

Proud to be a part of our first Chatgaiya film

APARNA GHOSE

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Having begun her career on the stage, actress Aparna Ghose won over the hearts of the audience with her sweet smile and acting prowess, eventually transitioning over to television and film.

The actress received two National Film Awards for her performance in the films *Mrittika Maya* and *Gondi*. Her latest film, *Made in Chittagong*, was released on Friday, in two of Chattogram's theatres.

In the film, Aparna shares the screen with noted singer Partha Barua. Directed by Imraul Rafat, the movie has been made in the regional language of Chattogram.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Aparna discussed her new film, acting philosophies and much more.

Your film "Made in Chittagong" was released on Friday. How are you feeling?

I returned from Japan just so I could be present on the first day of the film's release. The entire film is made in the regional language of Chattogram. As a *Chatgaiya* it's a great pleasure for me to work on such a project and I am feeling very happy right now.

Will the film only be released in Chattogram?

For now, the film is being released in two theatres of Chattogram. However, we do have plans to release the film in other major theatres across the country. The audience will get a different experience watching the film. All of the actors in the movie are from Chattogram, except Sazu Khadem. We have tried our best to portray the culture of Chattogram in this film and I think this movie will mark a milestone.

It has been a long time since we have seen you in television-dramas. Why is that?

Right now, I am focusing on quality

rather than quantity. That is why I am not working on too many TV dramas. However, I will soon start working on one, the story of which is centred around Hilsa fish. The shooting for this drama will start in Chandpur, soon. I will be working opposite Fazlur Rahman Babu in the project.

To be honest, I don't feel the urge to act in so many dramas at this point in my career. My goal is not to go viral or earn money. Acting is my passion and I have a lot of respect for the art. Much of the work that I see nowadays is not interesting or attractive to me.

What type of projects do you want to work on?

I want to work on the type of projects that evoke a certain feeling in the minds of the people. After seeing the language, stories and presentations of certain TV dramas, I have decided to avoid them for now. As an artiste, I have some responsibility to the audience and I cannot disrespect them. However, I do think that OTT platforms are doing a really good job of telling interesting and artistic stories.

As your husband lives in Japan, will you be moving back and forth between Japan and Bangladesh going forward?

Yes, it will kind of be like that. I will be travelling to and from the two countries for now. After getting married, I did not get to spend a lot of time with my husband. That's why I will be living with him for now. I have also learned the language of Japan. However, I put my country above all others. I do like living in Japan, though, as they are very polite and cooperative.

The article was translated by Antara Raisa



PHOTO: STAR

Tasnia Farin's silver-screen debut postponed



Popular actress Tasnia Farin was all set to make her silver-screen debut with the Tollywood film, *Aaro Ek Prithibi*, on December 2. However, the release date for the film has now been postponed.

The film's director, Atanu Ghosh announced the news through his official Facebook account.

"Just like the twists in the plot of a film, there is also a twist in our film's release. There will be a lot of films released in Kolkata in the upcoming two months. Apart from this, due to the film festivals, regular screening will be stopped at the major theatres of Kolkata," read the status, continuing, "That is why I want to postpone the release date of *Aaro Ek Prithibi*. The new release date will be announced soon."

Aindrila Sharma passes away at 24

Kolkata actress Aindrila Sharma passed away yesterday at a hospital in Kolkata. She was undergoing treatment after suffering multiple cardiac arrests, earlier this week. She was only 24 years old.

The actress was admitted to the hospital on November 1, after suffering from a brain stroke. She reportedly had an intracranial hemorrhage. On November 14, Aindrila suffered from multiple cardiac arrests, after which her health deteriorated. She unfortunately breathed her last on November 20.

Cancer survivor Aindrila Sharma made her television debut with *Jhumur* and went on to star in shows such as *Mahapeth Tarapeth*, *Jibon Jyoti* and *Jyon Kathi*. She was also part of movies like *Ami Didi No 1* and *Love Café*.



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Armed Forces

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Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal, and Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan will place wreaths at the Shikha Anirban on behalf of their respective forces.

On the occasion, chiefs of the three services will pay courtesy calls to the president at the Bangabhaban and the prime minister at the Armed Forces Division.

The prime minister will accord a reception to family members of the Bir Shreshthas and selected gallantry award-winning war veterans and their family members at the Army Multipurpose Complex in Dhaka.

The prime minister will distribute peace awards for 2021-22 among four army, two navy and two air force personnel.

Besides, a reception programme will be arranged on behalf of the premier at the Senakunja at the cantonment.

The state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) will live telecast the function.

Marking the day, the navy and air force chiefs are anticipated to welcome family members of brave freedom fighters from their respective forces.

Various programmes have also been chalked out at different army garrisons, naval ships, installations and bases of the air force across the country outside Dhaka.

Japanese govt loses third minister in a month

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's internal affairs minister resigned yesterday over a series of campaign finance scandals, becoming the third member of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet to step down in less than a month.

Minoru Terada quit over allegations of mismanagement of political funds. He had acknowledged to parliament that his local campaign group had even listed a dead person as its treasurer in annual financial statements.

Other accusations published by the weekly Shukan Bunshun magazine included illegal payments to staff during his reelection campaign last year.

Oil from India through pipeline

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Numaligarh via Siliguri Marketing Terminal in West Bengal to Dinajpur in Bangladesh.

That project is nearing completion and has opened the possibility for Bangladesh to obtain the heavily discounted Russian oil.

In October, Russia surpassed Iraq and Saudi Arabia to become India's largest supplier of oil, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Bangladesh too wanted to have a share of the discounted Russian Urals – which are being lapped up by China as well – as global oil prices remained high but its hopes were dashed by the inability of the country's lone refinery to process the higher-density Russian crude.

But the Russian Urals refined in India and transported to Bangladesh is an option.

India is exploring the possibility of serving as a transit country to transport Russian oil and gas to Bangladesh after Turkey pitched in with the service, reported India's Economic Times yesterday.

The issue of getting oil and gas from India had figured in talks between Hasina and Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar during her tour of India in September, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Emerging from the talks, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen had told the media that since Bangladesh

did not have the refinery needed to process Russian oil, the pipeline option was discussed.

But he had hastened to add that it depended on the price Bangladesh can negotiate with India.

If Bangladesh and India can arrive at the price for Russian crude after it is refined in Indian refineries, what remains to be sorted is how that can be sent to Bangladesh: whether by tankers or any other supply mode.

One of the options for supplying Russian oil could be using the 130-km IBFPL.

Officials involved in the proceedings dismissed suggestions that India is keen to be a transit hub for Russian energy for Bangladesh only after Turkey threw its hat in the ring.

The issue had come up much before Turkey had expressed its keenness and New Delhi does not view its ties with Bangladesh through the prism of Dhaka's relations with Ankara, they said.

India's robust political relations with Bangladesh stand on its own and there is no reason why a third country factor could come in here, according to the officials.

Turkey's Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Turan had said on November 16 that his country would be "more than happy" to help Bangladesh by becoming a transit country for Russian energy supplies.

Lavrov calls off Dhaka visit

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significant given the increased pressure on Russia, especially from the Western countries, following its invasion of Ukraine.

Russia, which supported Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War, has been a trusted partner.

Though trade with Russia has not gone much up, the Rooppur nuclear power plant that is being built with Russia's support and wheat imports from Russia are important aspects of bilateral relations now.

The plant's implementation has gone slow due to payment complications following sanctions imposed by the Western countries for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Global economic strains have already caused socio-economic and

even political unrest in many of the world's countries.

The UN General Assembly so far adopted three resolutions, with the majority of the 193 countries voting against Russia. Bangladesh has abstained in two votes, while favoured one on Ukraine's territorial integrity and humanitarian support to Ukraine.

Momen said Bangladesh's position on the Russia-Ukraine war is very clear.

"It is a consistent approach. We have maintained a balanced and consistent foreign policy," he said.

Russia is quite isolated because of its invasion of Russia and Lavrov's visit would have been an effort to find new friends and solidify the friendship, foreign relations analysts say.

9-yr-old madrasa

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their own lockers and Akram used to have a key that could unlock all of them. When Tk 110 went missing from one of the arrestees' locker, they suspected Akram of stealing the money and concocted a plan to kill him.

"When Akram went to the bathroom around 10:00am, the three took him near the water tank adjacent to the madrasa to interrogate him. They then tied him up and hit his head with a brick. To ensure his death, they drowned him in the tank."

"Afterwards, they came back to the orphanage and pretended to be asleep. When the authorities noticed that Akram was missing, the three pretended to be searching for him and brought the body out of the reservoir."

Madrasa authorities had initially filed a missing person's case with police. But once they found the body, they turned it into a murder case.

After investigation, police arrested the three minors on Saturday and produced them before a court, which sent them to jail.

According to locals, after Akram's father Daulat Khan passed away, his mother left to Saudi Arabia for work. Since then, he had been living in the orphanage.

Woman killed

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College and Hospital early in the morning. Police later sent to the morgue," said Monibur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Chandgaon Police Station,

Two policemen were injured in the incident and were undergoing treatment at CMCH.

Meanwhile, police arrested eight people, including three hijras, and filed two cases over the incident, the inspector added.

6 launch staffers

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rammed his boat when it reached the middle of the river between Zinjira Ghat and Sowari Ghat, causing it to sink within moments, Mashiur added.

Everyone, except Biplob, was rescued by people on a nearby boat.

Biplob's younger sister Shashwate Biplob has been saying that Biplob was murdered because there were injury marks on his chest and head.

6-yr-old killed

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"At one point, a bus of Asmani Paribahan struck my son, who was holding my hand, and dragged him a few yards away."

After that, another bus coming from behind ran over him.

He added, "After being denied by three private hospitals, I was finally able to admit my son to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead."

A 'constable' shot him

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media yesterday.

He was taken to Bancharampur Upazila Health Complex and later died after being shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Liton Sarkar, member secretary of Bancharampur upazila Chhatra Dal, said no such situation arose for opening fire on Nayan. "Our leaders and activists were arguing with the OC [Nur-e-Alam]. There was no incident of throwing brick chips or chase before this."

OC Nur-e-Alam said, "The BNP activists suddenly attacked us. They were pulling our uniforms and firearms. Meanwhile, gunshots were heard from behind the procession. In this situation, police fired shots in the air to bring the situation under control."

No case has yet been filed in connection with the JCD leader killing.

However, a case was lodged against 17 BNP leaders and activists and 100-120 unidentified people over attacking police personnel.

Sub-Inspector Afzal Hossain Khan of Bancharampur Police Station filed the case on Saturday night, said Sirajul Islam, additional superintendent of police (Nabinagar circle).

Rafiqul Islam, a former organising secretary of Bancharampur upazila Jubo Dal, who was arrested earlier, was made the prime accused, the SI said.

After Nayan's autopsy at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, his namaz-e-janaza was held in front of BNP's Nayapaltan central office yesterday, said Liaqat Ali Farid, convener of the upazila BNP.

Later, his body was taken to his

home in Charshibpur village for burial.

Fozayel Chowdhury, convener of Brahmanbaria district JCD, said a case would be filed with a local court after the policeman responsible for Nayan's death was identified.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sazida, mother of the victim, was repeatedly breaking down in tears. She said Nayan last spoke to her half an hour before the clash.

"He had promised to bring chocolates for his two-year-old son on his way home in the evening. But that was not to be..."

Meanwhile, protesting the killing, Feni JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession in the district town. A chase and counter chase took place between them and police, leaving 15 JCD men injured.

In Natore, Lalpur police shut down the BNP office in Gopalpur town after crude bombs were recovered from in front of the office.

Two cases were filed in this connection, said Md Monowaruzzaman, OC of Lalpur Police Station.

Shahidul Islam Bachchu, convener (acting) of Natore BNP, said this incident was "staged" by the Awami League and police.

In Chapainawabganj, two police constables were injured in a crude bomb explosion in Nachol's Sreerampura yesterday where a JCD rally was scheduled to be held, said Mintu Rahman, OC of Nachol Police Station.

[Our correspondents in Brahmanbaria, Feni, Natore and Chapainawabganj contributed to this report.]