

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Time is with TASNIA FARIN

SHARMIN JOYA

The year 2023 has proven to be an eventful one for Tasnia Farin. Apart from her debut in the silver screen, she successfully completed her graduation and delighted everyone with the announcement of her marriage to Shaikh Rezwan, her long-time companion.

Was the actress prepared for all these changes? — “I am very prudent about taking decisions, moving forward in life,” said the actress to The Daily Star. “Thus, I was quite prepared for this series of events that unfolded.”

Beginning this new chapter in her life, the **Karagar** actress couldn’t plan as extensively as she had hoped. “Due to prior commitments to ongoing projects, I couldn’t give quality time to Rezwan,” she said. “We only spent four days together in Maldives. After that I had to fly to Australia immediately, while he returned to the UK. Also, I will be occupied with my work schedule till November, and won’t be able to meet him anytime soon.”

Farin has taken on some exciting projects, including two projects helmed by Shihab Shaheen—**Kachher Manush Dure Thuiya**, which is one of the anthology films from Chorki original production **Ministry of Love** and **Baba Someone Following Me**, where she will be sharing the screen with Afzal Hossain and Tawsif Mahbub alongside an Australian actor.

“Both of these projects are very interesting. This is the first time I have collaborated with Pritom Hasan

in **Kachher Manush Dure Thuiya**”, she shared. When the first look of the project was revealed, Farin and Pritom were seen with a puppy. The candid photo created quite a buzz on social media. “We found the stray puppy in Australia, and Pritom *bhai* almost tamed him,” shared an excited Farin. She also added that the adorable puppy has a significant role in the project as well.

On the other hand, team **Baba Someone Following Me** were supposed to begin shoots on September 5. However, due to Afzal Hossain being unwell, it got postponed. “I am praying for Afzal uncle’s fast recovery, and hoping that we can start working in the project soon.”

Meanwhile, Farin completed shooting for the scenes located in Australia, where she performed with a local artiste. “I will not disclose much, but it was pretty exciting and fun to work with him.”

Meanwhile, Mizanur Rahman Aryan’s **Punormilone** (Reunion) features Siam Ahmed and Farin for the first time. Sharing her experience of working in the project, Farin asserted, “Siam *bhai* is very cooperative as a co-artist. He is a very organised person and always plans accordingly. He even memorises the dialogues of his co-actors!”

Farin included that the feel good plot promises to evoke nostalgia in audience, particularly in those who grew up with their cousins. “Cousins are our first friends, and as we grow up, distance starts growing between us. However, a reunion always brings back the spark again. The audience will experience an emotional ride through **Punormilone**.”

Apart from this, Farin has also taken on Kajal Arefin Ome’s web-film **Oshomoye**. According to the actress, the Bongo BD original film focuses on the contemporary issues through satire. “I hope the audience will keep loving and supporting me as they have always done,” Farin concluded.



‘The Crown’ final season will depict a royal wedding

Netflix teased a major spoiler for **The Crown** fans as it’s ready to kick off its sixth and final season with a royal wedding.

The Crown will feature the wedding of King Charles and Queen Camilla— then known as the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

The upcoming season will focus on the late Queen Elizabeth, played by Imelda Staunton. Meanwhile, Kate Middleton will be portrayed by Meg Bellamy, and Prince William will be played by two actors, Rufus Kampa and Ed McVey, as his character ages.

Barsha to take legal action against online trolls



Barsha has had enough of online trolling. Now, the actress is determined to take legal action against pages that share her videos with clickbait headlines and make fun of her accent.

In a recent status update on her social media account, the **Kill Him** actress announced her decision to file a defamation case against Facebook pages that create humorous content at her expense.

“If I come across anyone cutting and sharing clips from my interviews on a Facebook page with a controversial caption, I’ll be compelled to take legal action against that page. I, along with my lawyer, have already identified several pages that have made fun of me,” read the post.

COUNTRYWIDE

Low price, high labour cost frustrate jute growers

MIRZA SHAKIL

Jute growers in different upazilas of the district are becoming frustrated due to fall in jute price and high labour cost this season.

As a result, good yield of jute fails to bring smile to the farmers as the present market prices are too low, compared to the production cost.

Local jute growers said many farmers are not even cutting and rotting their jute plants due to increased labour cost.

Though jute is called the golden fibre in Bangladesh, the golden past of the fibre is almost lost.

Usually cutting and rotting of jute is mainly done in the Bangla months of Ashar-Sraban as the plants need to be kept in water for about 10 to 15 days for processing.

According to Tangail Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), they had a target to bring 18,050 hectares of land in 12 upazilas of the district under jute cultivation this year, farmers cultivated jute on 19,020 hectares.

During a recent visit to different rural areas, this correspondent saw farmers were busy in either cutting and rotting the jute plants or separating the fibre

from the plants.

While talking, a number of jute growers said this year production costs of each maund of jute is between Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500, while per maund of jute is being sold for Tk 2,000.

Farmer Shahidul Alam of Punglipara village under Bhuanpur upazila said, “I have cultivated jute on five bighas of land this year. Although the yield was much higher than the last year, I could not even recover the cost of production due to increased labour charge.”

Another grower Abdul Latif of Chandipur village said Jute plants are getting dried in the field as farmers in some areas could not rot jute due to increased wages of labourers.

Currently they have to pay between Tk 700 to Tk 800 to hire a day labourer, he said.

The jute of many lands has started dying in the field due to low prices. “As per current market prices, we cannot lift the production costs,” he said.

Bhuanpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Arifur Rahman said sales, prices and demand of any product are under purview of Directorate of Agriculture Marketing. “There is nothing we can do in this regard,” he added.



Although the district witnesses a good yield of jute this year, growers are getting upset due to a fall in jute prices and high labour cost. The photo was taken from Govindasi Bazar in Bhuanpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Counter anti-govt propaganda on social media

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The AL is lagging behind on social media, the AL chief said, adding that the opposition parties are now even more active on social media after their failure on the streets.

Propaganda by the opposition should be prevented so that people do not get misled, she added.

“If you all become active on social media, it would be possible to prevent the spread of propaganda.”

She then told her party

colleagues not to worry, saying that the BNP will not be able to topple the government because the AL has the people’s support.

“There is nothing to worry about. We are here and we will be here,” the premier said.

Besides, the AL chief asked her party-men to publicise BNP’s links to militancy and communal violence. Besides, the misrule, corruption,

she then told her party

keep her safe.

She was then rescued from there.

They added that the Karbari refused to hand her over to anyone without the presence of her parents, and police were able to rescue her once they came.

Police, however, still do not know why the

abduction took place and who the kidnappers were.

“We are investigating to find out all the information.”

Speaking to The Daily Star around 8:00pm, Shila Talukder, mother of Dipita, said, “We got our daughter back and that is all that matters now. We are at the police station at

17 killed in Russian strike

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Ukraine against Russia’s invasion.

During his two-day visit, Blinken is likely to announce a new package of US wartime assistance worth more than \$1 billion, a senior State Department official told reporters on the trip.

Blinken, the first top US official to visit Kyiv since the counteroffensive began in early June, began talks with Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, the official said.

“We want to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, not only to succeed in the counteroffensive, but has what it needs for the long term, to make sure that it has a strong deterrent,” Blinken said

standing alongside Kuleba.

“We’re also determined to continue to work with our partners as they build and rebuild a strong economy, strong democracy.”

Asked about Blinken’s visit, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow believed Washington planned to continue funding Ukraine’s military “to wage this war to the last Ukrainian”. He said US aid to Kyiv would not affect the course of Russia’s “special military operation”.

Yesterday’s strike in Kostiantynivka followed a series of Russian attacks on cities in eastern Ukraine in which civilian infrastructure has been hit, including a popular cafe, a hotel and shops.

Food import, CEPA to feature high

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of onion, 30,000 tonnes of lentil, 20 lakh tonnes of rice, 15 lakh tonnes of sugar, 10,000 tonnes of garlic and 1.25 lakh tonnes of ginger every year.

Moreover, the issue of CEPA is also on the agenda, Ghosh said.

The proposed CEPA between Bangladesh and India has three dimensions: trade in goods, trade in services and investment.

The main target of the proposed CEPA is to reduce the huge trade gap between Bangladesh and India and open up new economic opportunities including connectivity, new markets and cooperation and partnership.

Moreover, the CEPA is planned to resolve the issues and challenges of

anti-dumping duties and rules of origin through the perspective of multi-modal connectivity and deepening of cooperation in the context of sub-regional cooperation.

Bangladesh and India may discuss the progress of the implementation of different infrastructure projects under the three India lines of credit (LoCs), The Daily Star has learnt from officials briefed on the matter.

India has extended a total of \$7.5 billion across three LoCs since 2010 for 46 projects. As of June, only \$1.5 billion has been disbursed.

Hasina will seek easier terms and conditions for LoCs, which come with stringent terms such as employment of Indian

contractors, and 65-75 percent raw material procurement from India.

Subsequently, many of the projects from the first LoC are yet to take off or were scrapped entirely.

There might be talks of extending a fourth LoC, with a dozen of the slow-moving projects included in it along with fresh ones.

Earlier, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen told reporters that issues like connectivity, sharing of Teesta water, food and energy security and different projects will be discussed at the meeting.

Hasina will return to Dhaka on the morning of September 10, the day the summit of the leaders of the world’s most powerful economies ends.