

BEHIND-THE-SCREEN HEROES

‘They called me make-up man, I prefer make-up artist’

“Sadly, there is no make-up learning institute in Bangladesh, so I thought of checking in the neighbouring country. Then I discovered that, even in Kolkata, there were no makeup schools. Later, I went to Mumbai,”

SHARMIN JOYA

“I have always wanted to work in a sector where I am the first, and it will give me an identity of my own,” shared Atia Rahman, the make-up artist who drew attention for her breathtaking works, particularly in OTT platforms.

Nazia Haque Orsha’s ‘horrific burn,’ created through prosthetic make-up in *Sabrina*, was done by Atia. She also crafted the look of Chanchal Chowdhury as the mystery man from 150 years ago in *Karagar*.

The artist took home the Blenders Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content award for Best Make-up Artist this year for her work in the web-series *Karagar*. She was also nominated for *Sabrina*.

Reminiscing her journey with The Daily Star, she shared that she was born and brought up in Dhaka. Her maternal grandparent’s home is in Natore, and this is where the story of make-up artist Atia started.

“Whenever I visited Natore, I would not miss any chance to get the brides ready around me,” she smiled, “At that time, the bride’s make-up included a red bindi, alongside designing the forehead and cheeks with snow cream.” Atia

always loved doing make-ups on other people and discovered the passion which later became her profession. “The most challenging part of my job is that I am responsible for elevating the beauty and, at the same time, demoting it when needed.”

It was back in 2012 when Atia began her journey in the industry to explore her inner talent. She learned basic make-up and later mastered her skill development in make-up from Mumbai, taking further training in prosthetics from there. “Sadly, there is no make-up learning institute in Bangladesh, so I thought of checking in the neighbouring country. Then I discovered that, even in Kolkata, there were no make-up schools. Later, I went to Mumbai,” she added.

This designation is dominated by men, and usually, the term ‘make-up man’ is used to address them. Was this a challenge for Atia, and how did she break this?—“Not only in Bangladesh, but in India, this sector is somewhat dominated by men. The transition



Atia Rahman

from the idea of ‘make-up man’ to ‘make-up artist’ was not easy at all,” said Atia. “To my knowledge, I am the first female make-up artist in the ad film industry in Bangladesh and the first one to do prosthetic make-up as well.”

Although she stepped into the industry through ad films in 2013, the remarkable acclaim was brought to her with the Hoichoi web project *71* in 2020, directed by Tanim Noor. “I was doing very well in the ad film sector, and earning quite well; however, I felt it is time to gear up the level of challenge,” shared the artist. She is the only make-up artist who has done the highest number of projects in OTT projects.

In her career, she has worked on projects such as *Ladies and Gentlemen, Boli, Kaiser, Dui Diner Duniya, Over Trump, Myself Allen Swapan, Virus, Something Like an Autobiography*, and upcoming work is *Kachher manush Durey Thuiya*, amongst others.

While discussing the crisis of designated institutes in Bangladesh, she shared that the journey for aspiring make-up artists is quite difficult, as there are no proper learning institutes. “For a female, the path is even tougher here; people are very judgmental, and it takes quite a long time to prove yourself. But I am glad that the mindset is changing, and while I am working here, I can witness the changes very well, especially the directors and the team I have worked with so far, played a great role in this journey.”

Three people who Atia definitely wants to remember during her whole journey are her mother, who has always supported her and stood by her side. Another is Ashfika Rahman, her sister, and her best friend Szymon Pluta. “Without these people, I would not have come this far, and I dedicate all of my achievements to them,” she concluded.



James to perform in London after 10 years

Popular Bangladeshi musical icon James is all set to take to the stage and headline several concerts in London, UK, this month. The singer last performed for the UK audience 10 years ago.

James is going to perform at The Royal Regency, London, on December 7. Also, he will headline a concert in Birmingham on December 10, confirmed Robin Thakur, manager of James and Nagar Baul band.

“The two concerts are happening soon in London. James is returning to the stage of London after 10 years and I heard the Bengali audience there is ecstatic and eagerly waiting for the shows,” said Robin.

American Heart Association identifies hit songs as potential lifesavers



The American Heart Association has highlighted certain chart-topping tracks, including Taylor Swift’s *You’re Losing Me* and Beyoncé’s *Virgo’s Groove*, as potential lifesavers due to their optimal tempo for hands-only CPR.

In a tweet on social media platform X, they explained that songs with a rhythm between 100 and 120 beats per minute align perfectly with the recommended speed for chest compressions during CPR.

Singing the identified songs with forceful compressions at the specified beats per minute could assist individuals in maintaining the correct tempo during CPR, potentially saving lives, the organisation found in a groundbreaking revelation.

NEWS

Israel breaking every rule

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supplying it with seemingly unconditional military assistance, or by failing to help stem the relentless bloodshed and atrocities being committed in Gaza.

“I am writing to you on behalf of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to implore you to do everything within your power to ensure an immediate and sustained ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. You must demand that the Israeli government stop the deadly attacks on Palestinian civilians and allow crucial humanitarian aid to enter Gaza,” MSF International President Christos Christou said in an open letter to the UN Security Council yesterday.

Ahead of the release of the open letter, MSF South Asia Executive Director Dr Farhat Mantoo held a virtual interaction with journalists working in the South Asian region on Friday, where she described the appalling condition on the ground.

“We [MSF] are a 51-year-old organisation. We have lived through

many, many wars around the world, but we are at a stage where we see a war where every rule is being violated. These are unprecedented times and our teams on the ground are witnessing a uniquely horrific crisis in Gaza,” she told the briefing attended by The Daily Star.

Israel launched its military campaign on Gaza on 7 October, in reaction to an unprecedented attack by Hamas inside Israel, killing at least 1,200 people. Many people were also taken hostage by Hamas fighters.

In its subsequent offensive in Gaza, Israel killed more than 15,000 people, half of whom are children, the letter says, citing Palestinian health authorities.

Israel also enforced a “complete siege” on Gaza, banning the entry of water, food, fuel and medical supplies for the 2.3 million people trapped in the enclave.

“Northern Gaza is being erased from the map. The health system has collapsed. Tens of thousands of

people have been injured. Families are digging their dead loved ones out from under the rubble. At least 1.7 million people have been displaced,” it adds.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has documented 181 attacks on healthcare facilities that have led to 22 fatalities and 59 injuries of health workers on duty. Medical staff, including those of MSF, are having to amputate limbs from children suffering from severe burns without anaesthesia or sterilised surgical tools.

At least four MSF staff members have been killed, and many have lost family members.

Despite Israel’s claims, its all-out assault is not being waged just on Hamas. It is being waged on all of Gaza and its people at any cost, MSF International president’s open letter to the global leader says.

“It must all stop now. We call on you to be part of the solution and exert all means in your power to prevent further carnage,” the letter urge.

BNP announces

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Rizvi said, “The Awami League government tried to purchase leaders of small parties, but failed.”

“The parties nominated their leaders to participate in the election, but they didn’t submit forms to the election commission,” he said, adding, “Now, the Awami League’s hope has turned into despair.”

Rizvi said the government has formed the “King’s Party” to keep all the popular parties away from the one-sided election.

Terming the election commissioners “half-robots”, the BNP leader said, “Sheikh Hasina has the remote control in her hand...”

At a press briefing, Rizvi claimed that law enforcers arrested over 19,215 leaders and activists in 519 cases across the country from October 28 until yesterday afternoon.

He also claimed that 355 party leaders and activists were detained and 14 cases were filed against 1,265 named and many unnamed party activists in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

In Dhaka, three crude bombs went off in the Paltan area of Dhaka yesterday between 5:30pm and 6:00pm, said Salahuddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station.

There were no reports of injuries, the police officer added.

Meanwhile, at Nayapaltan, law enforcers were seen guarding the BNP party office, which has been padlocked since October 28.

According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, five vehicles -- two trucks, two autorickshaws, and a bus -- were torched on the second day of the two-day blockade in Feni, Gazipur, and Dhaka till 6:00pm yesterday.

In Dhaka, arsonists set a bus of Tanjil Paribahan on fire at Zero Point in the capital’s Gulistan at 2:23pm. Two firefighting units extinguished the fire around 2:40pm. There weren’t any casualties, said fire officials.

In Gazipur, arsonists set fire to a hay-laden truck in Chandra on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. Two fire engines doused the fire. The straw was burned, but the truck itself remained unharmed, said fire officials.

In Feni, unidentified criminals set fire to two CNG-run autorickshaws on Shaheed Shahidullah Kaisar Sarak.

Police said some people exploded crude bombs to create panic among people and then set fire to the vehicles.

Inflation fell slightly

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of Statistics yesterday. Inflation in rural areas went down by 37 basis points to 9.62 percent. In urban areas, it fell by 56 basis points to 9.16 percent.

The rate of inflation declined slightly but the price level is still high, said Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

One reason behind the decline could be the base effect and another reason could be the government’s contractionary policy, he said.

“The prices of commodities that the low-income group consume are still high. As a result, the slight decline in inflation will not give any respite to them.”

Climate finance

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As tensions ran high over differing visions for the future of fossil fuels, COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber defended his role after the Guardian newspaper quoted him as questioning the science behind the need to “phase out” fossil fuels.

“I am quite surprised with the constant and repeated attempts to undermine the work of the COP28 presidency,” Al Jaber told a news

conference. “We very much believe and respect the science.”

The amount of cash needed for the energy transition, climate adaptation and disaster relief is overwhelming.

A report released yesterday estimated that emerging markets and developing countries will need \$2.4 trillion a year in investment to cap emissions and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

Nomination of 731

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nominations were cancelled can file appeals with the commission by December 9.

The aspirants or their representatives will have to file the appeals at the Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital’s Agargaon. The EC will dispose of the appeals from December 10 to 15.

In Barishal-4, the nomination of the ruling Awami League candidate Shammi Ahmed, also the party’s international affairs secretary, was scrapped on the ground of dual citizenship.

Meanwhile, the candidature of incumbent AL lawmaker Pankaj Nath was declared valid. He will run as an independent.

Apart from Shammi’s, nominations of nine more aspirants have been scrapped in Barishal.

On Sunday, the candidatures of AL nominees Salah Uddin Ahmad for Cox’s Bazar-1 and Mamunur Rashid Kiron MP for Noakhali-3 were cancelled.

Besides, the nominations of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury (Munshiganj-1), and AL MPs Bazlul Haque Harun (Jhalakathi-1) and Didarul Alam (Chattogram-4) were also scrapped.

In Dhaka, 76 MP hopefuls, including 38 independents, were disqualified from contesting the general election in 20 seats.

Among them is Farhana Sayeed, wife of AL nominee Sayeed Khokon for Dhaka-6, who sought to run for the same seat as an independent.

At least 30 nominations, including those of 19 independents, were scrapped in 16 seats of Chattogram, said ROs Abul Bashar Md Fakhruzzaman and Tofael Islam. In Patuakhali-1, RO Noor Qutubul Alam declared the candidature of JP co-chairman ABM Ruhul Amin Hawladar valid after he paid a tax of Tk 88.69 lakh.

Earlier, his candidature was put on hold as he did not pay the tax.

[Our district correspondents contributed to this report.]

31 more BNP, Jameet men jailed

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In a November 2018 case, 13 leaders and activists of BNP, Jubo Dal, and JCD were sentenced to two years in jail each for violence in the capital’s Hazaribagh.

Majibur Rahman Moju, president of Hazaribagh BNP, its general secretary Abdul Aziz, and Jubo Dal leaders – Sirajul Islam Billal, Masud Rana and Anisuzzaman – are among the convicts.

The verdict was pronounced by Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ataullah, in the absence of all convicts. The magistrate also acquitted 10 other accused from the charges.

During the trial, four prosecution witnesses gave statements before the court.

According to the case statement, on November 6, 2018, a group of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations illegally gathered in the Staff Quarter Road area in Hazaribagh and obstructed law enforcers from discharging their duties.

Following the incident, police filed a case against 51 BNP men with Hazaribagh Police Station.

On February 10, 2020, police submitted a charge sheet to the court against 23 accused.

Also yesterday, another Dhaka Court sentenced 14 BNP leaders and

activists to three years’ imprisonment over political violence in Rampura in September 2018.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam, however, acquitted 43 other accused as the charges against them were not proven.

According to the case statement, the accused on September 30, 2018, assaulted police personnel and obstructed them from discharging their duties at Malibagh intersection in Dhaka’s Rampura during a programme to demand the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In another case, Magistrate Mainul also handed down jail sentences to three Jamaat activists – Imam Hossain, Mohammad Humayun Kabir and Jakir Hossain – for two years over political violence in Dhanmondi area on May 11, 2016.

No convicts were present at the courtroom when the verdicts were pronounced in the two cases.

The same day, Dhaka’s Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain sentenced BNP activist Zahirul Islam to three years’ rigorous imprisonment in a case filed over political violence in the capital in November 2013.

The lone convict Zahirul was absent during the delivery of the verdict.

Meanwhile, the magistrate acquitted 38 other accused from the charges.

Ten prosecution witnesses testified before the court during the trial.

The case statement said a group of leaders and activists of BNP, Jamaat and their front organisations gathered in front of Ananda Bridge in the city’s Mugga area around 8:45pm on November 17, 2013.

They vandalised some vehicles, torched one of them and prevented law enforcers from discharging their duties.

Following the incident, police filed a case against 46 people, including Jamaat leader Ahmed Hossain Faruqui, with Mugga Police Station.

On April 22, 2015, police pressed charges against 39 people.

118 aspirants

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papers of some of the aspirant MPs due to defaulted loans.

The commission on Monday scrapped 64 nomination papers in 15 seats of Dhaka over various reasons, including defaulted loans.

The central bank on November 30 asked banks to provide information to the EC about the defaulted loans of the MP hopefuls after the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry issued a circular on this issue two days earlier.