

Purnima hits quarter century in showbiz

Around this time in May of 1998, Purnima made her debut in the industry with "E Jibon Tomar Amar". Since then, she has never looked back. Immediately attaining success with her debut film, Purnima's maiden venture into the silver screen earned her immeasurable accolades.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The National Film Award winning actress would continue to receive similar levels of fame and love from her fans for her performances on both the small and big screen, having also made her name as a presenter on the side.

Now, Purnima stands as one of the most iconic heroines of the Bangladeshi silver screen. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the actress reflected on her 25-year-long career and much more.

You have spent 25 years in the limelight, what are your thoughts on achieving this milestone?

25 years is no easy feat to summarise, I have seen and experienced a lot. I do feel like I could have done more in places I should have. However, I am grateful to have received an immense amount of love and fame from directors, producers, co-stars, journalists, shooting crew members and fans. While all of this is a tremendous achievement, I still feel I could have done more.

Do you have any regrets?

My only regret is that I was not utilised to the full extent of my potential. In my 25-year-long showbiz journey, my career as a presenter kept me in the limelight for the last 7-8 years.

What was the reason behind your sudden departure from films?

A few years after I started my acting journey, a wave of obscenity took over the film industry. Despite my fame, I started venturing into television, with serials, having acted in *Lal Beguni* and many other projects. Me and Moushumi apu both decided to choose this path.

How would you describe the start of your career?

My start was both difficult and easy.

Getting my big break with an illustrious director like Zakir Hossain Raju was a boon. An eminent producer like Motiur Rahman Panu was also involved in the project. That's why I'd say my debut was easy. However, I did have to put a lot of work in to retain that position. To be a credible actress I had to showcase my skills, creativity and prove my worth. I was only 14 when I made my debut opposite Riaz. In that regard, I'd say my first film was fairly easy.

You had the opportunity to star alongside one of Dhallywood's most prominent figures, the late Manna. How was that experience?

Manna bhai is always on my mind, I miss him a lot. He fought to keep this industry alive, that's who he was. Manna bhai always thought about the welfare of the film fraternity. He didn't only work for himself, but also for the industry. That is the testament of his kindness.

Back then, he would sit down with Rubel bhai, Ferdous, Riaz and others. He would give advice, while also taking everyone's advice. Manna bhai wanted to share the love with everyone. He wanted to move forward collectively, something that we no longer seem to do.

Do you currently have any films in the pipeline?

I have two films awaiting release. My last acting endeavour was *Ahare Jibon* with Ferdous. We've wrapped up the dubbing for that film, as well as another film called *Gangchil*.



PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

Nasir Uddin Khan's new avatar in 'Prohelika' stuns fans



After portraying witty antagonists in previous projects, Nasir Uddin Khan's new avatar for *Prohelika* has left fans surprised. The character poster was unveiled by the actor on his social media page yesterday.

The captivating poster showcases Nasir Uddin Khan's calm and composed appearance, with a *tanpura* in hand, leaving the audience in awe.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nasir Uddin Khan said, "Playing this character in the film helped me gain a lot of new experiences. He is one of the strongest characters in an overall touching story. The audience will see me in a whole new light due to this role."

Directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, *Prohelika* is set to release this upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

Gems of Nazrul pay tribute on Nazrul Jayanti

Gems of Nazrul will pay homage to the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam marking his 124th birth anniversary tomorrow. Their 27th production titled *Ke Duronto Bajao* will air on Channel i on May 25 at 12:01 am, and will also be available on their YouTube Channel.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the celebratory programme will also include a dance performance by Warda Rihab and her troupe Dhriti Nartanalaya.

Ke Duronto Bajao showcase Nazrul's favourite symbol in nature which is a *Kalboishakhi* storm. He has often used this phrase to represent the raging form of nature.



COUNTRYWIDE

Fraudster flees with depositors' money

15 speech and hearing-impaired people in trouble

S DILIP ROY

With the hope of getting huge profit, speech and hearing-impaired Kamol Chandra Saha started depositing money in a scheme of an insurance company in 2010.

But to his utter despair, in-charge of the insurance company's Lalmonirhat office suddenly disappeared with all the money of several depositors' after locking the office in 2013.

Kamol, a small trader from Karnpur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, was expressing his suffering through sign language and said being inspired by his team leader Alamgir Molla he started depositing money in Islami DPS, a scheme of Golden Life Insurance Limited, in 2010.

He used to deposit Tk 300 every month and continued the monthly deposit scheme for the next three years till 2013.

But in 2013, Nazrul Islam, in-charge of the insurance company's Lalmonirhat office, disappeared overnight, closing the branch office.

By then Kamol was able to deposit a total of Tk 8,000.

Like Kamol, 14 other speech and hearing impaired people from different areas of the district also deposited Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 each, hoping to get a huge profit.

Now, they all are upset as though 10 years have already been passed, nothing has been done in this regard yet.

One of the depositors Mohammad Islam of the village said, "Profit seems a far cry, now we want our capital money back."

While talking through sign language, Alamgir Hossain, leader of the speech and hearing-impaired people in Lalmonirhat, said, "We opened the DPS scheme after being encouraged by Nazrul Islam and deposited the money through him."

"If we don't get our deposited money back we will file a case with the local police station," he added.

Contacted, Nazrul Islam, former in-charge at Golden Life Insurance Limited's Lalmonirhat office, told this correspondent over mobile phone that he left the job in 2013.

After leaving the job, he advised the depositors' to contact the head office of the insurance company, Nazrul said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Kamruzzaman Sujon said, "I will contact the head office of the insurance company and try to resolve the matter as soon as possible."

Want to tie the knot

FROM PAGE 12 provides for the different rates of tax on first, second, third and fourth marriage.

Section 152 of the Schedule says, "For the first marriage or marriage after the death of the first wife, the groom will pay Tk 100."

For the second marriage during the lifetime of the first wife, the groom will pay Tk 5,000 while for the third marriage during the lifetime of the first two wives, the groom will pay Tk 20,000.

According to the Schedule, for the fourth marriage, the groom will pay Tk 50,000.

These specifications

do not apply if the wife is mentally unstable or childless, in which case, the groom will pay Tk 200.

The law ministry, which is the current authority for marriage registration, has approved the DSCC initiative. It has already sent a letter to the Registrar General of office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration of both the city corporations.

However, the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has not conceived any plan to implement marriage tax on citizens, said Mokbul Hossain, public relation officer of DNCC.

Man gets 10 years

FROM PAGE 12 a post on Facebook the last week of October which hurt the religious sentiment of the local Muslim community.

On November 6, 2017, Razu Mia, a local grocery trader, filed the ICT case accusing Titu of posting a "derogatory" status on Facebook.

On November 10, 2017, local religious zealots organised a protest in the upazila's Sholeyshah Bazar. Several hundreds of people gathered and the protest became violent.

They attacked the Hindu community in Thakurpara village and torched 11 homes there before looting their valuables.

On information, police arrived at the spot and fired rubber bullets to disperse the agitating crowd, which left a man dead. The violence left 25 others injured.

Two more cases were filed over the attack on Hindu homes at Thakurpara village, which are still pending.

On November 14, 2017, police arrested Titu from Nilphamari upazila.

Investigators took him in remand and grilled him over the incident. Later, he

managed to acquire bail. Titu was out on bail in the case and attended the verdict hearing in court as per the law, said family members.

Speaking on the matter, Proshanta Kumar Roy, the defence lawyer, said, "We will challenge the verdict at the higher court."

In 2018, the Digital Security Act (DSA) was enacted purportedly replacing Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, 2006 (as amended in 2013).

Section 57 of the ICT Act authorised the prosecution of any person who published, in electronic form, material that is fake and obscene; defamatory; "tends to deprave and corrupt" its audience; causes, or may cause, "deterioration in law and order"; prejudices the image of the state or a person; or "causes or may cause hurt to religious belief."

The 2013 amendments eliminated the need for arrest warrants and official permission to prosecute, restricted the use of bail to release detainees pending trial, and increased prison terms if convicted.

It's Rupali Bank, not Pubali Bank

FROM PAGE 12 the news or to seek the bank's perspective on the matter."

The rejoinder said that the erroneous association of Pubali Bank's name with a completely unrelated incident has caused significant harm to its reputation.

"The repercussions of this negligence are not limited to financial losses but also extend to the emotional distress caused to the bank's stakeholders and employees," he said.

The Pubali Bank's CEO demanded an immediate apology from The Daily Star and urged the newspaper to take a swift and appropriate action to rectify this matter.

Joint drive to be carried out in Rohingya camps

FROM PAGE 12 "Barbed wire fences, watch towers and regular patrols are in place to prevent Rohingyas from coming out of the camp. They will be strengthened."

"I will give instructions to keep the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) in a more alert state in the border areas. The BGB will be strengthened at the Myanmar border so that new Myanmar citizens cannot enter Bangladesh." He said that discussions have been held to speed up the ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the Rohingya crisis and send them back to their own country.

The health of the Rohingyas and various issues including birth control were also discussed, he said.

Removal of Dhaka Wasa chairman

FROM PAGE 12 Md Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said there is no scope for considering the chairman's removal, which happened immediately after the raising of allegations against the MD, the result of a normal process.

He said a new chairman was not appointed although the tenure of Mostofa ended in October last year.

The authorities have sent a message through the chairman's removal that they would not hesitate to adopt the "shoot the messenger" policy to

silence the complainant, said Iftekharuzzaman.

"The allegations that the MD's will is the final word, and he has the power to remove anyone from the Wasa to protect his own interest have been proved to be true through the removal of the complainant."

The TIB executive director also said that the allegation raised by the removed chairman reflected the results of the 2019 TIB report titled "Dhaka Wasa: Challenges to Good Governance and Way Out".

Similar reports on the

corruptions in Dhaka Wasa were also published in the media, he said.

The whole issue is a glaring example of a lack of institutional liability and accountability, the TIB said.

According to the graft watchdog, there is also a court directive on conducting investigations into corruptions in Dhaka Wasa.

"But no visible progress has been made in this regard yet. Rather, another example of protecting corruption and irregularities has been set again," Iftekharuzzaman said.

351 'important' polling centres

FROM PAGE 1 Gazipur city as it is an industrial area. So, the tendency of committing crimes among the people is higher, he added.

Asked how many polling centres have been identified as "risky", the election commissioner said they have identified 351 as "important" centres while the rest have been classified as "general".

For the last few years,

EC officials didn't use the word "risky" for those polling centres which were vulnerable to violence as it sends a negative message to the voters and a sense of fear is created among them. That's why they use the term "important", said officials.

Alamgir said anyone who would try to create chaos during voting would be brought to justice immediately, regardless

of the person's political affiliation.

There are a total of 11.79 lakh voters in the city. As many as seven candidates are running for mayor.

The authorities have taken security measures, including installation of CCTV cameras at the polling centres, to hold the polls peacefully. Electronic voting machines will be used at all centres for casting votes.

Trial of Khaleda, 7 others starts

FROM PAGE 1 Khaleda has been receiving treatment at her Gulshan residence for ailments since she got out of jail following an executive order of the government.

Masud represented Khaleda in the court in her absence.

During yesterday's hearing, four other accused — former acting secretary for energy ministry Khondaker Shahidul Islam, its former senior assistant secretary CM Yusuf Hussain, and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's close friend

Giausuddin Al Mamun and former Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan — were present at the court.

Three other accused, including former principal secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, remain absconding.

On March 19 this year, the same Dhaka court framed charges against Khaleda and the seven other accused.

Meanwhile, the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam yesterday set May 30 for hearing the writ petition filed by

Khaleda on May 17.

In December 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case, accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power in awarding a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the prime minister (2001-2006).

The names of former state minister for energy and BNP leader AKM Mosharrar Hossain and former law minister Moudud Ahmed were dropped from the case as they died.