

The ever-evolving SAFA KABIR

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Safa Kabir, the renowned model and actress of our generation, has gracefully navigated the entertainment industry for nearly a decade. Captivating audiences with both glamorous and natural roles, she recently gained praise for her portrayal of a female bus conductor in drama *Parul* and the character Dr Maha in Vicky Zahed's drama, *Bed Number 3*.

In a recent episode of The Daily Star's podcast, *Daraz presents A Peek Inside with Sadi*, the *Kuhelika* actress discussed her journey in showbiz and her latest endeavours.

There was a time when you used to get trolled for your acting, and now you have evolved into an actress who is donning different kinds of roles. How did you navigate this evolution?

I started with a girl-next-door character in *@18: All Time Dourer Upor*. After that, the audience loved seeing me in such mellow roles.

Then came the 'selfie queen' phase, as I did a campaign for a mobile phone and took a selfie with almost two thousand people in the background. After that, I used to get approached for such roles in dramas and TVCs. But eventually, I was done portraying the typical characters and wanted more. I aimed for mature roles and to portray diverse stories of women. Convincing both the audience and directors during that challenging period was tough, and I'm grateful to those directors who took a chance on me.

You approached directors to cast you. Did your ego try to hold you back?

The word 'ego' doesn't exist in my vocabulary, despite working in a showbiz industry. My parents raised me to be humble. I never felt competitive with others.

How do you handle fans? Do you get annoyed when they approach you for photos?

Not at all. I love it when people come to talk to

me or take photos with me. This is something I enjoy and cherish. Sometimes, when I am in the middle of a scene, and someone approaches me for a photo, it distracts me from my role and at that time, I might say no to the person. But generally, I never reject someone who approaches me for a photo.

You claim to be a self-made actress. Why do you consider yourself so?

From 2013 to 2023, noticeable differences in my work—reactions, actions, dialogue delivery, pronunciation, expressions—reflect my learning curve. People can only criticise, but there are barely a few who would teach you how to do it. I learnt things from my senior co-artists and mostly by observing. I always consider Apurba and Nisho bhai as 'schools', from whom you can always learn things. I also

got the chance to share screen with Chanchal dada, and I got to learn so much from him. Siam is also very supportive and helps me comprehend things.

You proved yourself in Vicky Zahed's 'Bed Number 3'. How did you prepare for the character?

An artiste needs to explore different characters. Like the character, I also do have anxiety and a while back, I was deeply depressed. So, I knew how it felt, and I tried to portray that feeling on screen. My director probably doesn't know it, but I didn't sleep two nights straight. It makes your under-eye nerves come out a little bit. Obviously, there was an effect of make-up, but I really wanted to get into the shoes of the character. During that time, I barely used to talk to people, trying to immerse myself into the role of Maha.

What are you currently working on?
I can't reveal the details now. All I can say is I'm going to play the role of a *tokai* (garbage collector) this time!

Transcribed by Mahiya Tabassum



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Kumar Bishwajit dedicates new song to ailing son Nibir

Renowned singer Kumar Bishwajit, is set to release a song tomorrow, titled *Nibir Opekha Korchhe*—dedicated to his only child Nibir Kumar. His son has been in critical condition for the last eight months, following a fatal accident in Canada. The singer has also been by his son's side since then.

The song follows up on a musician's (Kumar Bishwajit himself) journey in grief and earnest solicitation in pursuit of his son's recovery. It is going to be released on Thursday under 18 banners across the country.

Three Bangladeshi students were killed in the same road accident that critically injured Nibir Kumar in Toronto on February 13, last year.

Nazrin Choudhury of Bangladeshi origin bags Oscar nomination

The 96th Academy Awards unveiled nominations last Tuesday, recognising Nazrin Choudhury, a British-American screenwriter, director, and actress of Bangladeshi origin.

Her short film *Red, White, and Blue* secured a nomination in the Best Short Film category, co-produced by Choudhury and Sara McFarlane, featuring Hollywood actress Brittany Snow in the lead role.

As per synopsis, the film tells the story of Rachel, a single parent facing a challenging predicament, compelled to traverse state borders in pursuit of a vital abortion.

Nazrin Choudhury has written 1 episode of Amazon Prime's *Jack Ryan* series, 2 episodes of BBC One's *EastEnders* series, and 8 episodes of AMC channel's *Fear the Walking Dead* series.



COUNTRYWIDE

Aslam finds fortune in coloured cauliflower

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

A young farmer in Pabna Sadar upazila is trying his luck by growing colourful cauliflower as it is easy to grow and provides better returns than the white variety.

Mohammad Aslam Ali of Beelviduria village has successfully cultivated yellow and dark purple variety of cauliflower for the first time this season on his one and a half bighas of land, considering its commercial value.

He took the initiative to introduce the new variety instead of the usual white not just for their beauty, but for their nutritional values as well.

After witnessing Aslam's success, many other growers in his locality are now becoming interested in cultivating the eye-catching variety—yellow and dark purple cauliflower.

Meanwhile, seeing the coloured variety of cauliflower for the first time in the market a few days ago, many buyers showed their interest in buying the new variety instead of the white ones.

"I have collected the coloured cauliflower seeds from a nursery in Dhaka and planted those on my one and a half bighas of land at the beginning of this winter," Aslam said.

Aslam said he used to cultivate cauliflower on one bigha and spinach

on another bigha land, but this year he cultivated coloured cauliflower on one and a half bighas land on an experimental basis.

"It cost me Tk 60,000 to cultivate the coloured variety on one and a half bighas land and I am expecting to earn Tk 1.2 lakh to Tk 1.5 lakh from the produce," he added.

Farmers can earn up to Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 by cultivating the traditional white variety, spending Tk 20,000 on one bigha land, Aslam further said.

While talking, Mohammad Nannu, a vegetable vendor at Abdul Hamid Road in the town, said each kilogramme of coloured cauliflower is being sold for Tk 80 to Tk 100, while the usual white variety cost Tk 40 to Tk 50.

Another farmer Dulal Hossain of the village said when Aslam first started cultivating the colourful variety of cauliflower many thought it was completely madness nothing else.

But seeing his success, many others are now gradually getting interested in cultivating the new variety of cauliflower.

Pabna Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Jamal Uddin said the agriculture department has been conducting various researches on different new varieties of vegetables in order to get more production on small scale of land.



Farmer Aslam Ali takes his coloured cauliflower to the market for sale. The photo was taken from Beelviduria village in Pabna Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Cold snap likely to linger for 2 more days

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Chudanga in Khulna division; and Nikli of Kishoreganj under Dhaka division.

Temperatures between 8-10 degrees Celsius are classified as mild cold wave, 6-7.9 degrees Celsius as moderate cold wave, 4-5.9 degrees Celsius as severe cold wave and temperatures below 4 degrees Celsius are

considered as very severe cold wave, according to the Met office.

Meanwhile, flight services at Syedpur Airport were disrupted for three hours since 11:00am yesterday due to poor visibility caused by dense fog, according to officials from the airport.

The visibility dropped in and around the airport since late Tuesday night due

to dense fog, said Suplob Kumar Ghosh, the airport's manager. "That's why the authorities decided to suspend flight operations," he said.

As a result, three flights on the Dhaka-Syedpur route was delayed by two to three hours, affecting around 200 passengers.

In the forecast for 24 hours from 9:00am today,

the Met office said moderate to thick fog may occur over the country from midnight to morning and it may continue till noon at places. Air navigation, inland river transportation and road communication may be disrupted due to thick fog.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may rise a little over the country, it added.

Diamond Egg, CP Bangladesh fined Tk 3.5cr

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retail prices of eggs in August 2022 while controlling the supply of eggs, said the BCC in its latest orders.

In August 2022, the prices of eggs, a low-cost source of protein, surged by as much as Tk 30-40 a dozen to Tk 160 as major producers colluded with each other to artificially

hike the prices of eggs, according to a report of the Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection then.

Yesterday, the retail price of a dozen eggs was Tk 135 in Dhaka, according to market prices data compiled by Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

In a statement, Diamond Egg refuted the charge

and said the BCC failed to produce any evidence against it.

"The way the proceedings against Diamond Eggs have been conducted appears flawed,"

BCC is conducting the proceedings without framing any relevant regulations, which makes "the entire process, proceedings and the adjudication unpredictable,

non-transparent, unfair and the same is very prone to be biased".

Diamond Eggs said it will appeal against the decision.

CP Bangladesh is yet to receive the full copy of the order, said Abid Chowdhury, the company's lawyer. The company will decide on its next course of action after receiving the letter, he added.

Independent lawmakers get PM's invitation

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are leaders of the AL and its front and associate bodies.

The Jatiyo Party won 11 seats, and Bangladesh Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Bangladesh Kalyan Party secured one seat each.

With the independents winning almost six times more seats than the JP, there had been speculation over who would be the main opposition in the 12th parliament.

On Monday, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader

said the JP will be the main opposition in the House and the independent lawmakers will remain independents.

As the BNP and like-minded parties boycotted the national polls, the AL adopted a strategy

to allow its leaders to run as independents so the election appear participatory and the voter turnout increases.

The EC postponed the polls to Naogaon-2 after the death of an independent aspirant.

UN experts urge rights reforms in Bangladesh

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freedom of opinion.

Special rapporteurs are unpaid experts mandated by the UN Human Rights Council as part of its fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms. They are independent and do not speak for the United Nations.

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk had previously said that mass arrests, threats, enforced disappearances,

blackmailing and surveillance were all methods reportedly used by law enforcement officials in the months leading up to the January 7 vote.

He also lamented reported acts of political violence, including arson attacks allegedly committed by opposition groups, and said around 25,000 opposition supporters had been arrested.

The experts yesterday said they had written to the

Bangladeshi government urging full investigations into the alleged numerous human rights violations.

They called for the immediate and unconditional release of all civil society and political activists detained without charge.

"We are alarmed by the dangerous decline of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law in Bangladesh, eroding public trust in state institutions. This is also

tarnishing the country's image and could endanger its social and economic development," they wrote.

They urged the government to prioritise human rights reforms and enable free political participation to restore public trust in democracy. "This would also reassure foreign investors and send a clear message to the world that it is committed to upholding its international legal obligations."

BSF returns

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to his family home in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila.

According to a press release issued by BGB on Monday, a BGB patrol team from the Jashore battalion confronted smugglers near the Dhanyakhola border outpost earlier that day.

Rais Uddin became isolated at one point due to fog, the statement read.

Initially, the BGB learned from various sources that he was injured in a BSF firing and was getting treatment in a hospital in India.

The press release further said that during a flag meeting of the two sides, it was confirmed that he died at an Indian hospital.

Meanwhile, the BSF in a statement issued on Tuesday said Rais Uddin was accompanying a group of cattle smugglers in plain clothes.

The smugglers attacked a BSF member who tried to stop them. The member then fired his weapon in self-defense, it added.

Israel hits

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In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces arrested 35 Palestinians, including a woman and former prisoners, reports Al Jazeera online.

Martin Griffiths, UN coordinator of emergency relief, said that 24 people had been killed in strikes on an aid warehouse, UN centre and humanitarian zone in the Khan Younis area, and that a centre where aid is distributed to families had come under heavy bombardment.

Some people were taking dirt roads out of Khan Younis to try to reach Rafah, or Deir Al-Balah to the north, according to residents and freelance reporters leaving the area.