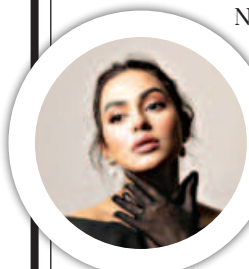




PHOTOS: AMIR HAMZA SAGOR/DREAMWEAVER AND SHAHBAZ NAHIAN



Nusraat Faria set to star in Anam Biswas' 'Football 71'



Nusraat Faria has signed on for director Anam Biswas' government-granted football film, *Football 71*. The *Bibaho Obhijaan* actress will be seen opposite Arifin Shuvoo in this film. Previously, the on-screen pair worked together on four movies.

Director Anam Biswas confirmed the news to The Daily Star. "Nusraat Faria is the perfect choice for the film. We will begin shooting for the movie in February of next year. If our preparations go well, then we might start shooting at the end of January as well," said the director.

At present, Nusraat Faria is awaiting the release of her upcoming films *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, *Patalghor*, and *Rockstar* among others.

THE MARVEL OF TOMORROW awards the best in content creation

To celebrate and recognize the impactful creators and influencers in Bangladesh, The Marvel - Be You arranged the Marvel of Tomorrow Season 2 - Influencers Fest and Award, which took place at the capital's Chef's Table Courtside on Friday.

ANTARA RAISA

In the era of digitalization, where people spend a massive chunk of their day on social media, influencers have won the audience's hearts with their creative and fun contents. These contents are not only for entertainment, but also tend to make a profound impact on society.

To celebrate and recognize the impactful creators and influencers in Bangladesh, The Marvel - Be You arranged the Marvel of Tomorrow Season 2 - Influencers Fest and Award, which took place at the capital's Chef's Table Courtside on Friday.

Just like the theme of this year, "Multiverse of Influencers", a plethora of social media stars and digital creators gathered at the venue at 3 pm to witness the marvelous grand opening of the Influencers' fest and Award ceremony.

The entire event was structured in 2

segments - one where the influencers graced the red carpet with a multitude of activities, and a glamorous gala which felicitated the best among these digital stars.

The main event started at 7.30 pm, with hosts Rafsan Sabab, Sakib Bin Rashid, Neel Hurerzahan, and Sarah Alam dealing gleefully with the award handovers.

It was made all the more glamorous with the inclusion of suit partner FIERO, Safiya Sathi's Wardrobe design and Lavish Salon's grooming that they did to the stars. Toffee was the experience partner for the event.

Marvel introduced 26 categories of the award this time, and the award winners in these respective categories are, Adnan Faruque (food vlogging), Dr. Shushama Reza (well-being), Sunehra Tasnim (fashion vlogging), Sahar Rehman (fashion designer), Ashfi Onadi (personal care reviewer), Makeup Room by Leona Rahman (makeup artist), Alpana Habib (cooking), Dihan Chowdhury



(travel vlogs), Avik Anwar (auto vlogger), MSI Vlogs (moto reviewer), ATC Android Toto Company (tech reviewer), Latent Light (game streamer), Tanmoy Cartoons (art), Mejbaur Rahman Sumon (writer), Joyeeta Trisha (photography), Muza (music), Md. Ruhul Amin (dance), Amin and Ashik (stand-up comedy), Abdullah Al Fardin Khan (Content Creator - Entertainment), Neyon and ON (sports reviewer), Enayet Chowdhury (infotainment), Kingkortobyabimur (community engagement), I Takay Ahar (social welfare), Samima Sraboni (inspiring children), Magic Razik (aspiring creator) and RS Fahim Chowdhury (popular choice).

The programme was presented by Daraz, empowered by bKash, in association with The Daily Star.

Shooting of "Pushpa 2" to begin from December 12

The film *Pushpa: The Rise*, starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, was a spectacular box office hit. The film was praised for its outstanding lead performances, action sequences, and chart-topping songs.

Now, the shooting of the sequel of this hit film, *Pushpa: The Rule* is all set to commence on December 12.

The team of *Pushpa 2* also did test shooting with the film's lead actor, Allu Arjun last month, while new footage will be revealed on the one-year anniversary of *Pushpa: The Rule* on December 17.

Previously, it was announced that *Pushpa 2* will be released in 2024, under the direction of Sukumar.



NEWS

For Dhaka, the balancing act

FROM PAGE 12
position as in the case of Ukraine. India can play a positive role in the growing tension between the US and China now that it is the chair of G-20."

Former and current diplomats and dignitaries participated in the discussion.

"Bangladesh has to maintain good relations with India. It has to -- because it [India] is a big neighbour. As a fundamental rule, you must have good relations with a big neighbour and at the same time you also need to have good relations with China," he said.

It will be extremely dangerous for Bangladesh if two elephants push each other, referring to rising tension between India and China.

"On the other hand, there is a tremendous opportunity for Bangladesh. And I say opportunity because Bangladesh has an advantage as it has a leader who has been in power for 14 years."

"You have to have a very well-established leader who has a secured position and can make a difference. There is an opportunity [for Bangladesh] to quietly push India to improve relations with China and push China to normalise relations with India," he said.

If at all it has to be done very discreetly.

According to him, India is situated in geopolitical sweet spot. The world is not happy about the US-China contest, they want the US and China to push the "pause button" on their deteriorating bilateral relations and focus on global problems, especially on climate change.

He pointed out that most countries of the world did not side with either as they don't want conflict but strengthen cooperation. "Bangladesh should be very careful in dealing with this matter," he said in response to a question of Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming whether Bangladesh can play any role in India-China relations.

Responding to another question, he said democratic backsliding does not depend on the global geopolitical contest, it depends as much on domestic conditions.

"So, if you have a government that does a good job, managing equal rights and improving peoples' lives, then the democracy become strong."

But democracy weakens when governments fail.

President and Distinguished Fellow of Cosmos Foundation and former advisor to the caretaker government Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and

Cosmos Foundation Chairman Enayeturrahman Khan also spoke.

Distinguished Fellow and Board Member of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, PM's former principal secretary and Chairman of Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) Nojibur Rahman; The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, President of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) Major General (Retd.) ANM Muniruzzaman, Chairman and Chief Executive of Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) Dr Zaidi Sattar, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Turan, Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Heru Hartanto Subolo, Senior Research Fellow at BIPSS and Head of Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR) Shaikat Munir and Head of English Web, Prothom Alo Aysha Kabir, among others, joined the dialogue.

Indefinite ban

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included in late October. In early November, Alikadam was exempted and yesterday Thanchi was exempted.

Ruma and Rowangchhari upazilas have been devoid of tourists since October 17.

AL unfazed by BNP's 10-point demand

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central committee member of the AL told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

At a rally in Jashore on November 24, Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina sought votes for "boat", the electoral symbol of the ruling party. With this call, the AL kicked off its campaign.

Later, she attended rallies in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar and made the same appeal.

Talking to reporters at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud said most of the demands of the BNP were old. The party has been demanding those for long, he said.

He added that the BNP would suffer for their lawmakers' resignations, and there would be no loss to the House

or the government.

"There are 350 lawmakers in parliament and it doesn't matter if seven lawmakers resign," said Hasan, also information and broadcasting minister.

According to sources, the AL is now holding councils across the country and through the councils, the party is reviving its activities which remained stagnant after the Covid outbreak.

The party is preparing for the next national polls by drawing up its manifesto, working to woo like-minded parties, and conducting surveys to find acceptable candidates.

And after the AL's central triennial council, slated for December 24, the party will formally start its electioneering.

On the other hand, the BNP has been organising rallies and processions across the country for several months and vowing not to take part in the elections under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led administration.

The AL insiders think the BNP would ultimately participate in the polls no matter what they are saying now. The ruling party also thinks its preparation in advance will give them an edge in the polls.

Asked, Party Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah told this correspondent that his party was not giving any importance to the BNP's demands and threat for waging movement. "We are taking preparation for the next elections and we want to assume power by having the people's mandate."

Hasina 42nd

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ranked 36th and is among the six Indians who made it to the list.

As a mark of tribute, Iran's Jina Mahsa Amini was posthumously featured at 100th rank.

Since 2004, the American business magazine has been compiling annual lists of the 100 most powerful women in the world.

According to Forbes, the list is determined by four main metrics -- money, media, impact and spheres of influence.

About Sheikh Hasina, the magazine wrote that the longest-serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh is currently serving her fourth term, also her third consecutive one, after the Awami League won 288 of the 300 parliamentary seats.

Hasina further plans to focus on issues such as food security and access to education and healthcare, the magazine said when the list was unveiled on December 9.

"An ongoing struggle for Hasina has been establishing a firm democracy in Bangladesh," it added.

Kabir Bin Anwar

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January 3.

In another development, Nazmul Ahsan, chairman of Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla), became secretary to the water resources ministry, said another notification issued the public administration ministry.

World's first

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be the Arab world's first Moon mission.

UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum celebrated the launch as "part of the UAE's ambitious space program" in a tweet on Sunday.

"Our goal is to transfer knowledge, develop our capabilities, and leave a scientific footprint in human history," he said.

The UAE's Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre said a signal from the spacecraft had successfully been received by ground control.

Hakuto was one of five finalists in Google's Lunar XPrize competition to land a rover on the Moon before a 2018 deadline, which passed without a winner.

It's against democracy

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Hossain, human rights activist; Zafarullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra; Ali Imam Majumder, former cabinet secretary; Anu Muhammad, professor of economics; Shahdeen Malik, Supreme Court lawyer; Syeda Rizwana Hasan, environment activist; Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shujan; Shahidul Alam, renowned photographer; Asif Nazrul, professor of Dhaka University; and Nur Khan, rights activist.

VIOLATION OF PRIVACY IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL: ASK

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday condemned the police and ruling party men's checking of people's mobile phones during the BNP rally.

In a statement, ASK said that it received numerous allegations that the police violated road users' privacy by going through the content in their

phones including photos, messages and call history.

"It was discovered from media reports that police searched people's phones to try to ascertain if they were attending the BNP rally," reads the statement.

Quoting media reports, the statement said: "The Chhatra League activists detained 12 pedestrians and handed them over to the police. They allegedly assaulted some of them as well."

"The police, Chhatra League men, and the ruling party's leaders and activists were accused of harassing the public in Gazipur among other areas," it added.

Privacy is one of the fundamental rights of an individual recognised by the constitution, ASK said.

Actions that violate someone's privacy are unconstitutional, the statement added.

Estimated outlay jumps

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estimated cost of Tk 11,050.04 crore, the division asked RHD to recast it again early this year.

RHD last month resubmitted DPP again with an estimated cost of Tk 13,84.11 crore, of which Tk 11,082.52 crore is expected to come as a foreign loan, RHD officials said.

Meanwhile, RHD, under a project funded by Asian Development Bank, completed a feasibility study and detailed design of the project in December 2021, the sources said.

Contacted, Road Transport and Highway Division Secretary ABM Amin Ullah Nuri said they have received the DPP but he has to go through it for making comments about the cost increase.

The secretary, however, said the cost of the project may increase due to the increase in the cost of construction materials and land.

Asked whether India has confirmed funding, Nuri said: "I have to check before making comments on it."

Breakthrough raises hope

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needed to be monitored and confirmed in the next few months.

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is the most common kind of cancer in children and affects cells in the immune system, known as B cells and T cells, which fight and protect against viruses.

GOSH said Alyssa was the first patient known to have been given base-edited T cells, which involves chemically converting single nucleotide bases -- letters of the DNA code -- which carry instructions for a specific protein.

Researchers at GOSH and University College London helped develop the use of genome-edited T

cells to treat B-cell leukaemia in 2015.

But to treat some other types of leukaemia the team had to overcome the challenge that T cells designed to recognise and attack cancerous cells had ended up killing each other during the manufacturing process.

Multiple additional DNA changes were needed to the base-edited cells to allow them to target cancerous cells without damaging each other.

"This is a great demonstration of how, with expert teams and infrastructure, we can link cutting edge technologies in the lab with real results in the hospital for patients," said GOSH consultant immunologist and professor Waseem Qasim.