

MEHAZABIEN pushes forward

Mehazabien Chowdhury is well known for making headlines for her diverse selection of characters. From playing a police officer to donning the role of a greedy nurse—the talented actress knows how to blend into her roles effortlessly.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

This year, she has delivered two stellar performances in Vicky Zahed's projects, *Kajoler Din Ratri* and *The Silence*.

In conversation with The Daily Star, the actress opens up about her upcoming projects, and much more.

People have been loving your performance in 'The Silence'. How are you enjoying their feedback?

My greatest achievement is that my fans and co-artistes have responded positively to *The Silence*. I cannot put into words how much this means to me. My fellow co-artistes have also penned appreciative notes about my performance. All of this encourages me to pursue my passion more diligently in the future.

How challenging was it for you to play Ruby in the project?

Ruby was a complex, multi-layered character. I had to change my look for the role and had to stay silent throughout the series. It's really hard to convey a character's thoughts and feelings using just expressions, while staying silent. However, I got into the character while shooting and the end product is something that I am proud of.

What kind of response did your new look receive?

Everybody loved my new look in *The Silence*, it was something that created a lasting impression on the audience's mind.

Vicky Zahed is one of those directors who likes innovating and experimenting with their projects. He always keeps in mind what



intrigues the audience, and how to surprise them.

Many have written screenplays and characters with you in mind. How does that make you feel?

It feels surreal that everybody loves me so much that they try to make room for me in their projects. I am thankful to them for always believing in my skills.

Do you believe that you're a complete artiste?

I don't know whether I am a complete artiste or not, but I do believe that I take my art very seriously. Acting is my love and passion. Whenever I do something, I try to deliver my best, so that the outcome is brilliant.

How did your family feel about 'The Silence'?

It is very hard to please my family members with my acting. However, when they truly like something, they do give me a lot of praise. They enjoyed *The Silence* a lot, and they are hoping for a second season of the Binge series.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

'I am so proud of you', says Arnob to Pritom

The second season of Coke Studio Bangla was off to a flying start as the first song, *Murir Tin*, was released. The song, which features dialects from Chattogram, Sylhet and Khulna, was received well by the audience.

Coke Studio Bangla also arrived at 6 locations in four divisions, making it a countrywide celebration. New gen musician Pritom Hasan is a part of this season's CSB – he performed at Dhaka's Rabindra Sarobar alongside Shayan Chowdhury Arnob himself.

"Thank you Coke Studio Bangla for letting me be on stage with Arnob bhai", wrote Pritom on his verified Facebook page.

Arnob, who shared a wonderful medley with Pritom, was visibly impressed by his performance. "Thank god you were there, you were absolutely brilliant! I am so proud of you", wrote the renowned singer-songwriter on that post.

Pori, Razz celebrate son's 'Mukhe Bhaat'



Pori Moni is usually active on social media when it comes to sharing the wonderful moments of her life. The actress had recently been out celebrating Valentine's Day and Pohela Phalgun with her lovely family.

Just earlier this month, the celebrity couple of Pori Moni and Sarif Islam Razz celebrated six months of their first-born child, Rajya.

On this special occasion, the star couple arranged the ceremony of his *Mukhe Bhaat*.

Pori Moni shared the pictures of the event, where she, Razz and Rajya are sharing their love with underprivileged children. Pori was also spotted serving food to the children.

NEWS

Debate over presidential polls 'unnecessary'

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district judge, as the president-elect.

Many pointed out that the ACC law stipulated that at the end of a person's tenure, a commissioner shall not be eligible to hold any profitable office in the service of the republic. And the president's position was an office of profit.

"If anyone tries to raise an irrelevant debate over the head of state, it is unexpected," the CEC said while talking to reporters at his office.

Habibul Awal said the ACC law says at the end of a person's tenure, a commissioner shall not be eligible to get appointment to any profitable office in the service of the republic.

"There is a difference between an

appointment and being elected. He [Shahabuddin] is not appointed by anyone, rather he is elected."

The CEC added that many were not bringing up the issue of his election; rather they were saying that he was given a position that is an office of profit.

Talking about office of profit, Habibul Awal said he was aware of the High Court verdict in the case of Abu Bakar Siddique vs Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in 1996.

"Operative part of the verdict clearly mentioned that election of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was completely legal. The discussion part [of the verdict] said the president of Bangladesh holds office of profit,

but it is not an office of profit in the service of the republic.

"So, creating confusion by giving different opinions regarding it [the election] is unnecessary", he commented.

Meanwhile, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin yesterday said there is no scope for raising any question about Shahabuddin's election as president. "It is absolutely legal and it is irrelevant to raise any questions."

Speaking to reporters at his office, he said the post of president is not an office of profit.

The HC judgment in 1996 categorically said that the post of president is not an office of profit, the attorney general added.

Arsa, 9 other armed groups found active

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According to reports, 10 miscreants groups are currently active in Rohingya camps. Among them, Arsa is active in Ukhia, Balukhali, Palangkhali and Whykong; RSO and Master Munna gangs in Ukhia and Palongkhali; Islami Mahaj and Jabu dacoit gangs in Whykong and Chakma dacoit gangs, Nabi Hussain dacoit gang, Putia dacoit gang, Salman Shah dacoit gang, Khaled dacoit gang are active in Nayapara camp.

Noting that Arsa controls most of the camps, the report said Arsa and Nabi Hussain dacoit gang often engaged in clashes over dominance resulting in incidents of murders.

The report highlights the criminal activities that took place in 2021

and 2022. The overall crime appears to have decreased to some extent. However, during this period, the number of murders has increased. In 2021, 22 murder incidents took place. In 2022, the number of murder incidents was 32.

Meanwhile, the number of thefts and robberies decreased from 77 in 2021 to 75 in 2022, shootings from 51 to 18, kidnappings from 173 to 86, internal feuds from 11 to one, drug incidents from 268 to 249 and other crimes from 567 to 553.

The report mentions that 222 fire incidents occurred from January 2021 to December 2022. 99 of these are accidental, 60 were sabotage and 63 incidents were unknown.

In the report, it was said that Rohingya areas are vulnerable to HIV/

AIDS, hepatitis C, diphtheria, etc. So far, 710 HIV-positive people have been detected in Cox's Bazar and 612 of them are Rohingya.

As of December 22, 61 Rohingya have died of HIV. More than 5 thousand Rohingya women are engaged in sex work in various hotels in Cox's Bazar.

The report also said, 95 babies are born every day in Rohingya camps. In 2025, the Rohingya population could grow to 12-13 lakh, the report said.

Ruling Awami League MP Shubid Ali Bhuja, chief of the parliamentary body presided over the meeting. Committee members Muhammad Faruk Khan, Md Ilyas Uddin Mollah and Md Nasir Uddin participated in the meeting.

India probing into BBC's tax structure

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western state of Gujarat during riots in 2002 in which at least 1,000 people were killed, most of them Muslims, though activists put the toll at more than twice that number.

The government last month dismissed the documentary, "India: The Modi Question", as propaganda and blocked its streaming and sharing on social media. The foreign ministry said last month the documentary was meant to push a

"discredited narrative", was biased, lacked objectivity and showed a "continuing colonial mindset".

The BBC has stood by its reporting for the documentary and said it was cooperating with Indian tax officials.

The BBC was served tax notices in the past but the organisation had not provided a convincing response to tax authorities, Kanchan Gupta, Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, told Times Now news channel.

"The Income Tax Department is conducting a survey of the BBC's tax status and affairs in India. We understand officers from the department may wish to speak to members of staff about the BBC in India," Liliane Landor, director of the BBC World Service, said in the note sent to staff and reviewed by Reuters yesterday.

A spokesperson for the BBC did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

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on its

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