

BABITA

immortalised

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In the Bangladesh film industry, one name that shines undeniably bright is Farida Akhar Babita, better known as just Babita. With a career spanning across eras, she has graced the silver screen in a remarkable 275 films, etching her presence in the hearts of countless fans.

The seven-time National Film Award-winning actor soared to international acclaim through her performance in the masterpiece *Ashani Sanket* by the legendary Satyajit Ray. Notably, she was the first Bangladeshi actress to collaborate with Ray, representing her homeland in global film festivals.

In a fitting tribute to her enduring influence, Babita's legacy recently crossed oceans and borders. August 5 was officially declared "Babita Day" by Bob Dubey, the Mayor of Richardson city in the USA's Texas, a gesture that resonated profoundly within the Bengali cinema community.

Babita expressed her sentiments to The Daily Star, reflecting, "The proclamation of 'Babita Day' by the Mayor of Richardson city felt like the culmination of a lifelong journey. It's that defining moment when all the accolades find their ultimate destination. This recognition carries a unique significance in my heart."

The prestigious Dallas Bengali Film Festival, recognizing her extraordinary cinematic journey, honored Babita with a lifetime achievement award. Throughout the festival's three days, the silver screen came alive with the luminance of Babita's performances. The enchanting aura of her timeless classics, including *Golapi Ekhon Train e* and the celebrated *Ashani Sanket*, was screened in the festival, offering

audiences an opportunity to relive her cinematic magic.

Turning the pages of time, the iconic actress recently celebrated her 70th birthday, embracing the joys of life with her son Anik in Canada. Anik's heartfelt gestures on her birthday spoke volumes of their bond, as he planned surprises that wove unforgettable moments into her life.

"On my birthday, Anik gave me a lot of surprises, he drove me to Toronto, and many other places I have never been before," she shared.

The journey to Toronto and exploring uncharted places filled her heart with happiness. Babita affectionately shared, "Every gesture of my son is a treasure to me. He understands my love for flowers, surprising me with their beauty, and a delightful birthday cake."

Anik's dedication to his mother's happiness continued throughout the day, concluding in a visit to a grand castle, a breathtaking ballet performance, and cherished meals together.

Babita's journey, embellished with cinematic triumphs and personal joys, continues to inspire and uplift. With her indomitable spirit, she has not only become an icon in the history of Bengali cinema but also a beacon of light, illuminating the hearts of those who admire her. As her legacy intertwines with the narrative of time, Babita stands as a true testament to the enduring magic of the silver screen.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



5 Bangladeshi artists' works exhibited in the US

Five Bangladeshi artists' works were exhibited in Cambridge, Boston, under the title *Electric Bangladesh: Fossil Free Future*. The event took place from August 1 till August 4 at Cambridge Foundry.

The exhibition advocated for a peaceful and secure future in which lives and livelihoods are not disturbed and Bangladeshis have access to sustainable energy.

The event featured projects by Ata Mojlish, AFM Moniruzzaman Shipu, Monica Jahan Bose, Morshed Mishu and Debashish Chakrabarty.

Taylor Swift announces release of '1989 (Taylor's Version)'

Taylor Swift is all set to re-release her 2014 album *1989*, which includes three of her popular album hits *Shake It Off*, *Blank Space* and *Bad Blood*, as well as other cherished tracks including *Out of the Woods*, and *Clean*.



Swift announced, *1989 (Taylor's Version)* will be released on October 27, the same date as the original album's release nine years ago, during her final US gig of the Eras Tour at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles on Wednesday. Swift's most recent album to receive the Taylor's Version

makeover is 1989. It was a watershed moment for her, marking her crossover from country to pop music.

NEWS

Doctor failed to assess patient's condition

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to the health minister, secretary of the health services division, director general of the health directorate and three other high officials at the health ministry on August 2.

Dr Shahjadi Mustarshida, the duty doctor, and Dr Muna Saha, another physician, were arrested and sent to jail in connection with the incident. They were freed on bail last month.

According to the investigation report, Dr Sangiukta Saha, a consultant at the hospital, uploaded numerous promotional videos on her Facebook page showcasing her skills in assisting normal childbirth at Central Hospital.

Having seen those videos, Mahbuba, who had wanted a normal delivery, consulted Dr Sangiukta and took advice from her twice during her pregnancy.

Mahbuba went into labour around noon on June 9, when she was first taken to Titas Upazila Health Complex in Cumilla. Doctors there recommended a C-section due to complications, but both Mahbuba and her husband Yakub Ali declined to follow their advice, the report said.

Subsequently, the couple spoke with the assistant of Dr Sangiukta Saha

and headed for the Central Hospital on assurance that Dr Sangiukta will supervise the delivery.

However, Dr Snjukta Saha left the hospital around 9:30pm on June 9, assigning Dr Shahzadi Mustarshida, who does not have a gynaecology degree, to handle the case, according to the report.

Dr Snjukta also did not inform the hospital authorities about her absence.

However, until 12:25am of June 10, the attending physicians did not disclose to Mahbuba and her husband that Dr Sanjukta Saha was not around.

Later, Dr Shahzadi Mustarshida and Dr Muna Shaha, who worked as part of Dr Sangiukta's team, performed a C-section, leading to the death of the newborn and the mother, the report said.

The investigation committee pointed out some malpractices by Dr Sangiukta, including making videos on social media about natural childbirth with some exaggeration, telling fellow doctors to treat patients using her name when she was not around, and telling Dr Shahzadi to treat Mahbuba when she was not there.

The committee identified four anomalies of the hospital authorities. They are permitting Dr Sangiukta Saha

and Dr Muna Saha to treat patients with expired licences; concealing that Dr Sangiukta Saha was not available at the hospital; allowing other physicians to treat Mahbuba; and taking no action against the illegal campaign on social media by Dr Sangiukta.

The committee said that Yakub Ali, Mahbuba's husband, had some liabilities. The report said that Yakub was insistent about normal delivery until the last moment although Mahbuba was in labour pain for about eight hours.

The committee cleared Dr Farida Akter Mili, Dr Ehsan Jamil, and Dr Sakhawat Alam since they went to the hospital when the patient was already in a critical condition.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque did not respond to our phone calls and text messages last night.

Dr MA Quasem, Vice Chairman of Central Hospital, admitted before the investigation committee that they made a mistake by allowing Dr Sangiukta Saha to treat patients with an expired licence.

Contacted last night, he said, "Checking doctors' licence is not our responsibility alone. It is also the responsibility of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council."

sources from where disinformation and anti Bangladesh propaganda are being spread and addressing those with proper counter efforts based on facts.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission, mentioned three specific locations -- London, Brussels and Washington DC -- from where propaganda is being spread.

Govt bans Jama'atul Ansar

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Bangladesh have been banned."

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan stated that the outfit's long involvement in disruption of law and order led to this decisive action.

The outfit's activities came to light following reports of eight people going missing from Cumilla on August 23 last year.

As Rab carried out investigations into these disappearances, it was uncovered that members of the militant group were undergoing armed training in collaboration with Kuki Chin (KNF), a separatist group in the hill tracts.

In response, Rab and CTTC launched a crackdown to apprehend the outfit's members.

Meanwhile, the outfit's ameer, Anisur Rahman alias Mahmud, and spiritual chief Shamin Mahfuz have already been taken into custody by law enforcers.

Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said a total of 82 individuals, including the outfit's ameer, have been arrested in special operations conducted in both hilly and plain land since October last year.

Moreover, 17 leaders and members of KNF were held for aiding and

abetting militants in the hill areas and providing training to them, he added.

Moin further said that they had apprised the home ministry of the outfit's activities and subsequently applied for its ban.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC unit, said with the militant group's activities now banned, legal proceedings against its arrested members will be completed faster.

"This ban will discourage both their sympathisers and the fugitive operatives from engaging in any criminal activities," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Delhi hopes to see free, fair polls

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journalists of the outcome of the three-day visit, at the invitation of BJP.

"India is our neighbour. They are aware of everything that happens in Bangladesh. They know the political and economic situations of our country," added Razzaque, also the agriculture minister.

The BJP invited AL leaders as part of "Know BJP initiative" announced by its National President JP Nadra.

Quoting Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as saying, Razzaque said, "India wants to see political stability in Bangladesh, wants to see fair elections. They said they will provide us with all kinds of cooperation at the international level."

During a meeting, BJP President JP Nadra told the delegation that his party is interested in working

with the AL in the future as they did in the past for the sake of political stability and countering terrorism in the region.

Razzaque said BJP leaders told them that China and Jamaat-e-Islami are no threat to India.

The AL leader, however, added, "China is always a factor of concern for India. That is why tensions sometimes rise on their borders. We have said our foreign policy is friendship with all and enmity towards none. We are following that policy Our [bilateral] relationship with India cannot be compared with any other countries."

He further said the AL and the BJP agreed that Jamaat is a communal force, a threat to security.

Speaking at the briefing, AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud, a member of the delegation, said, "The people we talked to strongly

believe that elections will be held in Bangladesh as per the constitution."

On the first day of the visit on August 7, the delegation held three separate meetings with BJP President Nadra, General Secretary Vinod Tawde and Jaishankar.

The meeting with Nadra put emphasis on regional political stability, regional cooperation, and combating militancy, said Razzaque.

In a separate meeting, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, chief coordinator for India's G20 presidency in 2023, told the delegation that India would invite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the G20 summit slated to be held in India on September 9-10.

Other members of the delegation were AL Advisory Committee member Aroma Dutta, Organising Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi and AL Executive Committee member Prof Merina Jahan.

Dhaka to welcome US move

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meeting with experts, Momen said they advised on how to deal with the foreign diplomats ahead of the election.

He said foreign diplomats in Bangladesh often make comments (on the country's internal issues) which does not happen in other countries.

The minister said there was a suggestion that an orientation

programme is arranged for journalists on how to ask questions as they don't ask critical questions on human rights and elections in the foreign diplomats' countries.

Experts suggested taking pragmatic and effective steps to counter anti-Bangladesh campaign and efforts to undermine the country's achievements, reports UNB.

They advised on identifying the

General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at a protest rally yesterday alleged that the government does not want to allow the BNP to hold peaceful political programmes.

The BNP yesterday mentioned the routes for their processions.

Fakhru will lead the procession by Dhaka north city unit that will start from Suvastu Tower in Badda and end near Abul Hotel in Rampura, while BNP standing committee member

Mirza Abbas will lead the procession by Dhaka south city unit that will start from Kamalapur Stadium and end at Malibagh Railway Gate.

BNP's 36 like-minded parties will also bring out processions in different parts of the city as part of their simultaneous movement to press home the one-point demand.

On August 7, the BNP announced that it will bring out processions in the capital.

AL, BNP to hold counter- programmes

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Speaking to The Daily Star, BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the processions will be peaceful.

He said the government has long been trying to foil their movement by creating anarchy on the streets, but they could successfully avoid "the trap set up by the government".

Referring to the attacks on BNP's sit-ins on July 29, party Secretary

Bangladesh's dev model an inspiration

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Bangladesh implement the Delta Plan-2100.

Talking about the Rohingya issue, Iyer mentioned that the global lender has already provided \$ 700 million assistance for the Rohingyas.

In this context, Hasina put emphasis on repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.

She apprised Iyer of different aspects of Bangladesh's development programmes. "Our main target is

poverty eradication. We want to ensure a better life of the people," she was quoted as saying.

The PM said her government and party design and implement plans taking all aspects in consideration.

About the climate issue, she said though Bangladesh is not a carbon emitter, it has to suffer the adverse impacts of climate change.

She said the World Bank is administering a technical assistance on the ecological restoration and

ensuring navigability of rivers surrounding Dhaka city to make it more liveable under an umbrella investment programme.

Hasina said her government opened everything for the private sector and is extending support to the sector.

WB Alternate Executive Director Ahmad Kaikaus, ERD Secretary Sharifa Khan and PMO Secretary Mohammad Salahuddin were present.