

Want to live peacefully for our son

PORI MONI

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Amidst talks of separation, Pori Moni was suddenly seen with her husband Sariful Razz again. The *Guni* actress talked to The Daily Star about that and the upcoming movie, and personal life as well. Her film, *Adventure of Sundarban*, hits theatres on January 20.

How excited are you about the release of your new film?

For three consecutive years, my films are being released at the beginning of the new year. It's such a huge thing for an artiste, to begin the new year with the love and affection of my fans.

What kind of sacrifices did you make for 'Adventure of Sundarban'?

Throughout my film career, I never had to cut my hair for any movies, but for *Adventure of Sundarban*, I had to sacrifice my beautiful long hair. This is a huge deal for me, as I really love my black voluminous hair a lot. When the directors and producer asked me to cut my hair- I told them 'no' at point blank, and straight-up rejected the film. However, after reading the script, I changed my mind. It broke my heart, but the script allured me.

What kind of new experiences did you face while shooting for the film?

The movie was being shot during the pandemic, and at that time we were shooting in a ship. We were really worried about whether we can continue shooting for the film amidst such a scary situation. This was such a huge experience for me. The whole team stuck together for one month straight, and we become a big family.

Tell us about the role you play.

Tisha is such a beautiful character; you can't help but fall in love with her bubbly demeanor. I have read



Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's novel numerous times, before signing up for the film. Tisha can easily make you her own with her smile.

How was the experience promoting 'Adventure of Sundarban' at a college?

It was unbelievably cold in the morning, but I was simply taken in by the warm and beautiful reception by the students at the BAF Shaheen College. I literally wanted to stay in line with the students at the ground. I also took Rajya with me at the college which was quite special for me.

How is Siam as a co-artist?

Siam is a wonderful person and a true gentleman. I am sure audiences will love our chemistry again in the silver screen.

There has been news about Razz and your separation. Why did you decide to stay together?

We are living together under one roof after 3 days of that incident. Please do pray for us. We want to live peacefully for our son, Rajya, he is our love and our life.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



Women-led plots can do well: BADHAN

Azmeri Haque Badhan starrer *Guti* released on Chorki yesterday, and a press conference was held to commemorate it.

In the conference, the *Rehana Maryam Noor* famed actress said, "I play the role of a drug dealer named Sultana. Many say that women-led projects in Bangladesh don't sell. But I don't want to hear this rhetoric anymore. I believe that this perception around female stars will change in the next one or two years," while praising the director, Shankha Dasgupta.

Guti, which stars Nasir Uddin Khan, Shahriar Nazim Joy and Sharif Siraj among others, is already being praised for its story and presentation.

'Alia Bhatt should be nominated for Oscars'



Recently, "Loki" star Sophia Di Martino, Robin Baker from the British Film Institute National Archive heaped praise on actress Alia Bhatt, over her performance in "Gangubai Kathiawadi".

Taking to Instagram, Robin penned a note saying he was moved by Alia's acting skills in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial. In his note, he also said that Alia should be nominated at the British Academy Film Awards and Oscars for her performance in "Gangubai Kathiawadi". "If I was a member of BAFTA or the Academy (I'm not), this year I would be voting for Alia Bhatt as Best Actress for her performance in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'."

NEWS

NHRC team finds proof of arson

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Alam, its Deputy Director Mohammad Gazi Salauddin, and Assistant Director Md Robiul Islam.

Around a dozen homes in Lama upazila's Rengyan Mro Para village were torched and vandalised by unidentified attackers in the early hours of Monday.

The victims alleged that the attack was carried out by people of a rubber plantation, Lama Rubber Industries Limited, to drive them away from the area. The company, however, denied the claim and said the indigenous people were building houses on its allocated land.

While visiting the area, the NHRC team spoke to the victims as part of its probe.

Village chief Rengain Mro, who was also a victim, said, "Over 100 people of the plantation came to our village on six trucks and began attacking."

"They torched and vandalised at least six houses, ransacked several others and also looted our valuables."

He added, "We are still spending our days in fear of further attacks."

Another victim, Sing Chang Mro said, "The company people are continuously torturing us with the aim to evict us from our land. They torched our rubber garden, crops and houses. We are helpless."

Chomraw Mro said, "Jhum cultivation is our main source of income. The company people are repeatedly torching our crops and homes."

Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Lama Police Station, was also present at the spot during the NHRC visit.

"After the incident, we have kept the area under our surveillance. Police patrol has been beefed up. We are working to keep the situation under control," he told reporters there, adding, "We will take necessary legal action against the attackers after investigation."

No representative of the rubber plantation was present there at the time.

Contacted, it's Manager Kamal Uddin denied the allegations and

said they have no involvement in any such attacks.

"We don't know who carried out the attack on the Mro community. They are bringing the allegations against us but those are not true," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"We want to maintain a good relationship with them."

The people of three villages -- Rengyan Mro Para, Langkom Mro Para and Joychandra Tripura Para, which are next to one another -- depend on jhum cultivation as their main source of income.

The villagers alleged that the company's employees on April 26 last year torched crops on over 300 acres, which belongs to them.

Meanwhile, the attacks outraged eminent citizens and rights bodies, who expressed concerns and demanded punishment to the perpetrators.

According to media reports, the villagers also alleged that miscreants poisoned a small stream of water in the hills of Rengyan Mro Para on September 6.

Putin orders 36-hr

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Black Sea.

The ceasefire order came a day after Moscow lifted its reported toll in its worst single reported loss from a Ukrainian strike to 89 dead.

Ukraine's military strategic communications unit has said nearly 400 Russian soldiers died in the town of Makiivka in eastern Ukraine, held by pro-Russian forces. Even Russian commentators have said the death toll may be far higher than the Kremlin's figures.

The deadly Makiivka strike came after months of discontent within Russia towards the military following a series of battlefield defeats and a hugely unpopular mobilisation drive. As Moscow grapples with the aftermath of the strike, the head of the Wagner mercenary outfit said the first group of Russian prisoners offered an amnesty in return for fighting in Ukraine had been released.

Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin appeared in a video released Thursday speaking to a gathering of men -- some injured and whose faces were blurred.

\$270,000

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For years, the top bid came from self-proclaimed "Tuna King" Kiyoshi Kimura, who paid a record \$3.1 million in 2019.

But in recent years, Kimura has held back, citing the pandemic.

Confiscate assets

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the case with Kafrul Police Station against Tarique, his wife Zubaida and her mother Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu for amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means and concealing the information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against the three with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on March 31, 2009.

Earlier, Tarique was sentenced to life in jail in the August 21 grenade attack cases. He was also sentenced on different terms of punishment in two other cases, including the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Kabir at AL office

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Since then, no one was appointed to his post in the AL.

Imam too was from Sirajganj.

According to party insiders, the room used by Imam had been padlocked but was cleaned yesterday and portraits of Bangabandhu and Hasina were placed on the wall.

Yesterday, Kabir spent some time there and talked to party leaders.

The developments sparked rumours and conversations among the AL rank and file whether Kabir will be HT Imam's successor in the AL.

AL leaders, however, were tight-lipped. They only said that Kabir would act according to Hasina's wishes.

Sources said he met the AL chief at the Gono Bhaban on Wednesday.

He was appointed cabinet secretary on December 11 and retired only after 19 working days.

He was the shortest serving cabinet secretary. Earlier, Kamal Uddin Siddique served for 34 days in

2002 and Abu Solaiman Chowdhury for 93 days in 2006.

Sources said many bureaucrats were surprised to see Kabir retire as they firmly believed Kabir would get an extension.

Talking to reporters on January 3, Kabir hinted that there may be a better position waiting for him.

Two BNP men

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under the Police Assault and Explosives Act against 45 named and 150 to 200 unnamed people the next day.

On November 22, the High Court granted bail to all 43 accused for six weeks. They appeared in the lower court yesterday as their bail expired.

Rubel Ahmed Chowdhury, general secretary of district Chhatra Dal, claimed the case filed by the police was a false one and the court is denying bail despite the fact that the accused have been charged with bailable offences.

Ctg port halts release

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has been sent to the NBR for its opinion on the C&F agent's application on behalf of the former MP's family members. Further steps will be taken upon receiving the opinion."

According to an NBR official, the opportunity to import cars duty-free is given to MPs to carry out their parliamentary duties.

"As per law, it is not possible to redeem this facility, as the car will not be used for parliamentary duties," said the NBR official preferring anonymity.

He also said a letter was sent to the law ministry seeking its opinion on the application of the former MP's family members on November 17.

However, the law ministry is yet to respond to that letter.

Contacted, Joint Secretary (Opinion) of the Law and Justice Department Umme Kulsum told The Daily Star, "We will convey the ministry's opinion in writing to the NBR. And we cannot share it publicly before informing the NBR first."

Meanwhile, on condition of anonymity, another law ministry official said the NBR has the authority to grant duty exemptions under special circumstances under Section 20 of the Customs Act, 1969.

The official said the NBR exercised

this power in 2019 when it granted the facility to the former finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith at a time when he was not an MP.

The official also claimed that they spoke about the matter with the NBR so the latter could make its own decision.

However, a top NBR official told The Daily Star that they drew a lot of flak after the 2019 incident, adding that they did not want to face a similar backlash.

"This time, we want to avoid doing what we did in 2019. That's why we sought the ministry's opinion to settle the matter as per law," he said.

Contacted, Navana Ltd Assistant General Manager Ripon Prakash Das said, "We have applied to the ministry, NBR, and Customs for the duty-free facility to release the car as it has been lying at the port for nearly three and a half months."

He said if released, the vehicle could be used by family members of the deceased MP.

It may be noted that official vehicles are available to MPs for five years at a time and can be kept for personal use after paying the duty initially waived.

The Daily Star tried to reach the family of Sajeda for comments but failed despite repeated attempts.

HC summons

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case, but the judge refused as his court hours had ended, Tushar said.

The lawyers then started shouting in the courtroom and scolded the judge and the court officials, prompting the judge to send a letter to the Supreme Court registrar general seeking a necessary decision to this effect, he said.

Tushar added that documents, including footage of the incident, have been sent to the SC registrar general's office.

On November 15 last year, the same HC bench blasted and rebuked Pirojpur Public Prosecutor Khan Md Alaaddin for misbehaving and threatening the district's chief judicial magistrate in the courtroom during the proceedings of a criminal case on July 25.

Meanwhile, footage of the lawyers misbehaving with the judge went viral on social media.

The lawyers, who have been boycotting the court of the judge since January 1, yesterday noon announced that they would continue their programme until Monday, alleging that the judge made offensive remarks against all lawyers and lawyers' association.

During a protest rally in front of the association building, they also demanded withdrawal of the judge, and District Judge Sharmin Nigar and Nazir (court official) Mominul Islam Chowdhury.

On Wednesday, the judiciary employees' association observed a work abstention, protesting the misbehaviour with Judge Faruque.

The judicial proceedings of all courts in Brahmanbaria remained suspended due to the boycotts, putting the litigants in trouble.

[Our Brahmanbaria correspondent contributed to this report.]