

NUSRAAT FARIA

Reflecting at her trials and triumphs

ANTARA RAISA

This year has been a blend of both triumphs and tribulations for the multifaceted actress, Nusraat Faria. Her dance moves captivated the audience in songs like *Bujhina Toh Tai*, *Kolija ar Jaan* from the film *Shurongo*, *Menoka* from the web-series *Abar Proloy*. Meanwhile, her recently released film *Patalghor*, has already garnered attention and praise from the audience.

Amidst the dazzle of spotlights and the click of cameras, The Daily Star had a candid conversation with the artiste, where she opened up about her struggles, aspirations, and much more.

You underwent an optical surgery two weeks ago. How are you now?

I'm gradually recovering and currently on bed rest. However, due to work commitments, I couldn't go for a checkup. It has been a challenging process because, for me, eyes are one of the most captivating features of my body.

You recently lost your grandmother. How are you coping emotionally with that?

Losing my grandmother (maternal) has been really tough for me. I spent my childhood and teenage years with her. Our bond was exceptionally strong. I affectionately called her *Bhabi*, as we used to call our grandfather *Bhai*. Her passing feels like a piece of my heart is missing. My family and I are finding it really hard to adjust to this new reality.

How has this year treated you personally so far, given the significant changes and losses you've experienced?

Professionally, this year has been favourable, but personally, it's been really tough. I've faced several upheavals. I ended a nine-year-long relationship, had

my surgery, and lost my grandmother all in the same year. It's been incredibly challenging, but I'm striving to stay strong and support my family.

I've come to understand that some women can't afford to dwell on sadness; they have to be strong. Currently, I'm not fixating on my losses, rather looking at the bigger picture. Also, keeping my faith in a brighter future that I believe the Almighty has in store for me.

In terms of my career, 2023 has been one of my most successful years.

Are you going to the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) to attend the screening of 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation'?

I'm thrilled that the project got selected for the prestigious TIFF. I might attend, but am still unsure. It depends on several factors, including whether I receive my visa on time.

Your recent film, 'Patalghor', will be screening at the World Film Festival in Kolkata. It's also been released on Chorki. How's the feedback been?

I've received overwhelmingly positive responses, and truly grateful for the support. These are the kind of films I want to work on more often. While I've had several films released in India, this is the first time that one of my films is being featured at a Kolkata film festival.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Two musical sisters collaborating after longtime



After quite a long while, musical sisters Fahmida Nabi and Samina Chowdhury have come together for the reality show, *Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid*. They will be performing at the Grand Finale of the show. The daughters

of the great playback singer Mahmudun Nabi will sing a few of their popular songs, along with patriotic track *Nongor Tolo Tolo*.

"I am very happy to collaborate with my sister for this special programme," she said to The Daily Star. She also posted a photo of them at a recording studio, captioning, "After a long time, we are collaborating with each other for a special programme."

Fahmida Nabi is currently working on some of her own compositions. She will also lend her voice in a track, composed by her brother Ridwan Nabi Pancham.

Gems of Nazrul honours National Poet on death anniversary

To commemorate the 47th death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the *Nazrulgeeti* group Gems of Nazrul is launching their 29th music video on August 27.

The production will air on Channel i at 12:01 am and will also be available on the troupe's social media and YouTube channel. With nearly 50 artistes, the musical experience promises to capture the rural essence of Bangladesh, as reflected in the rebel poet's songs.



NEWS

Sacked driver the key suspect

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abduction out of rage.

In the case statement, the NBR official said when her microbus reached near Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in Siddheswari around 8:00pm on August 17, a motorbike hit the vehicle. Some youths then cordoned off the microbus and assaulted the driver.

The attackers snatched the vehicle's key and kicked out the driver, and took the NBR official hostage. They then drove to Sabujbagh, where the official was confined inside the microbus parked in a garage. The abductors gagged her with tape and beat her up. They also threatened to kill her.

Around 2:00pm the next day, some

of the abductors went out to buy food, leaving two or three members of their gang to keep watch. At one point, she managed to get out of the microbus, screaming, according to the case statement.

Hearing her screams, locals went to the scene and rescued her. They also caught three members of the gang and called the police.

Later, Sabujbagh police rescued the NBR official and arrested the suspects.

"Things will be clear once we arrest the prime accused. We suspect the abduction was carried out to take revenge," said Sub-inspector Sahidul Osman Masum, who is investigating the case.

Two Barguna journos sued

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Mainul Islam to investigate it and submit a report in this regard, Kankan.

The complainant in the case said the newspaper published a report over a scuffle between two groups of ruling party men. The report said the fight ensued over placing wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Bamna on August 15. Actually, there was no scuffle on the day, added the plaintiff.

He said his image and also that of the party were tarnished by publishing the "false news" and spreading it through social media.

However, Bamna upazila AL

President Md Harun-or-Rashid told this newspaper that there was indeed a scuffle during the Mourning Day event, which he termed as "very shameful."

"The journalists did not commit any crime by publishing the incident in the media. Moreover, those who were involved in the incident should be punished."

Speaking on the matter, Nesar Uddin, editor and publisher of The Daily Sagorkul, said the news about the scuffle was published in several media outlets, but the case was filed against only him and his reporter.

Contacted, OC Mainul said he had heard about the case, but was yet to receive any copy of it.

another Tk 3 as 15 percent VAT on the commission.

This means the jobseeker will have to pay an additional Tk 23 alongside the Tk 200 application fee.

The application fees for government jobs in different grades are unchanged.

Those are: Tk 600 for 9th grade and above (non-cadre), Tk 500 (10th grade), Tk 300 (11th to 12th grade), Tk 200 (13th to 16th grade) and Tk 100 (17th to 20th grade).

Jobseekers to pay extra

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Previously, the 10 percent commission on the application fee was also effective but it was not collected from jobseekers; there was no VAT on commission either.

As per the revised circular, if an application fee is Tk 200 payable through Teletalk, then the jobseeker has to pay an additional Tk 20 as a 10 percent commission.

Besides, the jobseeker has to pay

Not even the poor spared by fraudsters

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The OC said they arrested seven members of such a gang of fraudsters on Sunday on charges of obtaining around Tk 13 lakh from two victims.

The seven -- Anik, 22, Rabiul Hossain, 25, Sabbir Karim Ahmed, 37, Jobair Alam, 36, Moktar Hossain, 25, Antu Dey, 22, and Fazlul Karim Nahid, 34, -- have been arrested from different places of Chattogram and Cox's Bazar.

Police seized 214 SIMs, a laptop, eight smart phones, two tablets, five feature phones, job circulars, salary sheets and t-shirts, seals of various government officials, fake journalist

ID cards, and ID cards of people, among other things.

Billal Hossain, a victim of fraudulence, said his maternal uncle Ruhul Amin is a Malaysia expatriate. He used to talk to him through IMO messaging app. The app used his Bangladeshi phone number.

He said his uncle was trying to take three of their family members to Malaysia and for that he asked for Tk 12 lakh on August 21 last year.

But later his IMO number was hacked and impersonating his uncle, a fraud asked him to send the amount.

"I sent Tk 2.60 lakh from the

capital's Kallyanpur to four MFS account numbers provided from my uncle's IMO account. Then the uncle called me and said his IMO account was hacked," Billal told The Daily Star.

In another incident, a fraudster called Mozammel and identified himself as a jailer.

Mozammel's father is in jail.

The caller said the government was freeing some prisoners and if he gave him Tk 40,000, he would make arrangements to release his father.

Mozammel added that the man gave him a MFS account number and he sent the money. Later, he realised that he had been defrauded.

'Rights abuses' figure high in reports

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Abdur Rahim Matbar was shot and killed, while Bhola district unit JCD President Mohammad Noore Alam also died on August 3 after being shot, it said.

The report also included the death of a BNP activist who was shot on September 1, 2022, during the party's anniversary programmes in Narayanganj.

"On November 28, 2022, Mohammad Shahjahan, a former BNP MP from Patuakhali 3 constituency, who was attacked by Jubo League and Chhatra League supporters on his way to a rally in Barishal, died in a hospital," stated the report.

It was also reported that mobile network operators were instructed to suspend high-speed internet services in the capital's Golapbagh area where the BNP was to hold its December 10 rally at 11:00am.

The report also detailed the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed while being incarcerated under the Digital Security Act, as well as the torture of cartoonist Ahmed Kishore.

"Kishore stated that plainclothes men detained him from his Dhaka home three days before his formal arrest, then blindfolded and transferred him to an unknown location, where he was interrogated, threatened, denied access to adequate food, and severely beaten, leading to leg ailments and long-term hearing loss in his right ear. He was also allegedly denied access to adequate medical treatment. Kishore was denied bail at least six times

before his release on bail in March, 2021, and continues to face charges under the DSA. He has since fled to Sweden," said the report.

The submission includes the arrest of Raghunath Kha after he reported on land rights in Satkhira on January 23, 2023.

"The police allegedly denied that Kha was in their custody and did not present him in court until 5:00pm on January 24, in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which requires the arrested person to be presented before court within 24 hours. Kha was unable to stand properly in court after he was allegedly beaten up, electrocuted, and threatened in police custody," said the submission.

The report states that Prothom Alo reporter Rozina Islam faces up to 14 years in prison or a maximum penalty of a death sentence.

"Islam was granted bail on the condition to surrender her passport even though there is no provision for conditional bail in the Code of Criminal Procedure. While the court temporarily permitted the return of her passport for six months in January 2022, Islam has since had to request the court to return her passport whenever she travels abroad," it said.

It also added that although the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch submitted its final investigative report to a Dhaka court and called for her case to be dropped due to lack of evidence, the court ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate further.

The report detailed how Nusrat Shahrin Raka, sister of US-based Bangladeshi exiled journalist Kanak Sarwar and her three minor sons were detained, and Raka was arrested under the DSA, and then later on for the possession of methamphetamines, which police said was recovered from her home.

"Instead of holding the perpetrators accountable, Bangladeshi officials have repeatedly denied the existence of human rights violations in the country. They continue to claim that enforced disappearances do not happen in the country; allegedly disappeared persons were not missing, but in hiding or drowned," stated the report.

Further, on January 23, 2022, two sanctioned Rab officials were awarded medals for "their bravery and service to the country in 2021", said the report, adding that on September 30, 2022, sanctioned Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was promoted to Inspector General of Police.

Following the sanctions, law-enforcement officers targeted the families of victims of enforced disappearances, the report alleged. "According to Maayer Daak, the authorities visited and threatened at least 10 victims' families within one month of the imposition of the sanctions, sometimes forcing them to sign false statements that their relative had not been forcibly disappeared and they had intentionally misled the police," added the report.

Other cases of reprisals against journalists, and human rights activists were also included in details.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra there to help from the start

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In Bhasan Char, GK provides support to the 20-bed hospital by providing necessary human resources and logistics with the help of the UNHCR.

"GK's goal of this project -- providing support to the refugees living in 12 of the 33 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and in Bhasan Char -- is to improve the health, nutritional status and well-being of at least 2,83,844 out of 9,48,402 Rohingya refugees," said Atiqur.

He added that the project is ensuring the accessibility and availability of quality primary health services, including non-communicable diseases management, STIs management, primary dental care, mental health and psychosocial support services, physiotherapy and physical Rehabilitation services, vaccination programme, comprehensive nutrition programme, community-level health education, and referral services.

Jubo League leader arrested

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Soon afterwards, Mizan along with four or five others went to the classroom where the teacher was taking a class and assaulted her in front of the students, according to the complaint.

Mizan and the men kept hitting her even after she fell to the floor of the classroom, it said.

He then dragged her to the school playground and continued to assault her until other teachers rushed to the scene and rescued her, it added.

Moniruzzaman said the teacher admitted to a hospital with serious injuries.

Mizan told The Daily Star he only had an argument with the teacher and refuted the allegations of assault.

Contacted, Education Officer Ismat Ara Parveen said: "We informed the matter to the higher authorities and requested necessary measures for ensuring justice."