

Just keep loving me NUSRAAT FARIA

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

She is beautiful, she is talented. She is confident enough to call herself 'The best in the business', which is backed up by her stellar track record of films like *Bibaho Obhijan*, *Boss 2*, *Operation Sundarban* and *Shahenshah*, along with her barrage of songs that exemplify her singing talent as well. Recently, Nusraat Faria once again bedazzled audiences in *Kolija Ar Jaan*, from Afran Nisho's debut film, *Shurongo*.

It has only been a few days, but 'Kolija Ar Jaan' is already trending on most platforms. Are you developing a liking for item songs?

I refuse to call it an 'item song' - I feel like it diminishes the actors who participate in it, and objectifies women as 'items'.

What would you call it then?

It is simply a song that is used to promote the film! So *Kolija Ar Jaan* is a promotional song. And yes, I knew that the song would go 'viral', because apparently, everything I do is viral! Before you ask, I don't want that kind of petty attention, I always focus on my work, and want people to know me for it.

You seem more confident than ever on-screen.

I have always been confident. I work hard, and am honest with myself - and that is why I am the best in the business.

Your friendship with Sabila Nur and Ashna Habib Bhabna is wholesome, and the talk of the town. How did you

become friends?

I am so lucky to have them. When I was with my ex-fiance, I didn't have many friends per se. They came to my life as a blessing, and now we are inseparable. Sabila, Bhabna and I are in different stages of our career, so it is

not always easy for us to meet up. But when we do, it is always a blast!

What are you busy with at the moment?

I just came back from India after *Bibaho Obhijan 2* released last month, I finished a commercial shoot as well. I signed two new films with Alpha i, one of which will be directed by Tanim Rahman Aungshu. I signed two films in Kolkata as well, one will be helmed by Baba Yadav.

Any broader goals in the industry?

I would like to maintain balance between commercial and well-thought out, story-based films.

Leave a message for your fans.

Just keep loving me!



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED



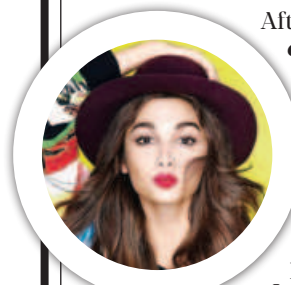
Arnob to perform at World Music Day 23 in India

Arnob will be performing at the World Music Day 23 concert in Kolkata on June 21. The programme will take place at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre and Arnob will be seen alongside renowned celebrities including Sharmila Tagore and Gulzar.

The *Chitley Roud* singer announced the news on his Facebook account, yesterday.

"I'm super excited to be a part of this celebration, 'Tagore our way' on world music day. This means a lot to me, especially growing up in Santiniketan with all of his songs. I am so glad to also represent Bangladesh with a song which captures the true spirit of our country and connects our lives with rivers and the bond between us," said the singer.

Alia Bhatt enroute to Netflix's Tudum festival



After signing on for Netflix's *Heart of Stone*, Indian actor Alia Bhatt is quite excited to attend the streaming platform's Tudum festival, an event where fans get a chance to see their favourite celebrities from upcoming and existing Netflix projects. The three-day-long event will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil from June 16 to 18.

Sharing her excitement about attending Tudum with fans on social media, Alia shared, "No *Heart of Stone* here... just one filled with love... enroute to Tudum, São Paulo."

NEWS

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 12 and mentioned updated working progress at the nine points and mentioned that works have not started four of these 13 points.

As we cannot accommodate the details work progress at these points, we are publishing a concise version of it, followed by our reply.

OUR REPLY

The Daily Star published the report based on Highway Police, and transport operators' observations. The highway police identified 13 points from Alenga to Rangpur highway that may witness traffic congestion unless proper measures are taken.

Besides, the report also incorporated comments of Project Director Waliur Rahman regarding the 13 points on the highway, where he said they have already opened some bridges and flyovers at those points, which was actually mentioned in the rejoinder in details.

We stand by our report.

Life building block

FROM PAGE 12 "We have found abundant phosphorus in plume ice samples spraying out of the subsurface ocean."

Geysers on Enceladus' south pole spew icy particles through cracks on the surface out into space, feeding Saturn's E ring - the faint ring outside the brighter main rings.

Scientists previously found other minerals and organic compounds in the ejected ice grains, but not phosphorus, which is an essential building block for DNA and RNA, and is also found in the bones and teeth of people, animals, and even ocean plankton.

Two doctors

FROM PAGE 12 Sanjukta Saha was at the hospital, said the complaint.

Akhi had been under life support at LabAid Hospital since the C-section, Yakub told The Daily Star.

Other hospital employees accused in the case are Dr Mili, Jamir, Ehsan, Parvez and several unnamed individuals.

Police arrested Dr Shahzadi and Dr Muna after the case was filed and took them to a court yesterday.

The court of the Metropolitan Magistrate Anan Sumi recorded the confession of Dr Shahzadi while the court of the Metropolitan Magistrate Farah Diba Chanda recorded the statement of Dr Muna.

N Korea fires two short-range missiles

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea fired two short-range missiles off its east coast yesterday, the South Korean military said, less than an hour after Pyongyang warned of an "inevitable" response to military drills staged earlier in the day by South Korea and US troops.

The latest action by North Korea came as US President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake

Sullivan, was in Tokyo for meetings with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts.

In a meeting with South Korea's national security adviser, Cho Taeyong, and Japan's National Security Advisor Takeo Akiba yesterday, the three discussed North Korea's missile programme and confirmed that they would work closely together to get Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons, according to a readout of the meeting released by Japan.

Bangladesh improves

FROM PAGE 12

Department of State ranks countries by putting them in Tier-1, Tier-2, Tier-2 Watch List, and Tier-3, with Tier-1 being the best in terms of taking actions against human trafficking and Tier-3 being the worst.

Any country in Tier-3 faces sanctions on development assistance.

The country was in Tier-2 Watch List for three years - 2018, 2019, 2020.

It was pointed out that forced labour is still an issue and employers still confiscate the identity documents, like passports, of Bangladeshi migrant workers. Previous reports had documented numerous instances of employers retaining Bangladeshi migrant workers' passports in the Maldives.

The trafficking of Bangladeshis to Cambodia also came up in the report.

"Fearing significant downturns in revenue stemming from pandemic-

related restrictions, and witnessing widespread unemployment during the pandemic, traffickers in Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Ghana, and Turkey - including some with connections to the People's Republic of China (PRC) - saw an opportunity. They used fake job listings to recruit adults and children from dozens of countries, including [...] Bangladesh," said the report.

Some of the standards that countries must adhere to include implementation of human trafficking laws through vigorous prosecution and sentencing of trafficking; governmental measures to prevent human trafficking by cracking down on practices identified as contributing factors to human trafficking, such as employers' confiscation of foreign workers' passports and allowing labour recruiters to charge fees to prospective migrants, and expansive victim protection systems.

India promised cooperation

FROM PAGE 2

on either side of the border.

Replying to another query, he said the BGB started preparation for the upcoming national election long ago.

He also told his Indian counterpart that the Kuki Chin National Army, an armed group of the Chattogram Hill Tracts, may force a number of Bawm community people to go to India's

Mizoram. He was assured that if the group sent people to Mozoram they will be repatriated after confirmation of their nationality.

Bangladesh authorities launched a crackdown on the group after it came to light that the group has been giving shelter to and training newly formed militant group Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya.

Respect our right to own policies

FROM PAGE 1

about "the strong position of the Bangladeshi people, but also the mind of large part of the international community, especially the developing world" when she talked about the US sanctions on Rab.

Wenbin said this when asked about PM's recent remarks about the US sanctions and her comment that Bangladesh should stop buying from countries that impose sanctions.

"We firmly support Bangladesh in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, upholding independent domestic and foreign policies, and pursuing a development path that suits its national realities," the

spokesperson said.

Bangladesh foreign ministry said that in this connection, it would like to underscore that Bangladesh, like any self-respecting country, attaches the highest importance to the values of sovereignty and freedom to decide its own course of action - both domestic and foreign - for the betterment of its people, to realise the dream of the father of the nation by implementing the visions laid by Hasina.

The ministry statement comes at a time when the world is witnessing a geopolitical shift.

The Indo-Pacific region has also come under focus of the global powers and Bangladesh is also under

the spotlights.

More than a year after imposing sanctions against Rab and seven of its current and former officials, Washington on May 24 announced a visa policy saying that it would restrict visas for individuals and their immediate family members if they are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh.

It said the policy is aimed at supporting Bangladesh prime minister's commitment to hold free and fair elections in December this year or early next year.

China has not made any public statement on Bangladesh's elections.

Tigers on top

FROM PAGE 12

the ball neither zipped nor moved much despite the grass. The toss turned out to be a good one to lose as Bangladesh scored at over 4.5 runs an over on the opening day.

Najmul Hossain struck an attacking 146 while Mahmudul Hasan Joy also stuck around, making an important 76. The 212 run partnership between the two made a remarkable difference due to the mere fact that Bangladesh batted in the best batting conditions as Mirpur turned into a seaming track.

Despite having the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan at the crease, Bangladesh's innings was uprooted in seven overs on day two, six after the new ball was taken. But as the Afghan pacers' ran riot, Bangladesh's pacers were egged on by their counterparts' fearsomeness in

that morning session.

Mushfiqur Rahim had been done in by a sharp, rising delivery which he only could fend off to the slip cordon. The Bangladesh dressing room, especially the pace trio, took a cue from the bounce and movement on offer on a slightly gloomy and fairly windy day.

Ebadot bowled a mean rising delivery himself to remove Afghan opener Abdul Malik which complemented the one that Nijatullah Masood had bowled earlier in the morning.

"It didn't matter that we lost wickets as we scored a lot of runs. Because the weather was gloomy, we wanted to get on to the field quickly and get their wickets as quickly as possible," Ebadot said, adding that he always had confidence.

Asked if the way the Nijatullah got Mushfiqur out was inspiring, he said:

ACC sues cop

FROM PAGE 12

The ACC began enquiry against the police officer in 2020 upon receiving allegations of bribery and corruption. Abdullah amassed the wealth between 2007 and 2023, it found.

With the wealth, Abdullah bought two plots, six katha each, in the Ananda Police Housing Society of Narayanganj's Rupanji. He paid Tk 40.42 lakh so far.

His mother-in-law, Karima Khatun, signed a letter of allotment with Navana Real Estate to buy 3,909 square feet (sq ft) flat in Gulshan worth about Tk 8.75 crore on August 8, 2022.

About Tk 6.74 crore was paid from his wife's savings and business accounts.

Another Tk 2.09 crore was paid in cash.

Farhana bought a commercial space of about 2,386 sq ft in Kakrail for Tk 2.70 crore and a 2,150 sq ft apartment for about Tk 2.73 crore.

She spent another Tk 40 lakh for the construction of an apartment in the Police Project Southern Park-1 in Khilgaon.

Besides, the anti-graft watchdog traced deposits of about Tk 1.76 crore in Abdullah and his relatives' bank

accounts.

Farhana bought two savings certificates of about Tk 1 crore by using separate NIDs. The couple also has a sedan worth Tk 31 lakh.

To conceal his ill-gotten wealth, Abdullah kept the money in his wife's name, reads the statement.

The ACC also found suspicious transactions of about Tk 26.5 crore in Farhana's account.

Upon the ACC's application, the Senior Special Judges Court of Dhaka seized and froze the moveable and immovable properties of the accused.