

Fans began crying after seeing 'Joyeeta' in 'Mercules'

SABILA NUR

PHOTO:
SHEIKH MEHEDI
MORSHED

Sabila Nur's much-awaited debut web-series, 'Mercules' has been praised for its bold content and multi-star cast. Everyone has been raving about Sabila's spectacular performance as Joyeeta, a rather complex and layered character.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

How was the response to 'Mercules'?

The response to **Mercules** has been fantastic. I was a bit nervous as this was my first web series, but everyone liked the project and praised my acting.

People have been raving over your performance as Joyeeta. How does that make you feel?

I worked hard to get into the skin of my character. **Mercules** focuses on Joyeeta's journey. My goal was to make my audience feel the same emotions as Joyeeta, while she searches for answers. My greatest joy came when some people connected with Joyeeta and told me they started crying after seeing my performance. This touched my heart.

Your dance performance with Mamo on 'Mercules' song, 'Tomar Kothar Malay', went viral on social media.

I am really lucky that I could share this incredible performance with Mamo apu. Everybody loved it. I don't think most fans know I come from a dance background. I came into showbiz through my dance and then slowly transitioned to TV.

Will we get a second season of 'Mercules' anytime soon?

As an audience member, I am also eager to find out whether **Mercules** season 2 will come out. The series finale was left open ended, as we could only hear his voice. However, I will be really happy if I get to see him on screen next season.

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Afghan challenge set to intensify

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Khan alongside Mujeeb Ur Rahman will once again test the Tigers. It will be interesting to see how Shakib and his troops are able to tackle it this time around.

Afghanistan are well-ahead of the Tigers in terms of win percentage in the 20 over format. The visitors have won six out of the nine outings so far. For Bangladesh, however, it will be a new beginning.

Of late, the Tigers have shown vast improvements in the shortest format.

Their 3-0 win over the world champions England earlier this year, followed by a series win over Ireland, certainly provided ample confidence to the hosts.

The Sylhet pitch is expected to play a crucial role as head coach Chandika Hathurusingha was seen having a long discussion with head curator Gamini De Silva during the training session yesterday.

It is expected that Bangladesh will go with three pacers -- Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman and Hasan Mahmud -- in the line-up. However,

left-arm quick Shoriful Islam -- who registered his career-best figures in the third ODI -- has emerged as a worthy candidate to make it into the playing eleven.

While Shakib and Mehedi Hasan Miraz are expected to look after the spin department, the team management has the luxury to include an extra batter.

Meanwhile, there was light drizzle in Sylhet yesterday and, with rain in today's forecast as well, the game might see some interruptions.

Law and order, political situation

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The delegation also asked the CEO if the 46 percent turnout in the recently held SCC polls was satisfactory.

It wanted to know about the accessibility to rural areas in the district, availability of mobile phone networks, and safety of the possible EU election observation mission at its accommodation facilities, Badrul said.

Md Mozibor Rahman, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said the EU mission sought information on the overall political situation in Sylhet, and also asked him whether there is any possibility of violence in the next parliamentary polls.

"I told them that the last city

corporation election was peaceful. All elections in Sylhet were held peacefully and there is no possibility of violence. There is a peaceful coexistence of all political parties in Sylhet. They are organising their programmes peacefully," he said.

The EU mission arrived in Bangladesh on July 8 to assess the overall situation surrounding the next general election in Bangladesh, likely to be held in late December this year or early January next year.

The members of the mission are Sebastian Riger-Brown, first secretary (political) of the EU delegation to Bangladesh; Dimitra Ioannou, team leader and also an electoral and political

expert; Ian Miller, security expert; Cristina Alves, legal expert; Christopher Chamagne, logistics expert; Marie-Helene Enderlin, programme manager of election observation missions; and Tanja Nader, attaché and programme manager (governance).

On Wednesday, the mission held meetings with Information Minister Hasan Mahmud and Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar in Dhaka.

The EU delegation is holding meetings with representatives of the government, civil society and the media, political leaders, and officials of law enforcement agencies.

The team is scheduled to leave Bangladesh on July 23.

Grassroots wanted

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sources said.

The rally was held peacefully when delegations from the USA and the European Union are in Bangladesh to keenly observe the political situation ahead of the national elections slated for January next year.

The foreign delegates got a message about the party's organisational strength and public support for its cause, said party leaders.

Sources said the party was initially

thinking of announcing a blockade-like programme from the rally but went back on that plan as it might send a negative message to the visiting delegates.

"If we go for hartal- or blockade-like programmes right now, the ruling party will get a chance to say that we are opting for violence and it may be counted as an anti-democratic action, which is included in the US's visa restriction criteria," said a senior leader requesting

anonymity, adding that they may go for such programmes in the future, when necessary.

As part of the first programme to realise the one-point movement, a two day countrywide march programme was also announced on Wednesday for July 18 and 19.

On July 18, the road march will be observed in Dhaka from Gabtoli to Jatrabari and on July 19 from Uttara's Abdullahpur to Bahadur Shah Park in Dhaka.

City hospitals still grappling

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The dengue patients are being treated in eight units in the medicine department and three units in the children's department, Rashid said, adding that since their initial management is going well, the number of deaths in their hospital is only six.

He, however, mentioned that many NSI kits (used for dengue testing) are not showing accurate results immediately. "They show positive two or three days later."

He suggested that patients facing symptoms -- vomiting, nausea, abdominal pain, breathing obstruction, decreased urination and fatigue -- go to the hospital.

"Once the warning signs appear, they should go to hospital and consult

a doctor. They shouldn't consume any medicine apart from paracetamol, but must drink sufficient amounts of fluid as severe dehydration may lead to organ failure."

Other medication is unnecessary for a dengue patient, he said.

Mohammad Mamun, a resident of Postogola who has been under treatment at Mitford since Wednesday, said he had been suffering from a fever for the past five days.

"I initially took some medicine from a local pharmacy but my condition didn't improve. When I began experiencing nausea and abdominal pain, I came to the hospital."

Ratan Islam, 21, who was also admitted to the hospital on

Wednesday, said he contracted dengue from his workplace in Rayerbagh, where anti-mosquito drives are insufficient.

"People in the area also lack awareness regarding Aedes mosquito, and so don't take necessary steps to keep their houses or yards clean."

The DGHS on Wednesday announced that the 800-bed DNCC Hospital in Mohakhali will now be a dedicated dengue hospital.

In a public circular issued yesterday, the directorate said, "The hospital has been announced as a dengue dedicated hospital to tackle the pressure of the rising number of patients in Dhaka city."

Besides, it has also opened a dengue control room in its Dhaka headquarter.



This handout photograph released by the Spanish Red Cross (Cruz Roja) yesterday shows a migrant boat arriving at Las Galletas beach in the municipality of Arona, on the Canary Island of Tenerife.

PHOTO: AFP