

Tasnia Farin marches on

SHARMIN JOYA

Tasnia Farin is going to make her silver screen debut with the Tollywood film *Aro Ek Prithibi*, on December 2. The actress recently attended the Dhallywood Awards held at the USA. She also visited the UK, where she had shot for her debut film.

Arguably, her most anticipated on-screen role will be for *Karagar* part 2. In a recent interview with *The Daily Star*, she talked about her trip, film and upcoming projects.

You attended the Dhallywood awards recently. How did you feel about the programme?

It was quite amazing. I was honoured to attend such programme in the USA. From organisers to the Bangladeshi expatriates—all of them were extremely helpful and hospitable. I stayed there around 5 days, and then went to England.

The last time we spoke, you shared that you want to travel more this year. Which places did you visit during this trip?

Yes, I remember it vividly. Due to the pandemic, I couldn't go anywhere. Upon getting the invitation for Dhallywood Awards, I made my mind to visit England and Scotland as well.

Five months ago, I came to the UK, to shoot for my film. At that time, I got only a couple of days to roam around the place. However, this time I explored new places—in Scotland, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

How much did you enjoy the fall season in Europe?

It felt like a dream. Fall in Europe

is extremely beautiful, just like in the movies. Also, it was the time of Halloween, thus, I enjoyed every bit of my time there.

When did you return to the shoots after returning?

As soon as I came back, I got busy with finishing the pending projects. One of which is Mizanur Rahman Aryan's television project. Some of the portions were shot in Thailand. Also, I have a handful of projects, which will begin soon, and I didn't want to overload the pressure, thereby had to begin work immediately after returning.

Your debut silver screen project will be released on India on December 2. How excited are you?

Of course, I am super-excited! I will be soon traveling to Kolkata for the film's promotional campaign. I wish we could release the film for our audience as well.

"Karagar-Part 2" will be streaming from December 15. The audience eagerly awaits the project, as it raised the bar of expectations for you.

Definitely. When I read the script of *Karagar*, I was blown away with it. From that time, I had this hope that if we can pull the project off, and it is executed well, then it will be one of the projects that people will remember for long.

What are your upcoming projects?

I have already started shooting for Dhruvo Hasan's web film, *Dahokal*. Very soon, I will begin working for another web film directed by Rubel Hasan, and I am in the talks with some more projects. Until February, I will be busy with shooting.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Lyricist Omar Farook Bishal dies in road accident

Beloved lyricist Omar Farook Bishal passed away yesterday after being involved in a road accident.

The incident took place in Narsingdi, early in the Monday morning. Omar Farook was returning to Dhaka, on a motorcycle with his friend, when the accident took place.

The news of his death has been confirmed by fellow lyricist Robiul Islam Jibon, who shared a post on his official Facebook page.

Among the popular songs written by Omar Farook Bishal are Sabir Nasir's *Adha*, Tahsan's *Sholpo Kothar Golpo*, and Minar's *Alo Nei Alo*.

He has also penned down lyrics for two well-known Indian singers: Anupam Roy for *Parchi To Khub* and Srikanto Acharya for *Tomar Valo Monde*.



'Sisimpur' brings surprise for visually impaired children

Popular children's show *Sisimpur* holds a special place in the hearts of Bangladeshi audiences. It's a children's paradise, where kids can interact with Ikri-Hallum and TukTuki—getting lost in the world of fun activities and interactive educational segments.

However, visually impaired children often cannot experience the colourful world of *Sisimpur*. So, an initiative has been taken to publish the *Sisimpur* series of special edition books for visually impaired children.

As part of the initiative, ten of the show's most popular books will be published in braille. The braille editions are being prepared by the Sporsho Foundation. The books will be distributed free of charge at schools for visually impaired children, and will also be available for sale at book fairs.

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Buet student's

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house in Demra's Konapara to go to his university hall on Friday.

His family filed a general diary with Rampura police on Saturday as he did not attend a scheduled exam that day.

In the GD, Kazi Nuruddin, Fardin's father, said a friend of his had dropped him near the Rampura Bridge on his way to the university.

15-yr-old raped

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Star from a hospital.

Police rescued the girl and her parents, who were also injured during the incident.

"We are trying arrest to Hossain Sardar, the prime accused in the case, and the others," the OC added.

Meanwhile, the victim's family claimed that the accused are associates of Aminul Islam Rajib, chairman of Charbata Union-2 in the upazila.

Contacted, the UP chairman said, "I was in Dhaka when the incident took place. I was informed about the attack but did not receive any information regarding the rape. I will look into the matter."

Cooperate

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Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development hitting that mark by 2030, reports Reuters.

The UN secretary general said the target should be to provide renewable and affordable energy for all, calling on the United States and China in particular to lead the way.

He also said it was a "moral imperative" for richer polluters to help vulnerable countries.

Earlier yesterday, French President Emmanuel Macron urged the United States, China and other non-European rich nations to "step up" their efforts to cut emissions and provide financial aid to other countries.

"Europeans are paying," Macron told French and African climate campaigners on the sidelines of COP27. "We are the only ones paying."

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, whose country is the world's top emitter of greenhouse gases, is not attending the summit.

HC extends Khaleda's bail

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number of its martyrs on separate occasions.

On September 28 last year, the HC extended the bail of Khaleda Zia in the cases for one year.

On December 21, 2015, Khaleda Zia at a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh raised questions about the actual number of Liberation War martyrs saying, "There are controversies over how many were martyred in the Liberation War. There are also many books and documents on the controversies."

Reacting to Khaleda's remarks, Raihan Farooque Imam of Narail's Naragati filed the case on December 24, 2015.

AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, a pro-AL organisation, filed a defamation case with a Dhaka court on January 25, 2017, against Khaleda Zia, claiming that she, at a programme, said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did not want Bangladesh's independence;

rather he (Sheikh Mujib) had wanted to be prime minister of Pakistan.

Lawyers Kayser Kamal and AHM Kamruzzaman Mamun appeared for Khaleda Zia.

Kayser Kamal told *The Daily Star* that the HC extended the bail of his client, Khaleda Zia, as she has not misused the ad interim bail earlier granted by this court to her in the cases.

Khaleda Zia is accused in 37 criminal cases and she is now on bail in 35 cases, he said.

The BNP chief landed in jail after being sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case by a special court in Dhaka on February 8, 2018.

She has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 17 years, in total, in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust corruption cases by the trial court and HC.

She was released from jail on March 25, 2020, following an executive order from the government suspending her jail sentence.

Int'l alliance launched

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spent each year to tackle droughts, while human suffering continues.

In a joint statement, President Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón of Spain and President Macky Sall of Senegal said, "We are only as resilient to climate change as our land is. Building resilience to drought disasters is the way to secure the gains we make on each sustainable development goal, particularly for the most vulnerable people. The mission of the alliance is to give political impetus to make the land's resilience to drought and climate change a reality by 2030."

Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of UNCCD, said, "We are in a race for drought resilience and it's a race we can win. Drought is a natural hazard but does not have to lead to human disaster. The solutions are available, and we can create a drought resilient world by increasing our ambition, harnessing the political will, and joining forces to act together."

The Alliance will be bolstered by new political commitments to support its work and catalyse a process to mobilise more resources for this agenda, said a press release.

It said the Alliance called on leaders to make drought resilience a

priority in national development and cooperation, including deepening the engagement of stakeholders, such as the private sector.

One of the Alliance's key objectives is promoting the consolidation of regional initiatives to fast-track sharing of innovation, technology transfer and mobilisation of resources.

It will also collaborate with other platforms, including the initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General and the World Meteorological Organization, to achieve universal coverage of early warning systems and regional initiatives to reap the maximum benefits of working together on drought resilience.

Presidents Sánchez and Sall rallied world leaders to create the Alliance as "a specific solution for the United Nations" for the impacts of climate change.

Building the resilience presents an opportunity to significantly reduce the high human, social and economic costs of drought.

These range from the loss of life, livelihoods and biodiversity, to water and food insecurity, disruption in the energy, transportation and tourism sectors, as well as forced migration, displacement, and conflicts over scarce resources.

AL, BNP

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participation of all political parties in the next national election, slated for January 2024.

Earlier in the day, she had a meeting with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

"Free and fair elections must include a level playing field for all participants, including political parties," the US embassy said yesterday referring to Akhter's visit to Bangladesh.

The US deputy assistant secretary arrived in Dhaka on Saturday afternoon and met some top government officials the following morning.

Speaking to *The Daily Star*, Masroor Mawla said Akhter first wanted to know from Shammil about the next Jatiya Sangsad polls.

The AL leader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was committed to holding free and credible elections.

She also told the US official that the caretaker government system became highly controversial during the BNP's rule and therefore, parliament revoked the system in 2011.

Akhter then wanted to know Amir Khasru's thoughts. The BNP leader said the country made huge strides during the previous rule of his party, and that BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman had taken the initiative to set up the readymade garment sector.

Migrant workers and the RMG sector were the main foreign currency earners for Bangladesh, but \$7 billion were laundered each year from the country and that's why the economy is under serious strain now, Masroor quoted Amir Khasru as saying.

The BNP leader said his party would join the next parliamentary polls only under a caretaker or interim government and it was because "elections under an AL government can never be free and fair".

Masroor said he told Akhter that the incumbent Election Commission was not neutral. "For a fair election, neutrality of the Election Commission is very important."

US Ambassador Peter Haas said all political parties need to move forward positively for the betterment of the country.

"I said the enmity between the two major political parties should end. They need to sit and reach a compromise. Otherwise, whichever party would be in power in future would do the same thing and that cannot continue," Masroor said.

Last chance for Belgium's

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their talented crop burst onto the international stage with a revelatory 4-2 win over the Netherlands in 2012.

At the 2014 World Cup, Belgium bowed out against Argentina in the quarter-finals.

Four years later they lost to France in the World Cup semi-finals in what so far rates as the best run of an era that promised so much for the Red Devils.

For a team regarded as potential title winners, those exits and a pair of European Championship quarter-final defeats in 2016 and 2020 were not rewarding enough, leading to Belgium being labelled underachievers.

Former Belgium coach George Leekens questioned the mentality of Roberto Martinez's side in a scathing assessment of their failure to win a trophy.

"Without a trophy, we climbed to first place in the FIFA rankings. But this first rank means nothing," Leekens said.

"When you don't dare to do things, nothing is with you. This mentality and this will to win does not exist in Martinez's group."

With the vast majority of Belgium's stars now in their 30s, this World Cup looks increasingly certain to be the

generation's last stand.

Emerging talents Lois Openda, 22, Charles De Ketelaere, 21, and Amadou Onana, 21, offer hope for a bright Belgium future.

But De Bruyne, Hazard, Courtois, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen, Alex Witsel and Dries Mertens will be retired or well past their best by the next World Cup in 2026.

Martinez, in his sixth year as Belgium boss, will hope De Bruyne's realisation that he may not play in another World Cup adds a sense of urgency to the rest of the squad's 30 somethings.

The Manchester City midfielder will bring his family to the Gulf state for Belgium's Group F games against Canada, Morocco and Croatia as he wants his children to see him play in the World Cup at least once.

"My family are going over for the group stages. I am obviously 31 and I don't know what will happen in four years. This is the first time my kids can come to the World Cup," De Bruyne said.

"That is why they are coming. It will be special, an event I don't want them to miss. They are six, four and two. The eldest two of them follow the football a bit but the daughter, not really, but she can go and enjoy the sun and play in the pool."

New star system

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planets," University of Warwick PhD student in physics and lead author of the study Abigail Elms said in a statement. "It's amazing to think that this happened on the scale of 10 billion years, and that those planets died way before the Earth was even formed."

The researchers first identified the two stars using the European Space Agency's Gaia space observatory. They then used the European Southern Observatory's X-Shooter spectrography instrument to analyse the light of the stars in order to measure what materials were present in those stars.

The reddish star WDJ2147-4035 exhibited signs that it is being polluted by sodium, lithium, potassium, and possibly carbon from the remnants of planets surrounding the star.

The blueish star WDJ1922-0233 appears to be polluted by materials much more like Earth's crust in their composition.

40 hurt in clashes between BNP

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observe the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

As the two processions reached the Old DC Court area, a clash erupted. They threw brick chunks at each other and 10 men were injured.

The district unit BNP President MA Majid alleged that BCL men attacked BNP's procession without any provocation and later attacked the party office.

The district unit BCL General Secretary Al Imran claimed that the clash took place when BCL men protested the "derogatory chants" about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina coming from BNP's the procession.

Jhenidah Sadar Police Station OC Sheikh Sohel Rana said additional law enforcers were deployed in the town to avoid further violence.

[Our correspondents from Mymensingh and Jhenidah contributed to the report]