

Raihan Rafi is his own competitor:

TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning actress Tama Mirza rose to fame for her on-screen charisma in films and web-series. After a long break, she is now set to return to the big screen. Currently, she is busy shooting Raihan Rafi's latest film, *Shurongo*.

In between her busy schedule, she sat down with The Daily Star for a short chat.

How does it feel to return to the screen after a break?

It feels great to be back to something familiar, mostly as people know me for my films. While I have been away from the silver screen, I have worked in a few web-films. My last film was *Gohiner Gaan*. After this, I also worked in another film, *From Bangladesh*, which is still awaiting release.

Since then, I have spent most of my time working on web-content. Now, I will be returning to the big screen with *Shurongo*. We have finished the majority of the shooting for the film, and after this last round of shooting, it will be wrapped up entirely.

This will be the first time you pair up with Afran Nisho, how has the experience been so far?

Shurongo is Afran Nisho bhai's first film. This will also be the first time we are paired together. He is, without a doubt, an amazing actor and co-star. We've shot many scenes in Sylhet and I have learned a lot from him.

How much would you rate Raihan Rafi out of a 100, as a director?

I don't think I am qualified enough to judge him. He is a great director, whose skills are revered by many. Rafi bhai understands the language of films very well. There were no stones left unturned for *Shurongo*. If a scene wasn't perfect, it was re-done multiple times. Our priority was to deliver the perfect shot and that's what we tried to do.

No one got bored or annoyed at the shooting schedule, as everyone was devoted to the film. Thus, I cannot rate Raihan Rafi's direction, as he has transcended the art of direction in my opinion. At this point, he is his own competitor.

Did you have any disagreements with your co-stars or director while shooting *Shurongo*?

Absolutely not, there were no disagreements. We worked together very well and hope to finish the last schedule of shootings similarly.

Everyone has already left for the outdoor shooting and I will soon be joining them. However, I did joke around and tease Nisho bhai that he is a very upbeat and a good person.

What are your hopes for *Shurongo*?

I don't want to disclose anything about *Shurongo* as of yet, nor about my character in the film. I would only like to add that the film will win everyone's heart this Eid-ul-Azha. I am very hopeful about the film, and it has the best people behind it.



PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MOIRSHED



Wind of Change releases new song amidst Coke Studio backlash

Amidst all the controversies surrounding Coke Studio Bangla, another musical programme from Gaan Bangla, called Wind of Change, released a new song, *Dui Kuley Sultan* today. The song features National Film Award-winning singer Oyshee.

The song has been written and tuned by legendary folk artist Gafur Hali, while the music was composed by Kaushik Hossain Taposh.

"The release of a new song of mine, in the Wind of Change programme, means a new turning point in my career. The music arrangement of the song is so strong and it was a matter of great pride to be able to sing Bengali songs in front of such great musicians," shared Oyshee.

Wind of Change was an innovative idea, brought to life by the National Award-winning composer Kaushik Hossain Taposh and style Icon Farzana Munny.

Veteran actor Khalequz Zaman no more

Freedom fighter and veteran actor Khalequz Zaman passed away yesterday, after suffering a heart attack at his Gulshan residence in the morning.



The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by television director, Rafat Mozumder Rinku.

As an actor, Khalequz Zaman became a listed artiste of BTV in 1975. He first appeared in the TV series *Shorpoobhrome Rojju*. After that, he went on to act in various television projects including, *Toma*, *Boro Bari*, and *Somoy Osomoy*, among others.

He also worked alongside Nayok Raj Razzak and Kabori in the film *Onirban*. The actor had also showcased his acting prowess in movies including Shihab Shaheen's *Chuye Dile Mon* and Anam Biswas's *Debi*.

NEWS

DSA

FROM PAGE 12 about the law. He also said that a personal data protection law is being created to protect the rights to privacy.

Anisul told the UN human rights chief to play a more active role in the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.

Take coordinated

FROM PAGE 2 would make a world of difference."

Andrews -- who earlier on Monday addressed the Human Rights Council, the only body made up of governments to protect human rights worldwide -- said countries should analyse how they could deal the greatest blow to the junta.

He said their analysis should lead them to "coordinate together the implementation of sanctions and an arms embargo".

"There is precedent for some coordination between some countries," Andrews said. "So what I'm saying is 'let's build on that'."

A UN report published this month found that violence had intensified in northwestern and southeastern Myanmar due to the military's "indiscriminate air strikes and artillery shelling, mass burnings of villages to displace civilian populations, and denial of humanitarian access".

The junta has previously said it is carrying out a legitimate campaign against terrorists and denied atrocities have taken place.

Speeding

FROM PAGE 2 Hours after the accident, the Madaripur district administration formed a four-member committee to probe the crash. The committee, led by an additional district magistrate Pallab Kumar Hazra, was asked to submit the report within three working days.

The committee's other members are -- Madaripur's additional superintendent of police Md Moniruzzaman Fakir, Buet's Assistant Professor Shahnewaz Hasanat-E-Rabbi, and BRTA Assistant Director Mohammad Nurul Hossain.

Contacted last evening, Pallab Kumar Hazra said they would submit the report by last night and would hold a press conference on today to disclose the probe findings.

All advance train tickets

FROM PAGE 12 people wait for 30 to 40 hours to get a ticket.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) recently asked the BR to raise the number of ticket counters to 30 to reduce people's sufferings, railway sources said.

The BR primarily decided to open 10 counters at different places in the capital, but it changed the decision because it doesn't have the capacity to run those.

The decision to sell all the advance tickets online was approved by the PMO, a BR official said, wishing not to be named.

The railway ministry has discussed the matter with its vendor Shohoz JV, the official added.

The latest decision will be implemented on a trial basis, said a top official of the ministry.

The ministry will launch a major publicity campaign regarding advance tickets, and if necessary, set up booths to help people sign up to BR online before the sale starts.

"We sent letters to all deputy commissioners mentioning that

digital centres at the union parishad should help people register," said the officer.

Contacted, Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) at the BR, said the meeting discussed how crowding at Kamalapur can be avoided.

"The next decision will be made after seeing the outcome of the trial," he added.

A BR official told this correspondent, "After the meeting, we also held another meeting to discuss all relevant issues. We think many low-income people without knowledge about the system may not be able to buy tickets, if all the tickets are sold online."

"We decided to tell the higher authorities to at least sell the tickets with no seats at the counters," he said.

Saidur Rahman, executive director of Road Safety Foundation, said many people without internet access would not be able to buy tickets. The authorities should take steps against scalpers instead of making the system more complicated.

6.5-magnitude earthquake

FROM PAGE 12 Badakhshan's capital but were making checks on other areas.

Mahzudeen Ahmadi, the head of Badakhshan's information department told Reuters they were also checking the province for any casualties, but had no reports yet.

"We felt a strong earthquake, according to primary information the main place (affected) was Yamgan District," he said.

Some of mountainous Badakhshan's remote villages can be difficult to reach and do not have access to phone or internet.

In the provincial capital, Faizabad, 29-year-old Ashraf Nael said he was at home on last evening when the windows of his family home began rattling strongly for about a minute.

"My brothers and sisters all ran outside ... we live in a concrete house, those houses which are made from mud might have been damaged," he said.

In northern Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a 90-metre-

(295-foot)-long wall around a police station collapsed, according to a police district spokesman, but did not cause any casualties.

Shaking could be felt as far as the Indian capital, New Delhi. In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir - the site of a deadly earthquake in 2005 in which more than 80,000 people were killed - people ran out of their homes, crying and reciting holy verses, according to a Reuters witness.

Shaking was felt over an area 1,000 kilometres wide by approximately 285 million people in Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, according to the EMSC.

Large parts of South Asia are seismically active because a tectonic plate known as the Indian plate is pushing north into the Eurasian plate.

A 6.1 magnitude earthquake in eastern Afghanistan killed over 1,000 people last year.

Bangladesh close to every country

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh is getting too close to China.

The premier said China is a development partner of Bangladesh; they are investing here and they are carrying out some construction work. "That's all. We are not dependent on anybody."

When her attention was drawn to Bangladesh's stance about avoiding Chinese debt trap, the PM said, "We are very much careful about taking loans for development."

She said Bangladesh takes most of the loans from different institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. "So, our Chinese loan is very small. It is not like Sri Lanka or any others."

Hasina said her government always considers the return and the people's benefit before taking up any development project.

"Another thing is that we always try our best to develop our country with our own resources. We don't take any unnecessary loans or big projects."

The final episode of the interview will be broadcast soon.

'BANGLADESH NEVER SUPPORTS ANY INVASION'

The PM said Bangladesh never supports any invasion, rather it believes in a peaceful solution to problems through dialogues.

"We believe in a peaceful solution. If there is any conflict, it can be solved through dialogue. But we never support any kind of invasion or conflict."

Hasina said Bangladesh's foreign policy is very clear -- friendship to all, malice to none. "So, when we see any human rights violation or invasion, we definitely oppose it," she said.

She called upon the global community to come forward to stop the war in Ukraine. "I feel that the world should come forward to stop the war. Because the common people are suffering."

The premier said no war can be one-sided alone as it needs the involvement of both sides. "I believe each country has its own rights to live in their own territory [with freedom] and protect

their own territory."

Talking about Rohingyas, Hasina said Bangladesh has called upon the international community to exert pressure on Myanmar to take their nationals back to their homeland.

The PM said Bangladesh started a dialogue with Myanmar, but unfortunately, they were not responding properly.

She said her government already talked to China, ASEAN countries, Japan, the US and others countries, and requested them to put pressure on Myanmar to take their nationals back.

"Unfortunately, the Myanmar government is not listening to anybody. That is the problem."

Bangladesh had sheltered the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds, she added.

She said the Rohingyas are becoming a "big burden" for Bangladesh as the country has to feed them alongside ensuring their basic rights despite the fact that the country is overpopulated.

Shamim Sikder no more

FROM PAGE 12 works, left Bangladesh sometime after 2001.

She returned last year from London where she had been living for a long time.

She dreamt of reconstructing the sculpture of Zainul Abedin at DU's faculty of fine arts, and urged the university authorities to unveil it afterwards, said Imran Hossain, a curator of Shamim Sikder Sculpture Park on Fuller Road in Dhaka University.

"Her dreams remain unfulfilled," he added.

A former professor at Dhaka University's fine arts faculty, she received Ekushey Padak, one of the highest civilian awards of the country, for her contribution to art, in 2000.

Shamim died at a hospital in the capital yesterday afternoon. She was 70.

The sculptor was suffering from multiple illnesses, including cardiovascular, respiratory and kidney complications, the curator said.

The artist was hospitalised four months after her return to Bangladesh.

Imran mentioned that Shamim also had plans to reconstruct the Guernica sculpture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, she could not proceed with the plan due to alleged non-cooperation from the ministry.

Born in 1953 in Shariatpur, she was the sister of martyred Engineer Badsha Alam Sikder and Purba Banglar Sarbahara Party leader Siraj Sikder.

Shamim built the sculpture at Dhaka Central Jail in 1974, commemorating Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She sculpted Shonarjito Swadhinata, near the TSC of Dhaka University in 1988 and Swadhinatar Songram in 2000 at the Fuller Road intersection.

Shonarjito Swadhinata depicted the participation of the cross-section of people in the Liberation War while Swadhinatar Songram is one of the largest sculpture gardens in the country.

She created over one hundred small sculptures portraying prominent persons and different scenes of Bangalee culture, depicting

historic events like the Language Movement, the mass upsurge of 1969 and 1971 war.

Shamim joined Dhaka University in 1980. She is also credited with a number of exhibitions and several books. She received death threats from Islamist militants in 1999.

The sculptor is survived by two children, who now live in London.

The late artist's body is scheduled to be taken to DU's faculty of fine arts around 11:00am today, her curator said.

From there, she will be taken to Central Shaheed Minar for people from all walks of life to pay their last respect. She will be buried at Mohammadpur graveyard beside her parents' grave.

Next budget

FROM PAGE 12 the newspaper industry.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder, National Board of Revenue Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem and Finance Division Senior Secretary Fatima Yasmin were present, among others.