

A REINVIGORATED TISHA

In a candid interview

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"I really can't take any of the credit myself, it is the audience, the people, who have been so kind towards me and my family," said a gleeful Nusrat Imrose Tisha, over the phone with The Daily Star.

Whether it be television, films or commercials, Tisha has claimed her spot as one of the most beloved actors in Bangladeshi media. Yesterday, when she celebrated her 13th marriage anniversary with husband and internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, that too wearing their wedding attire, the photos instantly grabbed attention for their wholesomeness and chemistry. Little Ilham, their daughter, also looked charming.

"Every achievement that I have professionally, and much of my life behind the screen, I owe it to the people who love me, I don't consider any achievement solely my own," said the humble *No Bed of Roses* star.

This Eid, even though her film *Roktojoba* did not see a full theatrical release, she is vocal on social media on supporting the other films that have been out in halls. "While *Roktojoba* was released exclusively on iScreen, I am okay with the decision that the platform needs its exclusives as well," said Tisha. She had to wrap up shooting for the film within only 12 days, as she had to travel to India to shoot *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*.

"Of course, I will support the people of my industry," said Tisha, perhaps as a declaration of solidarity. "Only when we have each other's backs will our film industry truly flourish".

Has the actor gotten the time to actually watch any of the Eid releases this festive season? "I will, at some point," said Tisha, citing motherhood to be the top priority for her at the moment. "Even though people will say that they want to see me more of me in projects, it's not like I am completely absent from the screen," Tisha cited the numerous commercials and talk shows that she still graces. Moreover, the audience can also enjoy her work from behind-the-camera, as she is also a producer now.

"I will only fully continue when we can settle Ilham, our daughter. After all, I have some responsibility towards her."

One of the most anticipated releases that Nusrat Imrose Tisha features in is *Shonibar Bikel* (Saturday Afternoon). Even though many eminent personalities in the industry have appealed that it should be released, the Mostafa Sarwar Farooki directorial stays in limbo, even after a green signal by the censor board. "Personally, I don't think that there is anything in the film that will actually hamper the country's image."

Of course, the film has already scored a US, Canada release with Reliance Entertainment and CEPL.

Despite the perceived setback, Tisha is enjoying her time as a mother, and in some ways, an ideal person to look up to, in terms of carrying herself in front of the media.

When asked why she stays out of most controversies, she laughs, "Again, it is just that I am blessed. I haven't really come across a situation where I am personally involved in some sort of controversy."



Toya and Shawon dub Korean Drama 'Mr Queen'

Real life celebrity couple Mumtaheena Chowdhury Toya and her husband Sayed Zaman Shawon will soon be voicing popular Korean drama *Mr Queen*.

Apart from Toya and Shawon, Shahnaz Sumi and AK Azad Shetu have also voiced pivotal characters in the Bangla-dubbed Korean series.

The dubbing has been done by SRK Studios and directed by Khalid Hossain Ovi. The Bangla-dubbed Korean web-series will be available on Bioscope soon.

Bangladeshi musician performs in Canada's biggest music festival



On July 13, Bangladeshi-Canadian musician Ash Ravens performed at the Ottawa Bluesfest in Canada. Dubbed as one of Canada's biggest music festivals, Bluesfest has also carved out a niche for itself in the North American music festival scene.

At the festival, Ash Raven performed an original song called, *Tomar Gaan*, that was penned for the artiste's mentor, Bangladeshi legend, Ayub Bachchu. The crowd, mostly North Americans, had the chance to immerse in Bangladeshi music perhaps for the first time at the festival.

Starting back in the early 90s, Bluesfest grew from a volunteer-run festival to one with headliners costing hundred thousand dollars. Artistes like Tom Petty, White Stripes, Kanye West, Lady Gaga, Bob Dylan, Sting, Foo Fighters and more have performed here.

NEWS

Rail workers delink Dhaka for 5 hours

FROM PAGE 12 possible for me to pay the money," he said, adding, "We are experienced workers. We are demanding our jobs be made permeant."

Shafiqur Rahman, divisional railway manager (Dhaka), said the government decided not to get contractual workers from December 2022 and directed them to go for outsourcing.

"But, following our request, the authorities extended the deadline to June this year. So, after the deadline, we have stopped hiring such workers," he said.

Following a request by the rail authorities for a discussion, the workers withdrew around 2:30pm. They then went to the Rail Bhaban and a group of around 25 had a meeting with BR Director General Quamrul Ahsan.

Talking to The Daily Star, DG said there will be a meeting between the railways minister and the workers after two weeks and the workers will continue working.

Shah Alam Kiron Shishir, divisional commercial officer (Dhaka division) of BR, said five trains, including Ekota Express and Kishoreganj Express from Dhaka, were delayed by four to five hours.

Around 10 trains were delayed by around an hour, he told this correspondent, adding that the situation became normal around 10:00pm yesterday.

EU team seeks

FROM PAGE 12 to know how a free, fair, peaceful, and inclusive election can be held.

They also wanted to know whether violence was likely in the run-up to the national election, she said.

Regarding the EU election observers, she told them that she was in favour of the observers' presence during the election.

The EU mission started its work to assess the election environment in the country here on July 9 and will stay until July 23.

The mission will prepare a report on the outcome of its visit. The report will form the basis for the EU to determine whether it will send a team to observe the election.

2 new parties set to get

FROM PAGE 2 Two parties later withdrew their bids while an EC committee recommended that 14 applications be binned.

The EC then sought additional documents from the remaining 77 applicants and gave them 15 days to do so.

Twelve parties -- AB Party (Amar Bangladesh Party), Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), Bangladesh Humanist Party (BHP), Gono Odhikar Parishad, Nagorik Oikya, Bangladesh Sanatan Party, Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP), Bangladesh Labour Party, Bangladesh Minority Janata Party (BMJP), Bangladesh People's Party (BPP), Democratic Party, and Bangladesh Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) -- were preliminarily selected.

Secretary Jahangir said there were some inconsistencies in the information provided by 10 of the preliminarily selected and that was why they recommended the registration of the two parties.

Ibrahim Miah, office secretary of the BSP, said they met all the requirements of the EC and are now set to get registration.

The phone of the BNM office in Dhaka was found busy when this paper made several calls over a period of an hour last night.

Nurul Haque Nur, president of a faction of Gono Odhikar Parishad, claimed that the government and its agencies had directed the EC to not register his party since the party has a strong stance against the ruling Awami League.

"We will get registration and take

part in the elections by getting rid of this government and through the reconstitution of the Election Commission before the next national polls."

He added that they would move to the court.

At a press briefing, Mojibur Rahman Monju, member secretary of the AB Party, said the decision to deny them registration was "farical". He said the party would deal with the decision politically and through legal means.

Party leader Abdul Wahab Minar said they would continue to protest this "unjust and unfair decision".

The EC has been issuing registration to political parties since 2008 in line with the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

A political party needs to meet at least one of three criteria to get registered.

A political party must have won at least one seat with its electoral symbol in any parliamentary election in Bangladesh.

A candidate of the political party must bag at least five percent of the total votes cast in a parliamentary constituency during a national election.

The party must have a functional central office, a central committee, and offices in at least one-third of the districts, 100 upazilas or metropolitan police precincts with at least 200 voters as its members in each upazila.

The commission did not register any political party ahead of the 2018 national polls. It registered three parties ahead of the 2014 election.

Hasina to meet

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meeting to discuss election-related issues with the partners as the next national election is approaching. Besides, the BNP and its like-minded parties announced a "one-point" movement with the target to remove the AL from power and the party also demanded that the polls be held under a non-partisan administration.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Gono Bhavan at 7:00pm on Wednesday.

This will be Hasina's second meeting with the alliance leaders since the AL formed the government in 2019 for a third consecutive time.

After three years, the last meeting was held on March 15, 2022, at the Gono Bhavan where Hasina assured the alliance leaders that her party will contest the next national election under the banner of 14-party combine.

The prime minister is going to meet her party's left allies when the gap with them keeps widening since 2019, as the left allies were ignored in times of crucial decision-making and left out during the formation of the

government.

The alliance leaders were also aggrieved over the ruling AL for various reasons, including the launching of electioneering by the AL unilaterally and the ruling party's interest to have ties with Islamist parties, said sources.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon at a rally in February said the 14-party alliance is "non-functional" and announced that his party would take part in the next election with the party symbol "hammer", not with "boat".

The 14-party alliance was formed in 2008 and the Jatiya Party joined it before the 2008 national election and formed the AL-led Grand Alliance.

The AL took part in the 2008, 2014, and 2018 elections under the banner of the 14-party alliance, which was treated as AL's ideological alliance. Besides, the JP was an electoral partner of AL in the polls.

The left leaders were inducted in AL-led governments in 2009 and 2014, but were ignored in the incumbent government.

Voters show little interest

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rather it manipulated it. Since I have such an experience, I'm concerned over both fair polls and result."

JP candidate Anisur said the atmosphere so far was satisfactory.

Many voters said they were yet to know their voter numbers and the names of polling centres where they would cast votes.

Monowarul Islam, of Gulshan area, is a voter of Dhaka-17 constituency (Gulshan, Banani and cantonment), said he does not know his voter number. "I want to know my voter number and the polling centre's name."

Contacted, Returning Officer Munir Hussain Khan said voters should go to their nearest polling centres. "Without this, there is no other way to know the voter number and the name of polling centre."

Ahead of Dhaka north and south city elections in 2020, voters were able to know their voter numbers and the names of their polling centres through text messages, apps and also on Election Commission website.

Many city dwellers are confused about the movement of private vehicles in Gulshan and

cantonment areas in the absence of clear instructions from the returning office and the Election Commission.

In an order, the EC imposed a restriction on the movement of trucks, buses, microbuses, SUVs, cars and battery-run three-wheelers since 12:00am today to 12:00am tomorrow.

The circular, however, said the national highways will be outside the purview of the order.

Returning Officer Munir said there would be a holiday in the election area on the election day.

"No public transport will run in the area, but residents who have offices in other areas will be allowed to move with cars. If they are barred, they will have to say they are going to offices," he said.

A total of 1,71,625 males and 1,53,580 females are expected to cast their votes at 124 polling centres. Voting will start at 8:00am and continue till 4:00pm.

Eight candidates are contesting in the Dhaka-17 by-election. The seat fell vacant following the death of AL lawmaker and actor Akbar Hossain Pathan Farooque.

9th-grader

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After 20 to 25 minutes, Jubayer heard that Raj had died.

Raj's aunt Taposhi Rani Das said her nephew was throwing up and complaining of severe chest pains when he came home.

The family was taking him to a hospital when he died.

Assistant Teacher Abakash said he slapped Raj twice for celebrating birthdays at school, and the other teachers had beaten Raj and the others.

Headteacher Monayem said the students were scolded, not beaten.

He added that he heard about Raj's death several hours later.

The family was taking him to a hospital when he died.

He also claimed to have heard that Raj died by suicide out of shame.

Later in the day, hundreds of locals went to the school with Raj's body and demonstrated. They vandalised the headteacher's room and damaged some properties.

Aminur Rahman, additional superintendent of police (Kaliganj Circle), said the headteacher and three assistant teachers were taken to Kaliganj Police Station for interrogation.

Mamun Rahman, officer-in-charge of the station, said it didn't seem like the boy had taken poison. However, the actual reason behind his death will be known after an autopsy, he added.

Alcaraz the new king

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a second warning in the match, with the Serb also being cautioned earlier for taking too much time to launch into his serves.

But all that distraction failed to throw an inspired Alcaraz off course as he became the youngest man in 37 years to win the gilded Challenge Cup after Djokovic scooped a forehand into the net, leaving the Spaniard to collapse on to his back in his moment of triumph.