

Don't want to be a 'view based artiste'

NISHAT PRIOM



“There is no variation in storytelling, sadly the 'view' trend is harming the industry. I don't want to tag myself as view-based artiste, I just want to become an artiste.”

SHARMIN JOYA

Remember Shejuti from Hoichoi's popular web series *Money Honey*, co-directed by Tanim Noor and Krishnendu Chattopadhyay? The character was donned by actress Nishat Priom, who began her journey in showbiz through television commercials. She made her acting debut with tele-fictions, and since then there was no look back for her. Later she appeared in Hoichoi's hit show *Mohanagar* (directed by Ashfaq Nipun), *Prayashchitto* (directed by Vicky Zahed) streamed on Bongo, from their 'Based on Books' series. Priom recently she played an important role in Chorki's latest project *Daag* (directed by Sanjoy Somadder). In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste spoke about her career, upcoming projects and more. "I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to work in all OTT platforms of Bangladesh in my career," shared the actress. "Though television is my root, OTT is the medium I love working in." She worked in iflix's first project *The Knock* (directed by Asif Islam), Bipscope's *Ashare Golpo* (directed by Nurul Alam Atique) and



ZEE5 Global's *Thanda* (Kajal Arefin Ome).

"I was doing MBA when I started working in the industry, at that time I was regularly taking up television projects," says the actress who was loved by the audience for her role in Imraul

Rafat's *Bhul Premer Golpo*. "Although these days fictions have become extremely view based, it makes me really upset."

The actress is aware of the fact that the television industry has been going through tough times, but she still believes in its potential. "There is no variation in storytelling, sadly the 'view' trend is harming the industry. I don't want to tag myself as view-based artiste, I just want to become an artiste."

Priom believes that OTT has been a fair medium so far. "The best thing about OTT is that, in this medium, the story is the protagonist, and the operations are conducted in an extremely professional manner."

"*Daag* will always be a special project for me. This is my first work with the director, and I loved sharing the screen with Mosharrar Karim - I consider him to be my mentor," she concludes.

Nishat Priom will be seen in Animesh Aich's upcoming web series, which is penned by Bipasha Hayat. The Alpha i production will stream on Bipscope. Two of her television serials are ongoing at the moment - *Baba Maa Bhai Bon* and *Sharirik Shikha*.

Singer Akbar no more

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Singer Akbar Ali Gazi, known for his song *Tomar Haat Pakhar Batashe*, passed away yesterday at the capital's BIRDEM hospital.

The news was confirmed by his daughter, Athoi. A few days ago, he had to have his legs amputated due to increased physical complications. He was under treatment at a hospital in the capital.

Due to the increased complications, he was recently admitted to BIRDEM's ICU.

Akbar Ali Gazi rose to fame with his song "Tomar Haat Pakhar Batashe" at the programme Iyadi, hosted by Hani Sanket. He used to be a rickshaw puller in the town of Jashore before that.

The singer used to drive a rickshaw in Jessore city before his fortunes changed. However, due to being sick for a long time, he was unable to perform on stage shows. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had allotted a BDT 20 lakh for his treatment at the time.



Sania, Shoaib announce 'The Mirza Malik Show'

Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik have announced their new show *The Mirza Malik Show*, after their divorce rumours surfaced, getting the world to talk about them. It will soon premiere on Pakistani streaming service Urduflux.

According to reports on Pakistani media, Shoaib and Sania were awaiting legalities for the termination of their relationship.

The couple tied the knot in 2010 and welcomed their son in 2018. A week ago, they celebrated his birthday together.

Was all of it to promote the show? Only time will tell.



NEWS

A case of two missing doctors

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He added that police have already started drives to find and rescue the doctor as soon as possible.

In a separate incident in Faridpur's Bhangra, Md Zakir Hossain, 28, a medical officer of Bhangra Upazila Health Complex, has been missing since November 8.

He had been working there for three years.

According to hospital sources, Zakir had left for home around 2:00pm, after finishing his duties at the outdoor department of the health complex.

Around 12:30am (November 9), a text message was sent to his wife from his phone saying there was no electricity and his phone might be switched off at any time.

Another message was sent from his phone to Mohsin Uddin Fakir, Bhangra

Upazila Health and Family Welfare officer.

The message said his (Zakir's) mother-in-law was ill and he needed to go to Dhaka urgently. It added that he will return the next day (November 10).

Mohsin Uddin said, "Zakir's wife then informed me that not only did he not return home, her mother was not ill."

The family filed a general diary with the Bhangra Police Station.

Md Ziarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhangra Police Station, said, "We still could not find any trace of the doctor. We have sent messages with his photograph attached to all the police stations."

"Apart from police, the Detective Branch and Rab are also working to find him. But we are yet to get any information."

EC starts reviewing

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The information on whether the political parties are complying with the conditions on what they got their registrations, the EC will review these and the whole process will be complete by May 2023.

"We hope that the whole work will be completed by that time," he reiterated.

Responding to a question on whether the EC has the capacity to verify the information provided by the political parties, Alamgir said, "It is not that the EC does not have the capacity at all. There are officials of the commission at the district and upazila levels. Information will be verified through them."

There are 39 political parties registered with the EC.

The EC has been providing registration to political parties since 2008 in line with The Representation of the People Order, 1972.

For getting registration, a political party needs to meet at least one criterion out of three.

The first condition being a political party securing at least one seat with its electoral symbol in any parliamentary election held since the independence of Bangladesh.

The second criterion being securing five percent of the total votes cast in the constituencies in which its candidates took part in any of the aforesaid parliamentary elections.

The third clause is that the party needs to set up a functional central office, by whatever name it may be called with a central committee, having offices at least in one-third of administrative districts, and offices at least in 100 upazilas or metropolitan thanas and the party must have a minimum 200 voters as its members in each upazila.

In the letter, the EC sought information on whether the parties are abiding by the law and if the parties have ensured 33 percent women leadership at their central and other committees and others.

If the EC finds that political parties are not abiding by the law, it can cancel their registration, said the EC officials.

Since 2008, a total of 44 political parties got registration and five political parties' registrations were cancelled.

Since 2018, Oikyabaddho Nagarik Andolan, Pragatashil Ganatantrik Party and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party lost their registrations as they failed to comply conditions of getting registration.

Besides, registration of the Freedom Party was cancelled in 2009 as it failed to provide the party charter.

Jamaat's registration as a political party was announced illegal by High Court in 2013. Following the verdict, the EC cancelled Jamaat's registration in October 2018.

Southgate wants

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about England. We can make it the best."

The World Cup will give England's players a chance to prove themselves in international football, with Borussia Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham among those seeking a breakthrough on football's biggest stage.

Southgate heaped praise on the 19-year-old midfielder, saying he is showing maturity beyond his years.

PM seeks Saudi oil

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press secretary, following the meeting.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed various issues of mutual interest.

The Saudi deputy minister raised the issue of Bangladeshis with passports requiring renewals in the KSA and proposed to form a joint working group to address the issue.

The prime minister gave her consent on the matter and asked the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to this end.

Nasser also praised Bangladesh's growth under Hasina's leadership and congratulated her on the golden jubilee of the country's independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina in return sent her greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

Crime den for long, Chonpara now hogs limelight

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But the recent raids have finally made things better in the slum, he added.

According to locals, a committee led by Bazlur Rashid, chairman of Kayetpara Union Parishad, was formed to prevent drug dealing in the slum.

But the chairman soon began backing the illegal trade in exchange for money, claimed locals.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Bazlur, however, refuted the claim.

"I've always taken a stand against drugs, but now I'm the target," he claimed.

Shockingly, Shaheen Miah alias

Joy gives deposition in court

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arrived at the court around 3:20pm amid the presence of a large number of law enforcers.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Nur recorded the half-an-hour long statement made by Joy.

Joy sought exemplary punishment of the accused, sources said, quoting Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu.

Due to security reasons, only four lawyers, including the prosecutor, were allowed in the courtroom during the proceedings.

Joy left around 4:00pm.

Earlier, the same court recorded

statements of nine witnesses brought by the prosecutors.

The case was filed on August 3, 2015, by the Detective Branch (DB) of police with Paltan Police Station.

Shafik Rehman and Mahmudur Rahman were arrested and have jumped bail.

The DB pressed charges against the five accused on February 20, 2018.

The charge sheet mentioned Mamun, Rizvi and Mizanur as absconding, and Shafik and Mahmudur as the masterminds behind the conspiracy.

Mamun aided and abetted the others, the charge sheet said.

Rizvi collected information on Joy

from the FBI and gave it to the other accused, it added.

According to the complaint, Mamun and several top leaders of the BNP and its allies met in the UK, the US and different places in Bangladesh before September 2012 and plotted to abduct and kill Joy.

In March 2015, a US court convicted Rizvi of bribing an FBI special agent for information on a Bangladeshi political figure.

The US justice department did not name the politician.

In a Facebook post on March 9, 2015, Joy accused BNP leaders of conspiring to abduct and kill him.

Shafik, also a British citizen, has worked for various media outlets.

'Square Mata' Anita Chowdhury no more

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep sorrow at the death of Anita and prayed for her departed soul. She also expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

Hasan Mahmud, minister for information and broadcasting, in his condolence message, said, "The example she set in directing such an enormous group with such motherly love was unmatched."

Deputy Speaker Shamsul Hoque Tuku also expressed his condolences.

Square Group, in a press release, said, "Anita Chowdhury was involved

in various activities of religious, social development and voluntary organisations at national and international levels. Her death has cast a deep shadow over the Square family."

Anita was born on August 5, 1932, in Cumilla, and settled in Pabna's Ataikula with her father when she was a young girl.

Her father was the postmaster there in the 40s.

She married Samson H Chowdhury on August 6, 1947, at the age of 15.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren and host of wellwishers.

City Shaheen, 35, wanted in 23 cases and killed in crossfire with Rab on Thursday, was also a member of the committee.

Asked about the rise in the drug trade in Chonpara, Abir Hossain, assistant superintendent of police (Rugganaj, Araihaazar circle), said although police routinely raided drug hotspots and arrested dealers, the accused returned to their old profession after securing bail.

The slum became a place of interest after Fardin's murder as his last known location, based on his cell phone activity, was near the slum, according to police.

His body was also recovered few

kilometres away from the slum at the Barnali Ghat of the Shitalakkhya River in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on November 7.

Law enforcers are now operating on the assumption that Fardin might have been killed there and they are investigating the possibility of drug dealers' involvement.

On Saturday, Raihan Mahmud, an associate of the slain City Shaheen, was picked up by law enforcement in Barisal.

His wife Dalia Begum claimed two of Raihan's associates, Uzzal and Roni, were also apprehended along with him.

She told The Daily Star that law

enforcement officers alleged that her husband killed the Buet student. "But my husband is not involved in the murder. He was home asleep when it happened."

Another alleged drug dealer Nuruzzaman was similarly picked up on Friday, according to his relative Shahida Begum.

But she claimed Nuruzzaman was also not involved. "He only hung out with Raihan."

However, there was no official confirmation from law enforcement agencies about any arrests until this report was filed around 8:00pm yesterday.