

Becoming Tuni

Tasnova Tamanna wins National Film Award for ‘Nonajoler Kabbo’

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Tasnova Tamanna has become the talk of the town, after she was announced as the winner of the ‘Best Actress’ category in the National Film Awards 2021—for her outstanding performance in Rezwan Shahriar Sumit’s directorial debut, *Nonajoler Kabbo*.

In the film, she portrayed Tuni, who hails from an environment that restricts women from raising their voices. “Tuni has a strong and resilient persona, and knows how to stand up for herself,” shared the actress, who finds a resemblance of Tuni in her own personality.

Tasnova Tamanna was supposed to make her film debut with the Rasel Ahmed’s feature film, *Nree*, which was unfortunately cancelled after the sudden demise of the director on May 15, 2017. “I have to mention his name, because I am

grateful to him as an artiste, and I have learnt a lot from him,” asserts the actress, who recently had her first theatre performance in the play, *Adom Surat* at Aly Zaker Notuner Utshob 2023.

Later, Tasnova would be seen in Abdullah Mohammad Saad’s *Live from Dhaka*, marking her debut. Moreover, she has also acted and been an assistant director in numerous short films.

On the question of whether she wants to focus on being a director, she responded saying directing is a huge responsibility that she presently does not want to undertake. For now, she wants to concentrate on acting.

“I love exploring the roles which are realistic,” she added, “They might seem easy, yet, they are challenging and connecting at the same time.”

After achieving the most prestigious award in film industry, the actress feels the need to hone her skills even further.

After she donned the role of Rehana, an urban character in *Live from Dhaka*, Tasnova had to go through both psychological and physical transformations to become Tuni from *Nonajoler Kabbo*.

“Tuni

was more challenging for me to adopt than Rehana,” she claimed. “To bring colour to Tuni’s personality on the screen, I had to stay with the fishing community and absorb their way of walking, talking and everything for quite a long time.”

As an ending note, Tasnova shared that she aims to perfect her art in such a way, that she can ensure a place in the hearts of audiences.



Coke Studio Bangla back with season two

Coke Studio Bangla began their journey last year, creating a worldwide phenomenon with their intricate musical compositions.

This year, they aim to return with a new season, which they have already announced on social media—accompanied by a teaser for what’s to come.

The programme unveiled their new logo, writing “After a long wait we are back with a new season and new songs. Are you ready for #CokeStudioBangla #Season2?”

Recently, streaming platform Spotify has come to terms with Coke Studio Bangla, allowing fans to stream the Bangla rendition of Coke Studio on the app.

‘Saturday Afternoon’ release delayed

On January 21, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki’s *Saturday Afternoon* (Shonibar Bikel) finally received a verbal clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, after four years. However, the film has not received the official clearance certificate, which will let Farooki release the movie in theatres.

Yesterday, Farooki took to his official Facebook account to say that *Saturday Afternoon* will not be releasing on February 3, as they had not gotten the official certificate. However, the director stated that while those trying to stop the film releasing can delay it, they cannot crush his spirit.

NEWS

PM to attend LDC5 in Qatar next month

FROM PAGE 12

some of the trade privileges, which the country has been enjoying as an LDC member. Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate out of LDCs in 2026.

Hasina is likely to visit Japan in early April, after the trip was postponed in November last year.

“Foreign offices of Bangladesh and Japan are working to fix the date,” Seheli said.

A foreign ministry official told this correspondent that Japan wants Hasina to visit in late March or early April – the cherry blossom season. Dhaka is considering early April as many events centring Bangladesh’s Independence Day take place in the country in March.

Seheli further said the PM is

likely to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10 at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bangladesh is the only country from South Asia invited by India to attend the summit and will have the scope to voice out its national and regional concerns that need support of the G20 countries to be addressed.

Some of those include the Rohingya crisis, economic strains created by the Russia-Ukraine war, climate change-induced displacement, technology transfer for renewable energy, and funding for climate adaptation, ministry officials said.

Ahead of the summit, Foreign

Minister AK Abdul Momen will be visiting New Delhi in March to attend the G20 foreign minister-level meeting, while the Indian foreign secretary will be visiting Dhaka in February as part of the preparation for the summit.

Meanwhile, Queen Mathilde of Belgium will be visiting Bangladesh on February 6-8.

She is one of the 17 advocates for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

During her visit, she is expected to call on President Md Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and to visit the Cox’s Bazar Rohingya camps, a garment factory and some projects working on the mitigation of flood impacts.

Cost goes up by Tk 1.5 lakh

FROM PAGE 1

cost will not be below the minimum rate, he added.

Last year, the minimum cost of hajj under the private agencies was Tk 5.22 lakh.

Shahadat said the cost was raised because of the current airfare, rent in Saudi Arabia, service charges, Muallem fees, and the prices of Zamzam water, food and other things.

The new exchange rate of Saudi Riyal, 15 percent VAT on all charges, and imposition of taxes by the Saudi authority are also the

reasons why the minimum cost increased, he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the government set the minimum cost at Tk 6.83 lakh under the government management, around Tk 1.61 lakh more than the previous year.

Depending on the moon sighting, hajj will be held on July 27. People aged 65 or more will be allowed to perform hajj this year.

The registration of private hajj pilgrims will start from February 6, Shahadat said, requesting them to either deposit the entire amount to

the bank accounts of the agents or directly pay the agency and save the receipt.

The pilgrims’ passports should be valid until December 27, he added.

Health exams, meningitis and influenza vaccination certificates will be required for every pilgrim, he also said.

In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj. However, due to the Covid pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation was held on a limited scale in 2020 and 2021.

Neanderthals hunted massive elephants

FROM PAGE 12

less mobile and formed social units “substantially larger than commonly envisaged.”

“Neanderthals were not simple slaves of nature, original hippies living off the land,” Roebroeks said.

“They were actually shaping their environment, by fire... and also by having a big impact on the biggest animals that

were around in the world at that time.”

The researchers determined the elephants had been hunted – and not just scavenged – because of the age and sex profile of the remains found in the quarry.

Most of them were males and there were few young or old ones.

“It’s a typical selection made by hunters who went for the biggest prey,”

Roebroeks said.

Adult male elephants would have been easier to hunt than females, who tend to move in herds protecting their young.

The researchers said the Neanderthals were able to preserve the huge quantities of food provided by a single elephant and it would sustain them for months.

Hit by bike, JU student

FROM PAGE 12

from his home in Bogura, was crossing a road near Mowlana Bhasani Hall. The motorcycle hit him from behind, said a witness.

“He received serious injuries to his head. He was rushed to the medical facility on the campus immediately,” he said.

Later, he was referred to Enam

Medical College Hospital.

Contacted, Rakib Ahmed, chairman of the journalism department, who was attending Zahid at the hospital, said, “He received injuries in his skull. He is not out of danger.

“He is under supervision, and an MRI test will be performed on him soon. A CT scan has been done already and we are yet to get the

report,” he said.

According to witnesses, the motorcyclist was a student of the 45th batch of the philosophy department who fled the scene after the accident.

ASM Firoz Ul Hasan, proctor at the university, said he was going to visit Zahid at the hospital soon.

“Students need to be more careful while driving motorcycles,” he said.

Students asked to leave campus

FROM PAGE 12

and boycotted classes and exams as the administration did not comply with their demand.

The institute’s academic activities were suspended from then till

January this year.

The CU administration held several discussions, while Education Minister Dipu Moni met with the protesting students. However, none of it brought forth

any solution.

The students returned to classes on January 23 on some conditions. They, however, started demonstrating again from last Tuesday,

LPG price sees steep increase

FROM PAGE 12

Jakaria Jalal, head of the division at Basundhara LP Gas, earlier told The Daily Star that they had to spend Tk 250 more per cylinder from January because of the inflated rate in the

international market.

“There was a disruption in the supply chain as we were unable to open letters of credit. The middlemen exploited the situation,” he said on Wednesday.

As per the BERC decision, the

price of LPG used for motor vehicles also increased to Tk 69.71 per litre, including VAT, from the previous Tk 57.41 per litre, up by Tk 12.3 per litre.

The new prices came into effect yesterday evening.

Intern nurses continue work abstention

FROM PAGE 12

on Tuesday.

Agitating nurses staged a protest rally in front of the hospital gate yesterday morning.

They demanded to make the hospital free from outsiders and brokers.

“There are over 500 nursing students who are getting training from the staff nurses as part of their academic activities. We are often harassed by outsiders and brokers. The students are now concerned about their safety,” said Jahid Hossain, president of the BDSNU.

“We will continue our work abstention programme until the authorities concerned fulfil our eight-point demand,” said Shahin Alam, secretary BDSNU.

Giving a 72-hour ultimatum, Shahin also said that they would go for a tougher movement if attacker Saddam and his men were not arrested immediately.

Contacted, Omor Faruk Meer, assistant director of Pabna 250-bed General Hospital, said they were trying to solve the issue.

“We have talked to police and

local administration for arresting the culprits,” he added.

Kripa Shindhu Bala, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station, said they were trying to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, the protest programme has been causing immense suffering to the patients for the last three days.

Staff nurses are not enough to manage the huge number of patients at the hospital, said Akhtar Banu Poppy, nursing supervisor of the hospital.

“We are still trying our best,” she said.

major tourism draw in the past.

“This is the fifth day of the siege on Jericho,” governor Jihad Abu al- Assal told AFP.

Israel’s army told AFP it had boosted its forces in the area and “inspections were increased at the city’s entrances and exits”.

An AFP correspondent said cars were backed up at entrances to the city, with checks to get in and out of the city often taking hours.

Meanwhile, in Gaza, activists rallied in support of women prisoners held by Israel after far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees prisons, said he would push ahead with plans to toughen

conditions for Palestinian prisoners.

Ben-Gvir has vowed a crackdown on “benefits and indulgences” offered to Palestinian prisoners and ordered amenities including prisoner-operated bread ovens in some prisons to be curtailed.

Hamas official Mushir Al-Masri, who attended the rally, told Reuters the latest Ben Gvir decisions “added fuel to the fire”.

“The issue of prisoners has always been on the agenda of the Palestinian resistance, and the screams by female prisoners inside the jails of the Zionist enemy risk a tough confrontation in which the Palestinian resistance will not stand handcuffed,” said Masri.