

I'm never satisfied with my work: SAFA KABIR

Safa Kabir has carved a space for herself in the industry with her charm and versatility over the years. The talented actress has many successful ventures to her credit, including a number of tele-fictions. Recently, her performance in the web-series, "Nishwas" has caught the attention of the audience.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress talked about her career, philosophy and much more.

What kind of response did you get for your role in "Nishwas"?

The web-series is directed by Raihan Rafi, who is a brilliant director. The audience loved the web-series as well, and I have received so many messages from fans who gave their feedback. I have played the character of Sumaiya in this series, and I put all my heart into it. Overall, I am happy with the outcome.

Your debut on the 'web' world came with Shankha Dasgupta's "Boli". Tell us about your experience working in it.

"Boli" was my first ever web-series. The director, cast, and crew all did a fabulous job in it. I am lucky I have worked with actors like Chanchal Chowdhury and Salahuddin Lavlu in this project.

We were shooting for 22 consecutive days, on the other side of Kuakata. The roads weren't



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

either. Sometimes, we had to shoot in 'char' area. Sometimes, we had to go there on foot. I had to learn to ride a horse and fire a gun. These little moments are the most memorable incidents for me. I will cherish the days of shooting for a long time.

What kind of character do you want to play from here onwards?

I want to play versatile characters in my career. I don't want to confine myself to similar roles. I want to experiment and challenge myself with different characters, that have a scope for intrinsic acting.

You co-starred with most of the top actors on television, including Apurba and Afran Nisho. Tell us about your experience?

Both are my favorite artists. I have done a lot of tele-fictions with them. The audience has taken us in a positive way too. There is so much to learn from Afran Nisho. He always brings out the best in his co-actors. On the other hand, Apurba is the best for romantic

dramas.

Do you watch your work on television?

Truth be told, I feel angry when I see my own work because I am never satisfied.

The article was translated by Antara Raisa



Korean Embassy organising film festival in November

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Bangladesh will hold a three-day film festival between November 2-4, at the Bangladesh National Museum.

The inaugural ceremony will kick-off on Wednesday (November 2) with "Escape from Mogadishu" (2021) being screened at 5 pm. On the second day, "Dude in Me" will be shown at 2 pm, while "The Battle of Jangsari" will be screened at 5 pm.

On the final day, the Korean animated film, "Underdog" will be screened at 11 am, while "The Age of Shadows" will be played around 3 pm.

State Minister of Cultural Affairs, KM Khalid, MP will be attending the festival as the chief guest. The festival is open to all and will operate on a first come, first serve basis due to limited seats.

Comic actor Leslie Jordan, 67, killed in Hollywood car accident

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Comic actor Leslie Jordan, an Emmy winner for his role on the hit sitcom "Will & Grace" and a social media sensation during the COVID-19 pandemic, died on Monday after being involved in a car crash. He was 67 years of age at the time.



Jordan apparently suffered from an unspecified 'medical issue' while driving his car, resulting in the vehicle colliding with the side of a building on his way to the Warner Bros studio set.

A Tennessee native, Jordan was best known for his recurring role on the NBC comedy "Will & Grace" as Beverly Leslie. The role earned him an Emmy for 'Best Guest Actor' in a comedy series in 2006.

He became famous among younger fans with a series of humorous Instagram videos about daily life in quarantine that went viral.

NEWS

24 Chhatra Odhikar

FROM PAGE 12
arrested and thrown in jail, the defence said.

Hearing both sides, the magistrate turned down the remand and bail pleas and sent the accused to the Dhaka Central Jail.

On October 7, at least 13 people were injured when BCL men attacked a rally organised by the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on DU campus, marking the third death anniversary of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

A day after the attack, BCL men filed two attempt-to-murder cases against 25 leaders and activists of the parishad.

Twenty-four of the accused later landed in jail.

BCL Organising Secretary Nazim Uddin and activist Aminur Rahman filed the cases with Shabbagh Police Station.

Two cops

FROM PAGE 12
Upazila Health Complex, Shariful told The Daily Star.

Mazharul Amin, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Tangail General Hospital for autopsies.

Why should

FROM PAGE 12
Abdur Rashid, former assistant superintendent of police and investigation officer; Munshi Atiqur Rahman, former ASP; and Md Ruhul Amin, former special superintendent of police.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo issued the rule following a writ petition filed by victim Md Jalal seeking necessary directives.

Jalal filed the writ petition on September 12, seeking the HC's order on the five convicts to give him adequate compensation for violating his fundamental rights by keeping him in jail for four years.

Lawyer Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob appeared for the writ petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Arobinda Kumar Roy represented the state during hearing of the petition.

Unhappy with Biman

FROM PAGE 12
CAAB chief Mafidur told The Daily Star, "Although Biman is trying to improve its quality of services regarding ground handling, it's not enough. We want to maintain and ensure international-standard ground handling services at the third terminal."

"After completing all procedures, we will go for international bidding to appoint an organisation who will provide ground handling and cargo services...", he said.

He said this would serve passengers better and increase the government's income.

Mafidur earlier told the media that Biman had been asked several times to take care of every single luggage as if they were passengers but Biman unfortunately did nothing.

35.5m children affected in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12
taken immediately as lead affects both mental and physical health of children.

Lead damages brain of children below five, causing lifelong neurological, cognitive, and physical impairment to them. It also causes heart diseases and strokes in adults. Exposure to lead damages the fetuses of pregnant women, the experts added.

According to the study funded by Unicef, around 65 percent of the 980 children had lead levels in their blood above 3.5 microgram per deciliter (µg/dL), which is above the reference value (3.5 µg/dL) set by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The study was conducted between July and September on 124 households of the four districts.

The seminar titled "Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh: Research Evidence for Urgent Action" was organised jointly by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Unicef.

In her presentation, IEDCR Senior Scientific Officer Dr Nawroz Afran said high lead level was found among children of all age groups.

"Children aged below five also had lead in their blood and some with values higher than the CDC cut-off value of 3.5 µg/dL."

Nawroz presented the findings

Still, Biman could compete for the job, he said.

On the firm that could get the job, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahub Ali recently told the media, "Those who will be considered eligible by following all the rules and conditions will get the ground handling job. Our aim is to provide better services to passengers and for that we will do everything possible."

Celebrated architect Rohani Baharin designed the third terminal.

Around 44.15 percent of the work has been completed as of last month and the work is expected to be complete by next year, according to the CAAB.

Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan and Samsung of Korea is building the terminal for Tk 21,399 crore.

of some recent studies by other organisations.

Citing a 2022 survey by ICDDR,B, she said all 500 children of Dhaka city, whose blood samples were tested, were found to have lead in their blood.

"A total of 80 percent of the children had blood-lead level above 5 µg/dL, with an average blood-lead level of 7.6 mcg/dl and highest 36 µg/dL," found the ICDDR,B study.

Pure Earth, a New York city-based international not-for-profit organisation, last year tested 367 items available in the markets of Bangladesh's four cities and found the presence of lead in 96 of them.

"High level of lead was found in local toys, paints, aluminum and ceramic cookware, sweetener containers etc," said the IEDCR official.

On the other hand, Environment and Social Development Organisation, a Bangladeshi NGO, in its recent study found lead in industrial paints.

"High lead content was detected in 50 percent of the samples of industrial paints tested," she said.

Experts opined that the health sector is not fully prepared right now to respond to the health impacts of lead exposure.

The IEDCR research evidence suggested that there is an urgent need for building the health system's

The three-storey terminal will have 2.30 lakh square metres of floor space. It will have 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks, 27 luggage scanning machines, 12 boarding bridges, and 16 carousels.

It will also have a new car park for 1,230 vehicles and a new 63,000 square metre import and export cargo complex.

The terminal will have room to park 37 aircraft on the apron.

HSIA at the moment can handle eight million passengers a year. Around 130 domestic and international flights carry 25,000-30,000 passengers every day.

But the number of passengers is expected to reach 14 million a year by 2025 and 24.8 million by 2035, according to sources at CAAB.

Lost 17th-century

FROM PAGE 12
The museum said technical details as well as measurements and wood samples confirmed that it was "indeed Applet, Vasa's sister ship."

The environment, forest and climate change ministry along with the health ministry can take the leadership role in prevention, control, and management of lead pollution in Bangladesh, the experts said.

Speaking at the programme, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin said the government is taking initiatives to protect people from lead pollution.

"The Department of Environment frequently conducts drives against illegal manufacturing and recycling of batteries. However, only enforcement of law may not bring the desired results. Rather, we need to create massive awareness," he said.

About 85 percent of the total global lead use is found at battery factories while its use in paints and spices is also a great concern, Shahab Uddin added.

Lost 17th-century

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In 2019, the same museum reported the discovery of two other warships in the same area.

Deficit to remain high

FROM PAGE 1
The reserves continued to slide and stood at \$35.98 billion as of October 19.

Bangladesh's current account deficit would be 3.2 percent in 2027, according to the IMF Global Economic Outlook Report published on October 12.

The deficit hovered between 0.5 and 1.5 percent of the GDP till fiscal 2020-21, except for fiscal 2017-18 when it was 3 percent, the report said.

Earlier this month, the World Bank projected that the deficit would be 3.6 percent of the GDP in the current fiscal year and 3.3 percent in the next fiscal year.

Economists say Bangladesh needs loans as budget support from different multilateral lenders, including the IMF, to overcome this.

In July, Dhaka sought a \$4.5 billion loan from the IMF in the form of budgetary support to shore up its depleting foreign currency reserves.

An IMF delegation, led by its Mission Chief to Bangladesh Rahul Anand, arrives in Dhaka today to discuss the loan.

The team will discuss with the Bangladeshi authorities economic and financial reforms and policies during its stay till November 9, reads an IMF statement issued on October 21.

The team's objective is to achieve progress towards a staff-level agreement on a prospective Extended Credit Facility/Extended Fund Facility programme and access under the newly created Resilience and Sustainability Facility in the coming months, the statement said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zahid Hussain, former lead economist of World Bank, said prices of different products, including fuel, have soared due to the Russia-Ukraine war. International experts forecast economic recession due to high inflation, rising interest rates and volatile markets.

"The economic impact of the war will continue this year. Our export will suffer due to the global recession. This abnormal situation is likely to prevail till fiscal 2024-25."

He mentioned that if a big deficit in the balance of payments persists,

the pressure on the foreign currency reserves would continue.

"The deficit, according to the World Bank and IMF projections, would be around \$15-16 billion this fiscal year," he said, adding that the government can tackle the situation provided that it arranges foreign loans of \$10-12 billion as budget support annually.

The government should prepare a comprehensive deficit financing plan for the next two to three years so that it can seek loan support from the IMF, the WB and other lenders such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Asian Development Bank.

"If the government can do that, the pressure on reserves will ease."

The government should have an appropriate exchange rate policy, Zahid said, adding that multiple rates for export, import and remittance would not relieve the pressure on forex reserves.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the reserves are falling every month. Export and remittance also declined in September. In such a situation, if the government can secure loans from the IMF, it will help maintain macroeconomic stability.

He pointed out that the recent announcement of an IMF loan programme for Pakistan buoyed the exchange rate of its rupee against the US dollar.

"Our situation is not as bad as that of Pakistan. But we are also not in a good position..."

Press Council

FROM PAGE 2
Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq Nasim chaired the programme where Daily Observer Editor and Press Council member Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury delivered the address of welcome.

Tk 1 lakh, a certificate and a crest were given in lifetime achievement, institutional and regional institutional categories, while in the remaining four categories, award recipients each got Tk 50,000, a certificate and a crest.

The award was launched in 2018.