”

Shahadat Hossain, convener of Chattogram Metropolitan BNP, said, “We are not afraid of the police anymore. They have been doing this for so long to oppress us and now

they are doing it after seeing how our activists have been gaining in strength ahead of the next polls.

“We will continue our demonstrations against the government until we restore democracy. If police file cases against us, we will also lodge cases against the officers who will arrest BNP men in fake cases,” he added.

BNP’s Chattogram Divisional Coordinator Mahbubor Rahman Shamim said, “The country has turned into a police state. However, it is now impossible to demoralise our leaders and party workers by filing cases.

“Police may arrest our leaders and workers based on those lists, but we will always be on the street so that our rightful demands are met for the sake of our country,” he added.

BNP leaders alleged that over 200 cases were lodged against thousands of activists of the BNP and its associate wings under the 16 police stations of CMP from 2018 to 2022. Of them, 140 cases were filed on charges of subversive activities, from September to November in 2018, said the party insiders.