

DOLLY ZAHUR

A lifetime of acting excellence

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As a National Award-winning Bangladeshi actor and television personality, Dolly Zahur is a household name in the media industry. She gained a lot of popularity for the character *Nilu* in the drama serial *Eishob Din Ratri* by Humayun Ahmed, a performance that was considered a breakthrough for her career in television.

Recently, the winners of the National Film Award were announced, and Dolly Zahur is said to be receiving the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for her contributions to the film industry.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Dolly Zahur talked about her journey in the showbiz world and more.

It has been reported that you will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Film Awards in 2021.

I have heard that too. People are already congratulating me. I will receive the award jointly with actor Ilias Kanchan. This is one of the biggest achievements in my acting career, and I want to thank the government for choosing me. I don't know if I deserve such a great honour, but I am grateful to those who thought I was worthy. There are many more artistes who deserve it. I hope they will receive such an honour too. I am overwhelmed with everyone's love.

When you started acting 50 years ago, did you imagine that you would receive such recognition and love from the people?

No. I always loved acting, that's why I started acting at a very young age. However, when I started acting after the independence of the country, there was nothing more I could ask for.

You have passed the golden era of television, when you were active on small

screen. What's your opinion on the current state of the television industry?

It's not fair to compare the present to the past because so much has changed in the last few years. When we started acting, there were the best directors, screenwriters, and producers who invested in those teledramas. We also had just one TV channel back then. Even so, the dramas that were made at that time were loved by people. Some of them are truly timeless.

However, the scenario has completely changed now. People have so many channels and options for entertainment that it's hard to keep the audience satisfied.

You have worked with Sharmili Ahmed on numerous television fictions and films. Tell us about her.

I won't be able to finish talking if I start. When I was with her, I used to forget the absence of my mother. She never let me feel my mother's absence. I used to call her *didi*. She was very close to my heart, and I cried a lot when she passed away. It feels like a strong shade over my head was taken away from me after she died.

When I was sick, she used to call me every day and bring foods for me. Not many people can make these sweet gestures. I miss her so much.

Is an artiste's thirst ever satisfied?

It never ends. It always feels like I could do better.



Walter White 'revived' for Super Bowl commercial



Bryan Cranston once again donned Heisenberg's famous black hat clutching a bag of PopCorners chips. According to Ad Age, the Instagram post is apparently a teaser for an upcoming Super Bowl ad. It is for this ad, that the Walter White character is being revived.

The last time Cranston could be seen in the role of Walter White, was during the final season of *Better Call Saul*, which aired in 2022.

Fans will finally be able to see how Cranston's return as Walter White manifests, once the commercial airs on February 12 during the Super Bowl.

Manoj Bajpayee's Twitter account hacked

Manoj Bajpayee's Twitter was hacked and the actor warned his fans through an Instagram post.

The actor wrote, "My Twitter account has been hacked! Please do not engage with anything that comes from my profile today, until the issue is resolved. Working towards a resolution. I will keep you posted. Thank you."

On the work front, the *Family Man* actor was last seen in a song called *Kudi Meri* alongside actors Abhimanyu Dassani and Dhvani Bhanushali which got good response from the audiences.



NEWS

Politicians failed

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh, the AL leader also said that there is no alternative to Sheikh Hasina for continuing the country's development.

"Sheikh Hasina inaugurated 100 bridges in one day, but in politics we could not build any bridge. This is the reality."

He said, "We should have a political relationship. Democracy cannot survive like this."

A strong opposition party is needed to strengthen democracy, but some parties have surrendered time and again to a corrupt political party of the country, he said, adding, "Bad politics produces bad politicians."

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said bad politicians keep bad politics alive and that is exactly happening in Bangladesh.

About the formation of an alliance, led by Dr Kamal Hossain, before 11th Jatiya Sangsad elections, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddique said, "Forging the alliance under the leadership of Dr Kamal Hossain was the biggest

mistake of my life."

"I don't have an elder sister; Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has fulfilled that lack of elder sister. As long as Bangladesh exists, the spirit of the Liberation War should remain upheld," he said.

Talking at the programme, JP Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju said there would be conflict and opposition in politics.

He added that steps would have to be taken to resist plotters of own party as well as from other parties.

AL Advisory Council member Amir Hossain Amu, also coordinator and spokesperson for the 14-party alliance, Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Dilip Barua, general secretary of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, and Sheikh Shahidul Islam, general secretary of JP, among others, also spoke.

At the council, Manju and Shahidul were unanimously elected chairman and secretary general of Jatiya Party respectively for the next three years, BSS reports.

Transport services

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around 9:00am, said Shah Md Khaled Newaz, deputy general manager (Aricha regional office) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation. "We had to suspend ferry services to avoid accidents on the waterways due to dense fog," he said.

Around 200 vehicles were stuck at the Aricha and Paturia points due to the suspension.

Passengers and transport operators, who were stranded in the middle of the Padma and Jamuna due to dense fog, also faced immense suffering.

Meanwhile, cold-hit people, especially from the low-income groups, are facing a double blow due to a shortage of winter clothes.

"I can't leave home in this bitter cold. I don't have warm clothes. We are trying to keep ourselves warm by burning straws inside our homes. It will be difficult for us to survive if this weather continues," said Soleman Ali, 58, a day labourer from the Jatrapur area in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

"I went to the maize field to work around 9:00am. But I could stay in the field only for 30 minutes as it was too cold," said Mahidul Islam, 48, a farmer from Char Gokunda in Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila.

Contacted, the district administration officials said they were distributing blankets among the poor.

WEATHER FORECAST

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the districts of Tangail, Faridpur, Manikgonj, Jashore, Chuadanga, Satkhira, and Kushtia and it may abate from some places, said a weather bulletin.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country from midnight to morning and it may continue till noon at places on Monday, it added.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) released the bulletin at 6:00pm last evening for the next 24 hours.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country. Night and day temperature may rise slightly over the country, it added.

Yesterday's lowest temperature was recorded at 7.8 degree Celsius in Jashore and Chuadanga, the bulletin added.

(Our Lalmonirhat correspondent also contributed to this report.)

They shouldn't comment

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Price said the US will be watching Bangladesh's next parliamentary elections closely and it supports constructive actions for a genuine electoral process that is peaceful and transparent.

"We welcome the words of Sheikh Hasina and her government that they want free and fair elections. We welcome those words but most importantly we are going to be watching that those words are ultimately matched with corresponding actions."

Price said the US looks forward to better understanding how Bangladesh government will work to ensure that the elections are carried out the way they should be, in a manner that is

genuine, transparent and peaceful.

He said the next parliamentary elections are a bit away, but the US supports constructive actions that Bangladesh can take ahead of the polls to carry out a genuine electoral process.

He said they hear incidents of violence, intimidation, harassment of politicians, independent voices, of opposition party members and have raised concerns about those. The US ambassador in Bangladesh is doing an extraordinary job, he stands up for values that are core of the US – human rights, democracy, freedom, and openness.

In response to a query, Foreign Minister Momen said, "Less than 50 percent of people in the US vote while the figure is minimum 72-73 percent

in Bangladesh. The election here is very participatory, spontaneous and festive. There is nothing to hide with elections in Bangladesh. Any country can observe."

Stating that no one needs to teach Bangladesh a lesson on democracy, Momen said, "This country was born to establish democracy, human rights and justice. We fought for human rights. Every citizen has these ideals in their veins. We don't need to be advised by others. Let them look in the mirror."

He said, "We have promised that the next election will be transparent, beautiful, acceptable and with everyone. My party believes in the motto of 'I will vote for whoever I want'."

Give DB, CTTC authority to probe

FROM PAGE 1
The demands were made at a closed-door meeting with Law Minister Anisul Huq, State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain, and State Minister for Housing & Public Works Sharif Ahmed on the sixth day of Police Week-2023.

At the meeting, the DMP chief requested the enactment of a law and a speedy tribunal to maintain religious harmony.

A highly placed source has disclosed the meeting minutes to The Daily Star.

Gazi Mozammel, additional deputy inspector of police, at the meeting said the existing residence of the Inspector General of Police does not go with his status. He demanded a bigger residence for the police chief and requested that the IGP's residence be allocated to the DMP commissioner.

Meanwhile, an additional inspector general demanded an act specifically for the prevention of river-related crimes, such as river grabbing or the dumping of bodies.

A high official of the Police Headquarters has demanded that the budget for the police be increased in keeping with the national budget.

Farooque Ahmed, additional deputy inspector general (Organisation and Management) of the PHQ, demanded the formation of a separate police unit to deal with cybercrimes.

He also demanded the creation of 10 additional inspector general posts for grade I.

Presently, the Special Branch chief

and additional inspector general (admin) of the PHQ are holding grade-I designations.

At the meeting, a CID high official demanded amending the gambling act and increasing the penalty.

Section 3 of the Public Gambling Act, 1867, stipulates punishment for owning or keeping, or having charge of a common gaming house with a fine not exceeding Tk 200, or with the imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding three months.

The CID official further demanded making a digital prosecution system, according to a meeting source.

Speaking to the ministers, a district superintendent of police requested financial aid for civil witnesses in court.

The officer further said that some police officers have to appear in court as witnesses even after the end of their tenure.

He also requested financial aid for retired police officials.

Satkhira SP Kazi Sharifuzzaman demanded a separate building on court premises to preserve evidence.

Again, an increase in the IGP's expenditure limit to Tk 50 crore from the existing Tk five crore was also sought since the post is equivalent to a senior secretary.

After police officials placed their demands, all three ministers, in their speeches addressing the officials, said the demands were logical and they will look into them.

Police high officials then held a meeting with the new Cabinet

Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain at the Rajarbagh Police Auditorium.

They asked him for a separate division to expedite police work and demanded that all the additional inspector general posts be elevated to grade-I, according to sources.

In response, Mahbub said he joined only five days ago (January 3). "I do not know about these issues too clearly ... I will look into them."

Stay alert

FROM PAGE 2
He asked the Bangladesh missions to be prompt and proactive in dealing with rumours and misinformations and report any such activities to the ministry in Dhaka.

Masud also asked the Bangladesh missions to take strong measures to curb hundi (a cross-border money transfer method that bypasses the legal banking system) so that remittance inflow increases, and to attract foreign direct investments and promote Bangladesh's exports.

Webb reveals Milky

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researchers, including those from the University of Texas at Austin.

These bars play an important role in the evolution of galaxies by funnelling gas into their central regions and boosting star formation, according to a study accepted for publication in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.