

Encapsulating Durga with Mondira Chakroborty

Rich black voluminous hair, crowned with auspicious gold jewellery. She personified the goddess, her transcendental smile radiating brighter than rays of sunshine. She boasted a Trishul on her hands, as if to symbolise the duality of her nature.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Mondira Chakroborty truly encapsulated the avatar of *Durga Maa* in her recent photoshoot. The charming actress is spending Durga Puja in her hometown of Khulna. The actress recently posted several beautiful looks from each day of the auspicious festivities.

When asked about the idea behind the photo shoot, the actress talked about the importance of *Durga Maa* in her life.

"*Durga Maa* is the symbol of love and power. She symbolises the sublimed feminine energy and the indomitable power of women. I was delighted to create two unique looks of *Maa Durga*," said the Mondira.

The actress then went on to describe in detail the two looks of *Durga Maa* she tried to embody. "In the first look, I was adorned in gold jewellery. In the second one I opted for a simpler, yet feminine side of *Durga Maa*, in a beautiful white sari with a *nolok* to add more grace to the picture. The pictures were wonderfully shot and I feel closer to *Durga Maa* than ever before."

She also talked about the numerous sarees she bought for the festivities.

"I wore a beautiful, *firoza* coloured

saree for the *Maha Sasthi*, a *creme-beige* coloured one for *Maha Saptami*, and a multicoloured saree for the *Maha Ashtami*. I overjoyed by the fact that my fans are appreciating the different looks I tried to showcase this year," added Mondira.

The "Kajal Rekha" actress also went on to tell us that she has never experienced puja in Dhaka.

"Whenever the time for puja comes, we would rush to our hometown of Khulna. Our ancestral house has its own beautiful *Mandir* at our house. When we finish making the image of *Durga*, my mother and I would decorate her with ornaments and saree," said the actress.

"We would then ask *Durga Maa* for her blessings and enjoy the delicious *narus* in our home," added the actress.

Mondira also reflected on her childhood memories surrounding

puja.

"I remember during *Durga Puja Ashtami*, we would wake up at 8 am and go to the *Mandir*. We would visit the temple no matter how crowded it would get or how humid it became. Pujas during my childhood were always special and I still hold these memories very close to my heart," concluded the actress.



PHOTO: OMAR FARUQH TITU



'Operation Sundarban' to have first international premiere in Australia

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dipankar Dipon's action thriller movie, "Operation Sundarban" is all set to have its premiere in Australia. This will kick-off the project's journey into the international arena.

The project's first international screening has been organised by Crazy Tickets and Poth Productions, with the premiere show being held at HOYTS Bankstown, Sydney on October 7 at 5:45 pm.

"Operation Sundarban" was released in Bangladesh on September 23. The movie has received a positive response from the audience since its release. In its second week, the number of halls screening "Operation Sundarban" increased by 10 theatres, resulting in the film being played across 45 halls in the country.



Shakib Khan and Raihan Rafi pair up for the first time

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan and Raihan Rafi will be collaborating together for the first time for an upcoming film.

The "Poran" director announced the news on his Facebook account.

"Both Shakib Khan's fans and my own fans were asking me when we would work together. I have always admired Shakib Khan," said Raihan Rafi.

"Well, the day has finally come, Shakib Khan and I have signed on for a new film. Shakib Khan will be taking on the lead role and at present we will keep the name of the lead actress a surprise for the audience," added the director.

NEWS

Boatmen's inefficiency

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of the lessee in dealing with the huge crowd of passengers; inefficiency of the boatmen; faulty engine of the boat; and passengers boarding it despite warnings of overcrowding.

Most passengers were pilgrims on their way to observe the Mahalaya. Jahurul, however, did not mention the recommendations made in the report.

Asked, he said the next steps will be taken according to the decision of the higher authorities concerned, after separate investigations by the police, fire service, civil defence and the shipping ministry are completed and the reports are submitted.

Earlier on Sunday, Additional District Magistrate Dipankar Roy, head of the five-member probe committee, submitted the report to the DC. The committee was formed by the district administration the day of the incident.

On September 25, an engine boat, carrying 105 people, capsized in the Karatoa while heading to Bodeshwari Temple from Awalia Ghat in Boda upazila.

According to fire service officials, the 47ft long and 10.5ft wide boat had the capacity to carry only 30-40 people.

After the capsizing, six people were able to swim ashore, 27 people were rescued alive, and 69 bodies were recovered.

Three passengers -- Jaya Rani, 4, Bhupendra Nath Burman, 42, and Surendra Nath Barman, 65 -- remain missing.

Meanwhile, a local fire service patrol team has been given charge for rescue operations.

Since the incident, Abdul Jabbar, the person who took the lease of Awalia Ghat from the Zilla Parishad under a Tk 9 lakh contract, is said to be absconding.

Trio win Nobel Prize

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that existed in an "entangled" state, which means that what happens to one determines what happens to the other. This occurs even if they are far apart, something Einstein dismissed as "spooky action at a distance."

While quantum mechanics have proved the iconic physicist wrong, Aspect said Einstein still played an important role in identifying the issue.

"We must give the credit to Einstein to have raised the equation," Aspect said in his Nobel Foundation interview.

Aspect and Clauser, a research physicist based in California, were singled out for their developments on the work of John Stewart Bell, who in the 1960s "developed the mathematical inequality that is named after him".

First, Clauser "built an apparatus that emitted two entangled photons at a time", through a filter to test their polarisation.

"The result was a clear violation of a Bell inequality and agreed with the predictions of quantum mechanics," the jury said.

Aspect then closed one loophole that meant the measurement setting did not affect the results after the entangled pair had left its source.

Zeilinger, a professor of physics at the University of Vienna, was highlighted for his work on "quantum teleportation, which makes it possible to move a quantum state from one particle to one at a distance", the jury said.

"It is not like in the 'Star Trek' films or whatever, transporting something -- certainly not the person -- over some distance," Zeilinger said.

"But the point is, using entanglement you can transfer all the information which is carried by an object over to some other place where the object is reconstituted."

The physicists have been credited with paving the way towards what has been called the "second quantum revolution".

Clauser, Aspect and Zeilinger were also honoured together when they received the prestigious Wolf Prize in 2010.

The three, who will share the Nobel award sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$901,500), will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of scientist Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Maintain communal

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The PM made the comments yesterday while exchanging greetings with people of the Hindu community on the occasion of the Durga Puja.

The programme was held at the Dhakeshwari National Temple, with the premier joining it virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina sought cooperation from all, including the Hindus, to maintain communal harmony in the country.

Mentioning that the government always tries to uphold the secular character of the country, she categorically warned that no one will be allowed to undermine anyone's religious sentiment.

Talking about the Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions and counter-sanctions, the PM said it was not only the people of Bangladesh who were suffering, but also the people across the world.

Hasina said inflation has increased, prices of essentials have gone up and developed countries are also struggling.

She requested all to utilise every inch of land for producing something.

"As an economic recession has been created, I went to the United Nations and held discussions with many world leaders. I also discussed it with the UN secretary-general. All are very much anxious and [they] fear that there might be a grave famine in 2023 and the economic recession would deepen."

The PM requested all to prepare for it from right now.

Four women

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how cold it will be, will we have to dig our way through the snow to the post office?" said Hilton from Scotland.

Scientist Bruzzone will be base leader, managing the team and co-ordinating all ship visits to the island.

She has already spent three months in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard on an Arctic expedition, and described her new adventure as a "lifelong dream".

Newly appointed postmaster Ballantyne, who has just completed a masters in earth science at Oxford University, will deal by hand with approximately 80,000 cards which are mailed each year from the site to more than 100 countries.

No on-campus housing for most public univ

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Prof Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, general secretary of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association, said if a teacher can have on-campus housing, they can reach classes on time.

Teachers and other university officials, like provosts and tutors, living in metropolitan cities suffer the most as commuting through traffic renders them unable to respond quickly to emergency situations, said Nizamul, also the GS of Dhaka University Teachers' Association.

Against this backdrop, the country is observing World Teachers' Day today with the theme -- "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers".

Since 1994, the World Teachers'

Day is observed annually to celebrate the contribution of teachers around the globe.

It is a day to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally.

Former UGC chairman AK Azad Chowdhury said that on-campus housing for teachers offers numerous benefits to both teachers and students and could help develop their interaction.

Teachers will be able to spend more time on their research and guide students' researches, said Azad, also former vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

Contacted, UGC Secretary Ferdous Zaman said a teacher of a public

university in Dhaka gets 50 percent of house rent included in their salaries, while those in divisional cities get 45 percent and teachers in district towns get 40.

"We are aware of the shortage of residential facilities for public university teachers. We are taking initiatives in this regard."

He added, "In many places teachers don't want on-campus housing as the house rent allowance will then be deducted from their salaries."

Asked about teachers' allegations about having to join teacher politics, he declined to make a comment.

He, however, admitted that many people refuse to work in newly established public universities due to the lack of residential and other facilities.

Iran to face 'costs' for crackdown

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on Sunday night, with video footage showing detainees being taken away with fabric hoods over their heads.

Protests also spread to schools, with video footage shared by Kurdish rights group Hengaw showing schoolgirls demonstrating in two cities in Amini's native Kurdistan province.

"Women, Life, Freedom," the young female protesters chanted as they marched down the central strip of a busy highway in Marivan in footage that AFP has not independently verified.

The US president gave no indication of what measures he was considering against Iran, which is already under crippling US economic sanctions largely related to its controversial

nuclear programme.

Iran yesterday accused the US leader of "hypocrisy" in invoking human rights to impose fresh punitive measures.

"It would have been better for Mr Joe Biden to think a little about the human rights record of his own country before making humanitarian gestures, although hypocrisy does not need to be thought through," foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said in an Instagram post, reported by Iranian media.

"The US president should be concerned about the numerous sanctions... against the Iranian nation, the sanctions whose imposition against any nation is a clear example of a crime against humanity," he added.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei had Monday accused arch foes the United States and Israel of fomenting the protests.

The riots "were engineered by America and the occupying, false Zionist regime, as well as their paid agents, with the help of some traitorous Iranians abroad", Khamenei said.

The unrest has overshadowed diplomatic efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers which had come close to a breakthrough in recent months before stalling again.

But White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stressed that the "problems with Iran's behaviour" are separate from efforts to revive the nuclear deal, which Washington will pursue "as long as we believe" it is in US national security interests.

New law to curb misuse of antibiotics

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10-year jail term and Tk 10 lakh fine for four types of offences.

Those are: producing or importing drugs without licences; producing, importing, exporting, marketing, stocking, selling or displaying drugs without registration; producing, selling, stocking or marketing adulterated drugs; and stealing and selling government medicines.

While approving the draft of the act, the cabinet also instructed the authorities concerned to make amendments, according to officials at the Directorate General of the Drug Administration.

Yesterday, the health minister said the misuse of antibiotics is a "silent killer". He said 15 lakh people die every year across the world due to excessive consumption of antibiotics

and Bangladesh is also seeing its impacts getting worse.

Zahid said taking antibiotics without prescription has negatively impacted public health. Also, the presence of antibiotics was found in fish and meat -- a matter of grave concern.

He stressed the need for awareness among the public about the excessive use of antibiotics.