

I don't need a hero as long as the story is good: PRIYONTEE URBEE

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The sweet and charming Priyontee Urbée donned a different avatar in Deepto Play's web-film *Apolap*. From portraying a resilient mother in *Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban* in the project *Ei Muhurte*, to playing the antagonist in her latest web film, Urbée loves taking on challenging roles as she thrives to prove herself in Showbiz.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the actress opens up about her latest projects and more.

How was your experience of playing an antagonist?

Portraying a character like Borsha, was very exciting for me.

Her multilayered persona and the way it was written intrigued me the most. Antagonist roles often receive immense hatred from the audience. The reception of Mostafa Monwar's character in *Shurongo* is a good example of this tendency. However, despite playing an antagonist, people loved my portrayal of the character.

What was the most challenging scene in the web-film? How did you prepare yourself for the role?

Apolap did not present many

challenges for me as an artiste. However, I had difficulty walking around in heels, which was tough as I don't wear such uncomfortable shoes in real life.

My director, Muhammad Ali Munna, gave me some films to study to help mold my character. He told me sternly that I must essay the role with such ease that the audience shouldn't be able to guess till the end that I am the antagonist, and that everything had been happening because of Borsha.

How was it working with such a stellar cast?

I didn't have any scenes with Nipun *apu* and I first got to interact with her during the premiere. She is exceptionally sweet and down to earth.

Barshon was incredibly supportive as I shot most of my scenes with him.

I was initially worried about working with Ziaul Roshan, fearing that commercial actors might be difficult to work with. But he was always punctual.

I developed a great rapport with my co-stars, making it feel as though we'd worked together before.

How has the production's reception been so far?

The response has been positive till now. Our main feedback will come from Deepto Play's subscribers, who are paying a nominal fee to access our content.

However, it is disheartening to discover that some people are watching our content for free on Telegram. Despite our best efforts and significant investment from our producers, it breaks our hearts that our audience can not afford to pay Tk 18 to enjoy our web film.

Why is it that most of your projects don't have heroes?

My stories are my heroes; as long as my story is good, I don't care about having a hero on screen.

While shooting for *Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban*, excited spectators asked me who the actress was. I told them there was no 'heroine' as I couldn't make them understand the plot.

Asked about the hero, I often responded by saying the '*golpo*' (story) was the production's hero. This answer often left them confused as they thought '*golpo*' was the name of my hero in the production.

What are your upcoming projects?

Currently, I am shooting with Afzal Hossain for the feature film *City Gold*, helmed by Sajal A Azad. We have a few days of shooting left. I have also finished shooting for *June* and am currently involved in the dubbing process.

Additionally, I am also in talks for the *Ministry of Love* anthology series, but nothing has been finalised yet.



Ayushmann to start filming Sourav Ganguly biopic in December

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana is all set to step into the shoes of former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly for an upcoming biopic. Directed by Aishwarya Rajinikanth, the film is slated to commence shooting in December.

In the latest report from Mid-Day, it's been noted that Khurrana, who is a left-handed batsman like Ganguly, had been chosen with confidence so that he can authentically capture the cricketer's essence on-field. The actor will also undergo extensive training to delve into Ganguly's life beyond the cricket pitch.

A source closely associated with the film revealed, "Ayushmann will commence his training next month in Mumbai. He will have more than two months to prepare for the role."

Rajinikanth becomes highest-paid actor in India with 'Jailer'



Rajinikanth's latest release, *Jailer*, continues to dominate the box office. Since its worldwide debut on August 10, the film has amassed over Rs 328 crore nett in India within 22 days and is steadily progressing towards crossing Rs 650 crore worldwide.

Celebrating the film's immense success, renowned film trade analyst Manobala Vijayabalan took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to make a significant announcement: Rajinikanth is now India's highest-paid actor.

Jailer features an ensemble cast, including Rajinikanth, Vinayakan, Ramya Krishnan, Vasanth Ravi, and Tamannaah Bhatia in pivotal roles.

COUNTRYWIDE

Mass grave of 7 martyrs lies neglected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mass graveyard of seven valiant freedom fighters, who embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War in 1971, in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila is on the verge of being eroded by the Ganeshwari river.

Freedom fighter Abdul Khaleque Talukder, also chairman of Kalmakanda Upazila Parishad, said seven freedom fighters—Dr Abdul Aziz and Mohammad Fazlul Haque of Netrakona, Mohammad Yaar Mahmud, Bhabotosh Chandra Das, Dijendra Chandra Biswas and Mohammad Nuruzzaman of Mymensingh, and Jamal Uddin of Jamalpur—borrowed martyrdom during a fierce battle with the Pakistani occupation forces at Nazirpur Bazar in Kalmakanda on July 26 in 1971.

Later, fellow freedom fighters took their bodies and buried them in bordering Phulbari area.

Every year the upazila administration and local freedom fighters observe the day as 'Historic Nazirpur Day' with due respect, said Saidur Rahman, chairman of Lengura Union Parishad (UP).

But continuous erosion by the

Ganeshwari river in the last couple of years has put the graveyard at risk as the paved road along the river is eroding every year, the chairman added.

At present, the graveyard is pretty close to the river and if immediate steps are not taken to stop the erosion right now, it may devour in the river soon, a number of locals said.

Schoolteacher Ashraf Ali said such historic places should be preserved for the better interest of the younger generations.

Local people have been urging the authorities concerned to build a guide wall along the Ganeshwari river to protect the martyrs' graves from further erosion, he said.

They have also been demanding to construct a museum at the place with complete information about the seven martyrs, their memorabilia and history of other freedom fighters in the region.

Kalmakanda LGED Upazila Engineer Shuvra Deb Chakraborty said they have sent a project proposal to repair the damaged road, stretching from Lengura Bazar to the Martyrs' Graveyard, and construct guide walls at different risky spots of the road.



Present condition of the mass grave of seven martyred freedom fighters along the Ganeshwari river in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila.

10-yr-old girl

FROM PAGE 2

"Sathi used to torture Hena with excuses like not doing her job properly and not paying heed to her instructions. On the day of the incident, Sathi beat her with a wooden lentil mixer and then stepped and pressed on her throat," said the OC.

After Hena died, Sathi fled.

Mofizur Rahman, manager of the seven-storey flat building, said Sathi had been living in the flat, owned by her ex-husband, with her four-year-old daughter.

Sathi went to meet her ex-husband in Jashore after the incident, according to police.

Awlad Hossain, who got on

Dhaka grinds to a halt

FROM PAGE 12

Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital at 10:30am. However, due to traffic jams, they reached the Banglamotor intersection after four gruelling hours.

"I hired a CNG for Tk 600 but we couldn't reach the hospital even by 2:30pm," Jalal said anxiously, unsure if his mother could see a doctor that day.

Other commuters echoed similar frustrations over the extreme delays. Many were forced to walk long distances, with one Pavel Rahman walking from Mirpur 60 feet to Farmgate which took him three hours.

Flood worsens in six districts

FROM PAGE 12

don't have enough food and drinking water," said Abdul Kuddus, 65, a resident of Fulchari's Guptamoni area.

Fulchari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anisur Rahman said relief efforts will begin today.

In Bogura, the Jamuna was flowing 21cm above danger level at Sariakandi, flooding around 172

3 major powers battling

FROM PAGE 1

Those are China's invasion of Taiwan and Russia's expansion of war to Poland, a NATO member.

"If one or both of these happens, Dhaka could come under unprecedented pressure from the US and its Western allies to take stronger positions against China and Russia," Kugelman said, adding that the scenarios should not be discounted at all.

The Indo-Pacific region is the focus of global powers and so is Bangladesh because of its geographical location, said foreign policy analysts from home and abroad.

The Russia-Ukraine war has further intensified the global power competition.

Constructive regional and international cooperation is one of the guiding principles of Bangladesh's 'Indo-Pacific Outlook', said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"There were no vehicles so I had to walk. I didn't know about the rally. If I had, I would've stayed home," said Pavel.

Citizens openly vented anger over the rally disrupting lives across the capital for hours.

"Ordinary people shouldn't suffer this way due to political events blocking streets," said one anonymously.

hectares of farmland, officials said.

"I cultivated Aush paddy on two bighas of land. But the crop is under water now," said a farmer named Rafiqul Islam.

In Kurigram, over 30,000 people of low-lying areas have been affected by floods caused by the Brahmaputra.

"We are trying to provide food and drinking water

among the people," said Bablu Mia, chairman of Begumganj Union Parishad in Ulipur.

Floods may take a turn for the worse Chilmari if an old embankment collapses, according to locals and BWDB officials.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Tangail, Jamalpur, Bogura and Lalmonirhat contributed to the report]

The country also stresses regional connectivity and always takes an active role towards this end.

"Through these, Bangladesh has worked as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia. Now Bangladesh is ready to expand its engagement with more members of the Indo-Pacific region."

Momen went on to urge the regional countries to help resolve the Rohingya crisis for a stable Indo-Pacific.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said "militarisation in the sea lanes" is undesirable as Bangladesh believes in the foreign policy dictum "friendship to all and malice to none".

Its only goal now is socioeconomic development, he added.

One should not ignore the importance of the middle and emerging powers of the region, said David Brewster,

More than 100 injured in Eritrean clashes in Tel Aviv

REUTERS, Jerusalem

More than 100 people were injured in violent clashes in Tel Aviv between Eritrean government supporters celebrating an Eritrea Day event and opponents of President Isaias Afwerki.

Israeli police fired stun grenades to break up the clashes, while some protesters hurled stones at police and set fire to trash bins, Reuters journalists at the scene said. Footage on social media showed Eritrean government supporters beating anti-government protesters with clubs.

Israeli medical officials said more than 114 people had been treated for injuries, including about 30 police officers.

The violence broke out around an event organised by the Eritrean embassy to mark Revolution Day on September 1, which commemorates the start of the Eritrean War of Independence against Ethiopia in 1961.

24th session

FROM PAGE 12

The Election Commission is likely to announce the scheduled for the 12th general elections in October.

Before the House goes into session today, a meeting of parliament's Business Advisory Committee will be held at 4:00pm to fix the duration and agenda of the session.

According to the constitution, parliament has to convene within 60 days after the end of its previous session.

The last session of parliament, which was the budget session, was prorogued on July 6.