



PHOTO: COURTESY

I aspire to become an actor for whom directors will eagerly line up:

ASHNA HABIB BHABNA

Ashna Habib Bhabna, a popular actress, is gearing up for the grand releases of two of her films, *Japito Jibon*, directed by Habibur Islam Habib, and *Daam Para*, directed by Shuddhyaman Chaitan. The actress, known for captivating television audiences, hasn't worked in TV dramas for over three years, fully immersing herself in her movie roles.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Recently, The Daily Star had a heart-to-heart conversation with the *Lal Moroger Jhuti* famed actress, delving into her dreams, aspirations, and future plans.

What is your goal as an actor?

Well, I have already explored various mediums and genres. There was a time when I was heavily involved in television dramas, and my audience appreciated my performances on TV. But now, as I've evolved as an actor, I wish to focus more on films.

Why do you prefer doing films? Does stardom attract you?

No, not at all. The notion of fame doesn't appeal to me. I've had my share of fame since my father was a film director, and our home was often filled with renowned actors. However, I'm more drawn to acting itself, and I aspire to be a seasoned actor.

Do you have any dreams you'd like to pursue?

I aspire to be an actor who is not easily replaceable. I want to be the kind of actor for whom directors would eagerly queue in line.

You recently had the opportunity to work with the veteran actor Afzal Hossain. How was the experience?

It was a privilege for me, and I thoroughly enjoyed working with him in Habibur Islam Habib's film, *Japito Jibon*. I learned a lot from him and consider



myself fortunate to work with an actor of his stature.

You have two movies set to be released soon. Could you tell us more about them?

Yes, one of them is *Japito Jibon*, the other is *Daam Para*. Both films boast compelling storylines, and I can't wait for their release. I'm optimistic that both movies will perform well at the box office. Additionally, I'm working on a film called *Payel*, directed by Rayhan Khan, and I play the central character.

Did anyone in the showbiz industry help you get to where you are today?

No, everything I've achieved is a result of my struggles and hard work. I won't stop until I accomplish my dreams as an actor, and I believe I'm on the right path.

Do you have any aspirations or plans for OTT platforms?

If I'm offered central or protagonist roles, I would gladly participate in content for OTT platforms.

What are your thoughts on marriage?

Currently, I can only think about acting. I want to become a better actor, portraying intriguing characters in compelling storylines. Regarding marriage, I believe it's in God's hands, and when the time is right, I will follow that path.



Star Cineplex to open in Uttara

Star Cineplex is embarking on a journey to bring the magic of the silver screen to a wider audience. Celebrating its 19th anniversary last month, Mahboob Rahman Ruhel, the founder of Star Cineplex, unveiled an ambitious plan to increase the number of cinema halls to 40 within the next year.

This vision is already in motion as Star Cineplex is set to start the construction of a new branch in Uttara. An agreement was officially signed on Tuesday in this regard, between Star Cineplex Chairman Mahboob Rahman and United Group Chairman and Managing Director Mainuddin Hasan Rashid.

The upcoming branch will be located at the CentrePoint Shopping Mall in Uttara, conveniently adjacent to the airport. This multiplex is set to feature four state-of-the-art halls equipped with modern facilities, advanced sound systems, and giant screens.

Mike bags Best Feature Film Award at Singapore



The Bangladeshi full-length children's film *Mike* bagged the award for Best Asian Feature Film at Singapore's prestigious Tekka International Film Festival.

The Ferrous Ahmed starrer movie, financed by the Bangladesh government, is built around the premise of commemorating Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech and was released on August 11.

Regarding the film, director FM Shahin stated, "I believe that *Mike* will elevate the historic March 7 speech in a new medium."

NEWS

Scope to be inspired, not intimidated

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The Bangladesh camp was no exception. The Tigers, fresh off a victory against Sri Lanka, had the opportunity to savour what Maxwell served on a platter the night before and relax on their day-off yesterday, ahead of their last World Cup match against Australia on November 11.

Will Bangladesh be daunted by their next test after witnessing what Afghanistan went through, despite doing little wrong for the bulk of the game, or can the Tigers draw inspiration from Maxwell's, and Australia by extrapolation, never-say-die attitude?

Former Bangladesh captain-turned-selector Habibur Bashar, who was accompanying the team, blamed the Tigers' dismal performance in the World Cup on a lack of strong attitude and said they should learn from Maxwell's exploits because it was the story of winning everything against all odds.

Maxwell's unbroken 201 grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat, but the way he played through discomfort, despite cramps and back spasms, made it all the more memorable.

'Don't intend to form a new political party'

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was hopeful of staying with the party until the end of his political career.

"Khaleda Zia is my leader. As long as she is alive, she will be my leader. She will get all the respect. I also respect our leader Tarique Rahman."

He said he would participate in the forthcoming national polls as a BNP member if the party eventually decides to take part.

When the BNP's stance is to stay away from polls if held under the incumbent government, Hafiz urged the party to find an alternative to the caretaker government system and take part in the upcoming polls.

"I think the BNP should take part in the elections with international mediation... The fate of Bangladesh's economy is also related with the United Nations, European Union, and the United States. The BNP should run in the election for the sake of democracy if there is mediation by these international powers."

"Have you seen the innings of Maxwell?" Bashar asked reporters when he joined several national team players for lunch at a food court adjacent to the team hotel in Pune.

Bashar continued, "You don't get to see such knocks often in world cricket and probably this was the best ODI innings ever played."

The conversation then shifted to the importance of players having a strong mentality. Bashar believes that, in addition to talent and training, mental strength is essential for success in major international tournaments.

"I believe that before proceeding to the world events, we should focus more on mental strength because our skill levels remain the same. We came here with good preparations, much like the other teams, but I believe there is also an aspect of having a strong mentality."

Bangladesh, unfortunately, are going to sign off from the prestigious event -- what has been a thoroughly disappointing campaign with six consecutive defeats sandwiched by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka victories -- without captain and star player Shakib Al Hasan.

Bashar went on to compare Shakib's body language to Maxwell's, given how the Bangladesh captain battled with a finger injury during his rapid 82-run knock against the 1996 World Cup champions.

As usual, the former Bangladesh captain was hopeful of his team's chances.

"If we can play our best cricket definitely, we are able to challenge Australia. They are a very strong team and have a few game changers like David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Travis Head. They all are good players but no team is unbeatable."

Bashar's optimism cannot be dismissed, especially given that Australia have little to play for against Bangladesh as they have already qualified for the knockout stage with a game in hand.

The Tigers, who are anxious to finish in the top eight and qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy, can only hope that they play to their capabilities and do not encounter the version of Australia that left a spirited Afghanistan team distraught from the point of anticipating a convincing win.

2 ex-student leaders

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towards Moghbazar. The truck ran them over as the driver sped up to flee, said police, quoting witnesses.

Shah Mohammad Awlad, officer-in-charge of Hatirjheel Police Station, said police were trying to identify the truck and detain its driver.

Ganosamhati Andolon announced a two-day mourning from Friday.

Arif and Shouvik were buried at Azimpur graveyard after their namaz-e-janaza in Eskaton area. Leaders of different political and student organisations, their colleagues, and friends paid last respect to them there.

Participants said Arif was a familiar face on the Dhaka University campus for his humanitarian work and progressive student politics.

He was one of the organisers of the student movement on DU campus that was launched to protest the attack on university teachers and students on August 20-23, 2007, during the military-backed caretaker government rule.

Talking to The Daily Star, Saikat Arif, general secretary of Chhatra

EC to discuss possible date

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from the president, the commission will take note," he said.

The EC already held meetings with Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and the heads of the law enforcement agencies and ministries.

Today's meeting between the EC and the president is taking place at a time when the country is witnessing political violence.

The BNP Jamaat are enforcing blockades demanding that the election be held under a non-partisan caretaker government while the ruling Awami League maintains that such demands are unconstitutional

First NDB project to ensure safe water

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\$942 million, which is 1.84 percent.

NDB's authorised capital is \$100 billion, which is open for subscription by members of the United Nations.

Also at today's Ecneec meeting, the project styled "Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services" will be placed for approval.

The Tk 1,181 crore project is aimed at strengthening the existing mosquito control unit of the Local Government Division with adequate technical support, equipment,

and will not be met.

Asked about the political situation, Jahangir said the country's environment is conducive for announcing the polls schedule.

'EU, OTHERS INTERESTED IN MONITORING POLLS'

The EU, Commonwealth and US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) have so far expressed their desire to monitor the election, said an EC statement yesterday.

The Commonwealth's pre-election assessment mission will meet with EC officials on November 19, Jahangir told reporters.

The assessment mission will be

visiting Dhaka from November 19-22.

EC officials said the Commonwealth will decide whether to send a full observer mission after the findings of the pre-election mission are communicated to its secretary-general.

Earlier, the EU sent a pre-election mission and decided not to send a full observer mission. The EU, however, later said they would send a four-member observer team to monitor the polls.

A US pre-election mission visited Bangladesh, but the country has yet to announce whether it will send a full mission.

human resources and training.

Of the project cost, the World Bank will provide Tk 1,073 crore.

Under the project, different facilities including a biological lab, training lab, insectarium, auditorium, and server room with relevant equipment will be established.

Besides, the warning system to prevent the dengue epidemic will be upgraded and the second and third floors of the Dhaka Mosquito Control Office will be built.

Interventions to be supported

Thousands flee north

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world powers stepped up appeals for a humanitarian pause in the war to help alleviate the suffering of civilians in Gaza, where whole neighbourhoods have been razed by Israeli bombardment and basic supplies are running out.

"It is ... important to make Israel understand that it is against (its) interests to see every day the terrible image of the dramatic humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people," UN

Secretary General Antonio Guterres told a Reuters NEXT conference on Wednesday. "That doesn't help Israel in relation to the global public opinion."

"There are violations by Hamas when they have human shields. But when one looks at the number of civilians that were killed with the military operations, there is something that is clearly wrong," Guterres said.

Serving time in others' stead

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They said the inmates told them that they got between Tk 3,000 and Tk 15,000 to serve someone else's time.

Jail officials said since January, the prison authorities got access to the NID server that allowed

them to identify such fraudulence. Chattogram Central Jail's Superintendent Muhammad Manjur Hossain told The Daily Star, "We have a prisoner database where we store their details, including fingerprints. Recently, we have been able to match our data with the NID server."

by the project will include physical control (such as draining breeding sites, clearing culverts, etc.) and strengthening the capacity for integrated vector management in line with the LGD's national guidelines for the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases.

A total of 37 project proposals -- both new and revised -- are expected to be placed at today's Ecneec meeting.

In the last Ecneec meeting on October 31, a total of 50 projects were placed, of which 37 were approved.

Bangladesh may remain

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This will require investment, skills transfer, and further integration of existing industries into global supply chains, said the report, adding that deepening trade relationship with China, potentially through the planned rail link via Myanmar, could increase economic prosperity through job creation.

From the US perspective, its robust trade ties with Bangladesh and strong alliance with India may provide opportunities to make inroads, says the study.

"Yet recent events, including vote rigging, voter intimidation, the use of violence, and the targeting of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus through the judicial system, have put Washington in a tough position," said Aiddata.