

Moushumi hopeful for BHANGON



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Over the years, Moushumi has made her mark as one of the most prominent female leads in the film industry. Beginning her career with "Keyamot Theke Keyamot", she has given the audience numerous box office hits over the years.

In recent years, the actress has been away from the silver screen for a while, but she will soon be returning with the movie "Bhangon", which will be released on November 4.

Recently, The Daily Star caught up with Moushumi to talk about her upcoming film, the current situation of the film fraternity and much more.

How have you been spending your downtime?

I am doing great, thank you! I have been spending a lot of time with my family, which is wonderful, and I want to keep myself busy with work.

How hopeful are you about "Bhangon", as it

will be your comeback to the silver screens after a long time?

I have really high hopes for this project. Not just because it will be my comeback, but because this film has given me the chance to experience a lot of things, which I previously never had the opportunity to explore.

For example, in the movie, I play a *churiwali*. I also got to stay in a slum during the shooting. Both of these experiences were rather interesting, and I believe that the audience will appreciate it. I had a great time working alongside Mirza Shakhawat Hossain on this project.

Why should the audience go to the theatres to watch "Bhangon"?

Audiences should go to the theatres to watch Bangladeshi films, regardless of whether it is my film or someone else's. However, I would say this film is very close to my heart and I would be very happy if people went to watch it. Our film industry has been experiencing a lot of growth and success in recent times. We are receiving accolades globally for our films.

Films like "Poran" and "Hawa" have changed

the scenario of the film industry. What are your thoughts on this phenomenon?

I am overjoyed at the success of these films in the theatres. The industry has given me a lot over the years, and so I am happy to see the success the industry has been experiencing. I hope that this trend shall continue and that the golden days of Bangladeshi cinema will return once again.

Recently the issues surrounding Shakib Khan and Shobnom Bubby's personal life have been the talk of the town. What are your thoughts on this issue?

No comments. I only want to talk about my upcoming film and to request audiences to watch "Bhangon".

For more than two decades, you have ruled over the hearts of the Bangladeshi audience. People have showed you respect and loved your performances. What are your feelings about this appreciation?

I am grateful to the Almighty and the people who have always supported me. I have always tried to work with honesty, and I want to continue doing this going forward.

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NEWS

Irresponsible person mustn't assume power

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of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022.

The disaster management and relief ministry organised the event at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, with the premier joining it virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Bangladesh has established its position as a disaster resilient country on the global stage.

"The world believes that whatever disaster occurs, Bangladesh is capable of tackling it. We have to continue our efforts."

The premier said Bangladesh witnessed a devastating cyclone in 1991 when the then BNP government was not aware of it and that's why 1.5 lakh people were killed.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said the leaders and activists of her party stood by the cyclone-hit people and she herself visited different islands in Chattogram and helped the victims.

She said Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country due to its geographical location and the country is used to facing flood, cyclone, waterlogging and salinity.

Bangladesh would certainly advance towards prosperity fighting

all natural and manmade disasters as the AL government was working to achieve the target, the premier added.

Hasina said her government has already started working on the implementation of the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan Decade-2030 following the footsteps of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"This plan is not only climate centric, rather it's for transforming Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country."

In this connection, the PM said Bangladesh has formulated a 100-year-long Delta Plan-2100 aimed at protecting the country from the adverse impact of climate change.

She said six hot spots have been identified across the country considering the level of disasters. Besides, National Disaster Management Plan 2021-25 has been adopted to reduce disaster risks, respond to disasters and post-disaster rehabilitation and development.

The premier said her government has been working to revive canals, and water bodies across the country alongside dredging rivers to increase their capacity of holding water. Hasina briefly described her

government's measures to tackle the adverse impact of climate change.

"We are very aware of climate change. It will not be wise to be dependent on others over the issue and we formed a trust fund with our own financing."

The PM asked all concerned to make sure that the country's environment is not hampered.

She said Bangladesh is among the countries worst affected by climate change though it has no contribution to the adverse impact of climate change.

Hasina said the developed countries who contributed to the adverse impact have made promises of providing enough monetary compensations, but the pledges are mostly unfulfilled.

The premier, however, said she sees hope due to the signing of the Paris Agreement.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Enamur Rahman and Secretary Md Kamrul Hasan also spoke at the function.

On behalf of the PM, the state minister handed over awards to 83 Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers for their contribution to disaster risk management.

WWIII if Ukraine

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Zaporizhzhia as Russian land on September 30.

The annexation sparked international outrage. On Wednesday the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted condemning it as "illegal".

In the past 24 hours, Russian missiles hit more than 40 settlements, while Ukrainian air force carried out 32 strikes on 25 Russian targets, reports Reuters.

The southern port city of Mykolaiv came under massive bombardment. "It is known that a number of civilian objects were hit," regional governor Vitaliy Kim said in a social media post.

He said the top two floors of a five-storey residential building were completely destroyed and the rest were under rubble. Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office said three people were killed in the strike.

2 men held over gang rape

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The cell phone the call was made from was owned by Riad, DC Azimul said.

He called the victim again several times to get updates of her location as she was coming from Savar.

Riad then received the girl in Dhanmondi road 26, saying he was Taslima's brother, and took her to the first floor of the five-storey Shukrabad flat.

The police official further said the victim alleged that she was tortured and raped at gunpoint.

"Police, however, are yet to verify this as we didn't find any weapons in the arrestees' possession."

He added that the accused threatened to kill the victim if she made any sound or sought help. After the rape, Taslima snatched away her cell phone, put her into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and told her to leave quietly.

Another police officer said they verified, using different technologies, the victim's journey from Savar to Shukrabad and her presence in the area during the time she mentioned.

The victim has been undergoing treatment at One Stop Service Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, DC Azimul said.

Meanwhile, investigators were analysing call details of all the phone numbers involved and several CCTV footages in and around the area.

Police said both arrestees have confessed to being involved in the rape incident during interrogation. They have, however, claimed to the media that the allegation was false and they were "being trapped".

The deputy commissioner has requested all buyers, traders and service providers on online platforms to be more cautious to avert such incidents.

Dhaka votes

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yesterday said, "In this connection, we specially underscore the need to take similar uniform stand by the international community against the annexations of Palestinian and other Arab land by Israel."

Bangladesh remains deeply concerned by the continuation of the conflict in Ukraine and its global socio-economic implications, with the countries facing high inflation, disruptions in energy supplies and a possible global economic recession.

"We believe that antagonism like war or economic sanctions, counter-sanctions cannot bring good to any nation. Dialogue, discussion and mediation are the best ways to resolve crises and disputes."

"As a firm believer of multilateralism, we will continue to stand with the United Nations and the office of the secretary-general and supporting them in every way we can."

"We urge that in order to gain the trust and confidence of the people at all levels, the UN and the office of the secretary-general must lead from the front and work to fulfill the expectations of all," it said.

Bangladesh urged all parties in the conflict to play positive role for de-escalation and resume immediate diplomatic dialogue in order to settle all disputes by peaceful means, and refrain from taking any action that may endanger international peace and security.

The statement said all should work towards ending war and stopping arms race for the good of mankind.

Bishwa Ijtema

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said Ijtema was not held in the last two years due to the Covid pandemic.

The prime minister has instructed to arrange it on a limited scale next year, he added.

"There were controversies over Ijtema among groups and these are continuing. I sought suggestions from the groups. I proposed them to arrange it like the previous times and they accepted," he said.

Syria unearths

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heads excavations and archaeological studies at Syria's General Directorate of Museums, said on Wednesday.

"It is not the oldest of its kind, but it's the most complete and the rarest," Saad said. "We have no similar mosaic."



'American Idol' finalist dies in vehicle crash

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"American Idol" finalist, Willie Spence, 23, passed away on Tuesday after colliding with the rear of a tractor-trailer in Tennessee, according to reports from Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Both of the drivers were wearing seatbelts, and the truck driver was left unharmed by the crash.

Originally from Georgia, Spence finished in the runner's up spot on the 19th season of "American Idol", which took place last year.

The singing competition show also released a statement on social media, which said that Spence 'was a true talent who lit up every room he entered'.

It continued saying, "We are devastated about the passing of our beloved American Idol family member. We send our condolences to his loved ones."

Shirin Akter Shela honoured in Asia Model Festival

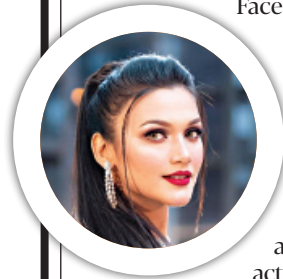
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shirin Akter Shela is going to South Korea to receive an award in the Asia Model Festival.

The actress announced the news on her Facebook account.

"Flying after a decade to achieve something for my country. I am very lucky to represent my country once again on an international platform. Here I am, flying to South Korea to receive the prestigious award as a Super Model of Asia. Thank you all for supporting me," wrote the actress.

Shirin Akter Shela has garnered praise for her performance as a *petni* alongside Shohel Mondol in Nuhash Humayun's web-series "Pett Kata Shaw".



China aware of sensitivity

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not say that, but also, I personally worry if the Bangladesh government will swing position later on, with... outside pressure, or not, I am not sure. I am not sure."

The Chinese envoy said if China decided to go ahead with the project and then Bangladesh decided not to after "someone's suggestions that it is again another case of Chinese debt trap, or there is particular geopolitical sensitivity", it would put him in a very awkward position.

In July 2020, Bangladesh sought a \$983 million loan from China to implement the project. The government is to provide about \$130 million of the total project cost.

The project involves dredging the river for navigability, building strong embankments, townships, industries on two sides of the river, water reservoirs, and irrigation facilities.

Most of the 1,11,000 hectares of irrigable land in the Teesta basin cannot be cultivated during dry season. In 2013-14, only 35 per cent of the irrigable area was cultivated,

according to officials concerned.

Jiming visited the Teesta river in Rangpur on October 9 as he wanted to make sure if local government and people wanted the project.

"Fortunately, all the messages that I got from that trip is extremely positive," he said, adding that he would send a message to his colleagues in Beijing that the people were eager about the project, something that would help build confidence among the Chinese officials.

The Teesta water sharing deal could not be signed, though it was ready in 2011, due to opposition from Indian Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Jiming said China was actively engaged in finding ways to help Rohingya repatriation. "We are working silently. We are doers, not talkers," he said.

After recent border violations by Myanmar, China reached out to Myanmar in response to Bangladesh's request, he said, adding that he would officially let Bangladesh know about it.

SL to start paying back

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Bank Group in Washington DC on Wednesday.

Colombo is supposed to return the money in three instalments from February-March next year, Talukder said, quoting Weerasinghe.

"This is really very good news for Bangladesh... its [central bank] governor has confirmed that they would meet the deadline," Talukder told reporters after the meeting.

The island nation, which has been facing an economic crisis, borrowed \$200 million from Bangladesh in May 2021. The country could not start repaying the loan and announced its external debt default in April this year amid a deepening crisis.

Bangladesh extended the deadline twice for Sri Lanka, Talukder said.

In April this year, the BB granted Sri Lanka another year for repayment.

The governor of Sri Lanka's central bank confirmed that the nation has undertaken a debt restructuring plan and started talks with India, China and Japan regarding it, Talukder said.

As per the agreement with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh was supposed to receive an interest payment of

LIBOR + 2 percent if the amount was returned in three months.

LIBOR, the acronym for London Interbank Offer Rate, is the global reference rate for unsecured short-term borrowing in the interbank market as a benchmark for short-term interest rates. The three-month LIBOR averaged around 0.53 percent in 2021.

Google allows Donald Trump's Truth Social in Play Store

AFP, San Francisco

Google on Wednesday said it has allowed Donald Trump's Truth Social app in its Play Store for Android devices -- after receiving assurances the app would meet the platform's standards for moderating harmful content.

The app -- which Trump launched after being barred from Twitter over the 2021 Capitol riot -- had been kept out of Google's store over its lack of moderation tools, including for violent threats.