



Mithila goes from strength to strength

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mithila is having the time of her life as she recently received two major accolades at the Telangana Bengali Film Festival in Hyderabad. One was for her contribution to Bangla cinema on both sides of the border, the Maitree award, and another for her supporting role in *Maya*.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress talked about her experience in the film festival, and other recent ventures.

How does it feel to receive such prestigious international awards?

I am feeling extremely delighted. *Maya* was screened at the festival. I just went there to watch the film with everyone, and didn't think that I would get an award for it. I am happy that I got two awards in India.

How was your experience attending the festival?

I never watched any of my films in theatres. When *Omanush* was released in Bangladesh, I couldn't watch the film, because I was abroad for work. At this festival, for the first time, I got the chance to watch my film with all the judges and talented actors. People of other languages, including Telegu people, appreciated our film. It was overall a wonderful experience for me. I think, attending the festival as an actress in the film *Maya* was my main purpose.

"Maya" has not been released yet, right?

No, now the film is visiting different film festivals and is admired by critics and audiences. We plan to release the film in February.

Is it possible to evaluate yourself as an actress?

It's really tough to judge yourself. I don't think any artistes can do it. Only film critics and audiences have the right to do so.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMAL



Pori Moni's jersey only consolation for Brazil supporter Razz

Pori Moni is a staunch supporter of Argentina and the magical Lionel Messi.

Argentina scored a massive win against Croatia and the *Gunin* actress rightfully kept her promise by wearing the iconic yellow, beside a wry-smiling Razz.

Pori Moni posted a selfie where she is seen posing in a Brazil jersey with the biggest smile, while Razz is visibly moved by the gesture.

"I had promised Razz that if Argentina wins, I would wear the yellow jersey for my adorable Brazil supporter husband for 7 days straight. Here is the first day's picture. Enjoy," read the post.



'Boycott Pathaan' trends in India over gerua-clad Deepika

Besharam Rang, featuring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone, has been trending on YouTube since its release, already earning 30 million views.

However, not everyone is smitten with the *Pathaan* song, with many Indians calling for 'boycott' of the film. Some have cited the apparent 'vulgarity' of the song, and that it does not go with Indian culture. More radical views have cited Deepika's 'gerua' coloured attire as an insult, as the song itself is titled *Besharam Rang* (Shameless Colour).

Despite these protests, the song has already proved a huge success for the film, which will release in January 25, 2023.

NEWS

A light put out

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Pakistani occupation army and its auxiliary force Al-Badr from his Siddheswari home on December 15.

His body was recovered from Rayerbazar killing field on December 18.

"Dr Rabbee came back to his motherland just to serve his own people," said Dr Rabbee's sister Jinat Ara Rahman. "He upheld the spirit of the Liberation War, providing treatment, food and shelter to freedom fighters during the nine months of the war."

"The Pakistani occupational force knew what his leanings were and that's why they put him under surveillance. Yet he was never afraid of that and did not leave home despite the risks. We are very proud of him," she said.

Sensing imminent defeat, the Pakistan army along with their Bangalee collaborators, particularly the members of the notorious killing squad Al-Badr, had orchestrated a plan to eliminate the Bangalee intelligentsia — teachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other professionals.

This final atrocity was carried out to destroy the future of the newly independent country and maim the nation permanently by annihilating its brightest minds.

Born in September, 1932 at Chhatiani village in Pabna Sadar upazila, Dr Rabbee passed matriculation from Pabna Zilla

School in 1948 and ISC from Dhaka College in 1950 with outstanding results.

He completed his MBBS degree in 1955 from Dhaka Medical College under Dhaka University and secured a gold medal for his exceptional results. He went to England for higher studies in 1960, and got an MRCP degree in Cardiology in 1960 from Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and an MRCP degree in Internal Medicine from London in 1962.

Dr Rabbee worked in various hospitals in England including Hammersmith Hospital. Simultaneously, he carried out research on medicine. A number of his research articles were published in British medical journals. He came back to his motherland and joined Dhaka Medical College in 1963.

In 1970, he was nominated for the "Best Professor Award" in Pakistan, the first in the history of Pakistan. But he rejected it as an act of defiance against a fascist regime.

During the war, Dr Rabbee treated the injured freedom fighters from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and provided them with medicine and financial support he could hardly afford.

He diligently kept the identity of the freedom fighters secret while giving treatment and helped them use his personal car for their needs. His wife, Jahanara Rabbee, also

supported the freedom fighters.

Dr Rabbee's dream was to provide mass-oriented treatment (Gonomukhi Chikitsa), for which, he was arrested in 1970 while delivering a speech on it in the auditorium of the erstwhile IPGMR (now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University).

Prof Quazi Qamruzzaman, an Ekushey Padak winner who was also a doctor for the freedom fighters, said, "Dr Rabbee was an inspiration for all the doctors and medical students ... He had the dream to create a system that would deliver health services to each and every person."

To uphold his memory in his home district, Martyred Intellectual Dr Fazle Rabbee Foundation has been urging the government to rename Pabna Medical College after him since 2008.

"We have submitted a proposal to the health ministry with the signatures of thousands of people. People have organised human chains to press home the demand, but no visible step has been taken yet," said Fazle Shahran Bipu, coordinator of the foundation established in 1996.

Abdul Matin Khan, a renowned cultural organiser in Pabna, said, "We are proud of his sacrifice, but we are unfortunate that we cannot honour his contribution to the nation and his supreme sacrifice. It is a shame."

Dr Rabbee is survived by a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.

Power import from Adani plant delayed

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complete, as per the latest monthly progress report of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB).

PDB is now expecting to import power from the commercial operation date in March next year.

As per the agreement signed in

2017, Adani Power would supply 1,496 MW of electricity for 25 years from December 2021.

Because of the pandemic, the Adani Group subsidiary pushed the start date by six months. The power plant was expected to start commercial operation in August.

The dedicated transmission line of the power plant, which stretches 105.90 kilometres (km) from the power plant to Bangladesh's border and 29.5 km from there to the national grid, was completed last August, it was said by the PDB earlier.

Desecrated by illegal structures

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Sadek Khan and his son Fahim Sadek Khan, a former vice-president of AL's Mohammadpur thana unit.

Their supporters were the ones who extort money from the businesses, they also said.

According to nursery owners, they each had to pay around Tk 5,000-10,000 per month.

If this is true, the land grabbers are likely to earn around Tk 5-6 lakh every month from the nurseries alone.

"When I set up my nursery here in 2018, I used to pay Tk 4,000. For the last two years, I've been paying Tk 5,000," said Shah Alam, owner of Shariatpur Garden Centre.

Three other nursery owners said the same.

Meanwhile, local truck drivers said union leaders regularly collect money from them in order to keep the illegal parking lots operational, which accommodated over 400 trucks.

Noshu Miah, president of the inter-district truck drivers' union

(Mohammadpur unit), said they have been parking on the land for the last three years because the mayor allowed them to do so after evicting them from Lautala, which was also used for illegal parking.

"We admit that people are suffering due to the illegal parking. Considering that, the mayor this year asked us to park the trucks where the nurseries are located. But the local lawmaker Sadek Khan did not allow us to do so as his supporters collected money from the nursery owners," he added.

Contacted, Sadek Khan said he did not know if his followers collected money from the nursery owners. "The land belongs to WDB and I have requested the mayor to evict the illegal structures."

Fahim Sadek Khan also refuted the allegations and said "I come from a well-to-do family. I don't need to grab land. The local AL leaders might've used their influence to build the illegal structures."

He did, however, hear about party

members collecting money in his name.

Speaking on the matter, DNCC Chief Estate Officer Dr Mohammad Mahay Alam, said, "No one sought permission from us, nor did we verbally permit anyone to construct any illegal structures over there. We'll start evicting those illegal occupants soon."

ML Shaikat, WDB (Dhaka Division 2) executive engineer, said, "We have listed 1,500 illegal structures including those built along the Boddho Bhumi. We are currently unable to conduct eviction drives due to budget constraints."

Md Imrul, assistant commissioner (traffic) of police, Mohammadpur zone, declined to make a comment on why their office was built on WDB land without permission.

Alamin Rahman, general secretary of DNCC's ward 34 BCL unit, said the leaders of previous committees may have built the office there. "We don't use it. It is currently in an abandoned state."

Jamaat just won't stop

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international investigation into the killings of intellectuals, he said the current government also did not want to carry out the probe because it might unveil involvement of its predecessors.

While presiding over the discussion, Jamaat leader Nurul Islam Bulbul said Dhaka was besieged two days before independence and the freedom fighters controlled the city.

Jamaat-e-Islami actively opposed the birth of this nation and aided and abetted Pakistani forces in committing genocide and crimes against humanity.

The International Crimes

Tribunal in the verdict against Ghulam Azam, Jamaat ameer during the war, observed that Jamaat-e-Islami, as a political party under the leadership of accused Prof Ghulam Azam, functioned as a criminal organisation during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Ten top leaders of Jamaat, including its Ameer Matur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, were executed after being found guilty by the International Crimes Tribunal for the crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Days before victory, the best sons of the soil were taken away and brutally murdered to cripple this

budding nation. The Pakistan army and their local collaborators — peace committees, Razakar, Al Badr, Al Shams — carried out the murders.

Bodies of many were found at the Rayerbazar killing field. Some were never found.

Pay Tk 10 lakh

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asking the government and Shyamoli NR Paribahan to explain why they should not be directed to give Tk 1.71 crore as compensation to the seven victims of the accident.

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar represented the state during hearing.

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cardholders in all metropolitan cities and other areas of the country since August to make the items affordable for low-income people.

The sales activities are conducted from designated shops and other establishments with the overall cooperation of city corporations as well as district and upazila administrations on a scheduled routine.

Talking to reporters in Rangpur, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday said the government would continue selling essentials at subsidised rates through TCB to the one crore families as long as they need the help.

The prices of imported goods like pulse, oil and sugar have gone up a little in the local market due to their high rates in the international market.

This situation may persist in the next two to three months, the minister added.

Also at yesterday's meeting, the cabinet committee on government purchase approved the import of one crore tonnes of Muriate of Potash fertiliser from Canada.

The purchase price of each tonne of MOP will be \$655.03, which was \$679.65 before.

The committee also approved the import of 30,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser from the UAE for \$518.33 per

tonne. It was \$553.33 previously.

The government has been buying fertilisers for weeks to provide the vital agricultural input to farmers at low prices amid the elevated price level everywhere.

Besides, the committee approved a joint venture road development project for the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. The Tk 1,085.34 crore project has been awarded to CHSIETC of China, SLGC of China and PDL of Bangladesh.

Another Tk 49.86 crore project for purchasing equipment for the terminal and different yards at Chattogram Port was approved yesterday. The job is given to China's Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries.