

## Couldn't have had a better silver screen debut

TASNIA FARIN

SHARMIN JOYA

Within a short span of her career, Tasnia Farin has shown her acting prowess with numerous television and OTT projects. Recently, the actress made her silver screen debut with the Tollywood film, *Aro Ek Prithibi*, directed by Atanu Ghosh. The film was released in Kolkata on February 3.

As soon as the actress returned to Dhaka, The Daily Star caught up with her to learn about her experience.

"It was an amazing experience for me. When I saw myself on the film's poster in Kolkata, I was overjoyed," shared an excited Farin. "I attended the first show on the first day, along with the entire crew, at Cinepolis, Acropolis Mall, Kolkata, where I enjoyed the film with the audience."

The film has been released in 36 halls across West Bengal and is soon expected to have its international release in the US as well. When asked if there is any possibility of the film being released in Bangladesh, Farin shared, "We all know that there are some restrictions when importing foreign films, particularly Indian ones. Thus, it might not be possible to release *Aro Ek Prithibi* in Bangladesh, since it is not a jointly produced venture. However, nothing would make me happier than the film being released in Bangladesh."

According to the actress, she has been receiving positive responses for her performance, from both

audiences and critics. When speaking about her own opinion, Farin said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the film as an audience member, and at one point I even forgot that I was acting in it. I will always cherish this experience, as a part of me will always be here and I will always have a connection with the Tollywood industry."

The actress also informed us that she has been receiving offers for other projects in Kolkata. However, she wants to be selective about the scripts. "What could be a better start for me, than making my debut in Atanu Ghosh's film? Thus, I want to keep waiting until I find a project that meets the standard or elevates me further."

Recently, Farin had to return to Kolkata for the film's promotional campaign. She was there for quite some time, promoting *Aro Ek Prithibi*. As a result, she left many unfinished projects in Bangladesh. "I will be busy for the upcoming days, as I will be completing all the projects I had to put on hold. After completing all the pending projects, I will begin taking on new projects as well."

The actress will soon be seen in the Deepto Play original web-film, *Nikosh*.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



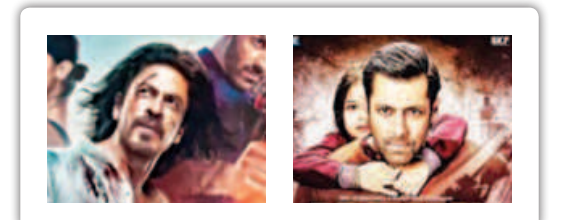
## Salman Shah, Shabnur's film returns to theatres

Salman Shah and Shabnur's cracking chemistry stole hearts in films like *Sopner Thikana* and *Anondo Osru*. Their on-screen pairing came to an end with Salman Shah's untimely demise. Fortunately for fans, their film will be screened once again in theatres. Barishal's Oviruchi Cinema Hall will screen their superhit film, *Tumi Amar*, on February 10. Directed by Zahirul Haque, the film was released during Eid, on May 19, 1997.

Abdullah Zahir Babu, son of Zahirul Haque, confirmed the news on his social media.

*Tumi Amar* was a massive success upon its release. The film also starred KS Firoz, Prabir Mitra and Syed Hasan Imam, among others.

## 'Pathaan' becomes 2nd highest grossing Indian film worldwide



The craze for Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* continues to grow even 15 days after its theatrical release. Counting yesterday's collection, the film scored a total of Rs 880 crore worldwide, making it the second highest-grossing Indian film worldwide.

*Pathaan* surpassed the previous record holder, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, with a collection of Rs 867 crores.

While fans wish to see *Pathaan* at the top of the highest-grossing Indian films list, it's unlikely to surpass the massive Box office score of Rs 1940 crores held by the first placeholder, *Dangal*.

Directed by Siddharth Anand, *Pathaan* stars Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, and John Abraham in leading roles.

# NEWS

## Bangladesh

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titles -- New Zealand, and Sri Lanka making up the Group 1. Group 2 consists of England, Pakistan, India, Ireland and West Indies.

Bangladesh failed to manage a single win in the previous three editions of the tournament, and their best chance to break that unwanted run will be when the Nigar Sultana Joty-led side begin their World Cup campaign on February 12 against the Lankans in Cape Town.

## Mars rover finds

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was becoming more dry," he said.

Curiosity is exploring the foothills of a three-mile (five-kilometer) tall mountain known as Mount Sharp.

The rover has also spotted debris in a valley that was washed down by wet landslides on Mount Sharp, Nasa said.

"This landslide debris is probably the most recent evidence of water that we'll ever see," Vasavada said. "It will allow us to study layers higher up on Mount Sharp that we can't reach."

Nasa said Mount Sharp provides a sort of "Martian timeline" to scientists with the oldest layers at the bottom and youngest at the top.

This allows them to "study how Mars evolved from a planet that was more Earth-like in its ancient past, with a warmer climate and plentiful water, to the freezing desert it is today," it said.

Another Mars rover, Perseverance, landed on the Red Planet in February 2021 to look for signs of past microbial life.

The multi-tasking rover will collect 30 rock and soil samples in sealed tubes to be sent back to Earth sometime in the 2030s for lab analysis.

## Ukraine

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Zelensky joined the 27 leaders of the EU member states as the special guest at their regular summit, invited by European Council president to make an opening address.

"I have to thank you personally for your unwavering support of our country and our aspirations, our aspirations to live in a united, free Europe," he told them, after receiving warm applause as the leaders gathered for a group photo.

## 19 Bangladeshi

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Sabrin, director general of the public diplomacy wing at the foreign ministry, said two Bangladeshi students -- Nure Alam and Golam Sayeed Rinku -- were injured in the earthquake and they were undergoing treatment in Ankara.

"Our embassy in Turkey is maintaining all-time communication with their families," she said.

Bangladesh sent a team to Turkey on Tuesday night to take part in the search and rescue operation there. Bangladesh yesterday also observed a state mourning day for the victims of the earthquake.

Meanwhile, Mustafa Osman Turan, Turkish ambassador to Bangladesh, at a media briefing, said he was touched by the pouring of love and assistance from Bangladeshis.

"We have decided not to receive cash assistance, but we request everyone to deliver in-kind assistance," he said as thousands of people, who lost their homes in the

catastrophic earthquake, huddled around campfires and clamoured for food and water in the bitter cold.

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency launched a campaign to receive assistance from Bangladesh, said Turan, reports UNB.

Bangladeshi citizens are pouring love and support for their Turkish brothers and sisters through their messages, he said. "We will never forget this type of solidarity."

Turkish Airlines will carry the goods free of cost while the government of Bangladesh will facilitate customs clearances for quick delivery of that assistance.

The next one or two days will be very crucial to save more lives as the country is struggling to overcome the enormous challenges of being hit by twin earthquakes and many aftershocks.

The ambassador expressed gratitude to the government and the people of Bangladesh for coming forward instantly after the earthquake.

## Noab seeks duty waiver, tax cut

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during the current economic crisis," said AK Azad, president of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab), in a pre-budget meeting with the National Board of Revenue at its office in the capital.

The NBR organised the discussion as part of its consultations with various trade bodies and other stakeholders before preparing tax proposals for fiscal 2023-24.

Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of Bangla business daily Bonik Barta, were also present, among others, at the meeting, chaired by NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem.

In its budget proposals, Noab said the newspaper sector across the world has become an ailing industry amid globalisation and rapid expansion of the digital media. In Bangladesh, newspapers are also seeing a decline in circulation. But

the Covid pandemic has worsened the situation.

The organisation said the production cost of a newspaper is much higher than its sale price and the deficit is met with advertisement revenue.

As advertisement revenue has dropped, it is not possible to recover the production cost. Newspapers are incurring huge losses, it added.

Azad said it has become tough to run a newspaper as import costs have risen due to increased exchange rate of US dollar.

Noab said the newspaper sector does not get any tax benefit although it is an important service industry.

At the discussion, Senior Vice President of Association of Television Channel Owners Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury placed demands on behalf of private television stations.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said newspapers are now focusing on the digital arena. To do this, they have to invest a lot of money, he added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily

## 9 foreign missions

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in the countries they are based in and take a range of collective actions to protect and advance media freedom," the statement said.

## 2 more stations

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open the Mothijheel-Kamalapur section by June 2025.

Siddique added that they are currently selling multiple-use MRT passes for commuters from 3:00pm to 9:00pm on all three functional stations.

From February 18, the timing will be from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

He said that till Wednesday, 4.50 lakh passengers have taken the metro rail service and the authorities have so far earned Tk 3.10 crore from ticket sales.

The 21.26km metro rail line, formally known as MRT-6, is being implemented with Tk 33,472 crore from Uttara to Kamalapur with a Japanese soft loan.

The overall progress of the project was 93.21 percent till January this year, he added.

## US state dept

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Chollet, a senior policy advisor to the US secretary of state, is expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

Bangladesh is now sheltering more than one million Rohingya refugees. Some 750,000 of them fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine in 2017. They joined some 300,000 others who previously faced persecution.

The situation in Myanmar aggravated when the military took control of the country through a coup on February 1, 2021. Last year, the US determined the Myanmar junta's atrocities against the Rohingya as "genocide", and to date has imposed sanctions against 80 individuals and 32 entities related to the Myanmar military.

In December last year, the US Congress passed the Burma Act meant to impose severe restrictions on the the military regime, support to the pro-democracy movement and provide critical humanitarian assistance.

Kara C McDonald, US deputy assistant secretary for democracy, human rights, and labour, was scheduled to visit Dhaka on February 7-9, but the tour was postponed.

Asked for the reason, Seheli said it was not known. She, however, said the visit will take place at a later date.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra may visit Dhaka next week to hold Foreign Office Consultations (FOC). The last FOC was held on January 29, 2021.

## Global chatbot race heats

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James Webb Space Telescope.

It incorrectly offered the response that the telescope was the first to take pictures of a planet outside Earth's solar system, when that honour actually belongs to the European Very Large Telescope.

The mess-up sent the share price spiraling down by more than seven percent on Wednesday with investors also underwhelmed by the latest announcements.

Before the problem emerged,

The visit will take place three weeks ahead of Foreign Minister Momen's trip to New Delhi. Momen is scheduled to attend the G20 foreign minister-level meeting in the Indian capital early next month.

The G20 summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9-10 and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the event.

"All issues of the Bangladesh-India relations will be discussed during the Foreign Office Consultations. Preparations are underway for the meeting," Seheli told reporters yesterday.

Foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh is the only non-G20 South Asian country invited to the event by India. It will be a good platform for Bangladesh to raise the issues of the developing countries, especially the challenges being faced by them due to the Ukraine-Russia war and economic slowdown.

The G20 summit will be one of the main issues on the agenda for discussion during the Indian foreign secretary's trip to Bangladesh, the officials added.

**ARGENTINE FM DUE IN DHAKA**  
Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero will visit Dhaka on February 27-March 1. He is expected to announce the opening of his country's embassy in Bangladesh.

The minister will lead a 20-member business delegation to Bangladesh. He is expected to call on the prime minister, foreign minister, commerce minister and leaders of business chambers, said officials.

Santiago may also watch a football match and meet the leadership of Bangladesh Football Federation.

Google Vice President Prabhakar Raghavan told an event in Paris that Bard was now being used by "trusted testers" but did not give a timeline for a public release, which is expected within weeks.

Analysts have suggested Google rushed its announcement under pressure from Microsoft, but Raghavan denied the claim.

"This has been a multiyear journey," he said, adding that no single event had "dramatically changed the course" of Google's plans.