

People's comments mirror their own mentality

RUNA KHAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actress Runa Khan's recent photoshoot came into the centre of attraction to people on the internet. The actress, who earned appreciation for her recent web series *Oshomoy*, spoke to The Daily Star about her recent looks, her fitness, and upcoming ventures.

What is the story behind this new look?
This shoot is from Nasir Hossain Photography, which was taken in January. Farhana Chaity did the make-up. Nasir told me that I must try a new look, in a western outfit, this is how we planned and executed the shoot. We did 4 looks in that shoot.

'Oshomoy' is the most viewed project on Bongo. Did you expect it to be that successful?

I did. Kajal Arefin Ome is a wonderful director with a different vision, and the entire cast was very talented. There was no reason for the project to not do well.

Would you share the secret behind your fitness?

I eat home-cooked food, the usual Bengali cuisine. However, I maintain a few things strictly, such as I regularly drink black coffee, green vegetables, nuts, green tea, and lemon. I walk one hour every day, do Yoga, and completely avoid sugar. I try to maintain a healthy natural life.

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This particular shoot created a stir on social media, some comments were positive, while others were exceedingly harsh.

These depend on the mentality and the way they perceive a matter. Every individual thinks differently and you will notice that no matter what you do people's comments will be divided. I am just glad that it reached people. I love to embrace new things in life, whether it be a new project, working with new directors, or a new script.

Who is your inspiration in terms of beauty?

My mother, even at the age of 60, looks so beautiful. I want to look like her when I become her age.

Tell us about your upcoming projects.

I have completed working in Sanjoy Somadder's *Shorno Manob*, Kaushik Sankar Das's *Dafon*, Madus Pathik's *Bok*, and Sharear Nazim Joy's *Shodh*. All of these projects await release.



PHOTOS: NASIR HOSSAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Tasnia Farin wins award for 'Fatima' in Iran

Tasnia Farin shared beautiful stories and pictures when she traveled to Iran to witness the world premiere of her movie *Fatima*. Yesterday, the actress had been honoured with an award at the prestigious Fajr International Film Festival for her performance in *Fatima*. She received the Crystal Simorgh Award in The Eastern Vista Section at the 42nd edition of the film festival.

"I wish I could stay one more day to receive the award myself but I couldn't be happier that my director Dhruvo Hasan bhaiya received it on behalf of me. Thank you, Jury, for loving my work and thank you for the warmest welcome I received in Tehran. This was truly a dream-come-true moment for me," stated the actress.



Taylor Swift beats Arijit Singh, becomes second-most followed Spotify artiste

While Ed Sheeran continues to reign on the number 1 spot on Spotify, there seems to be tough competition between Arijit Singh and Taylor Swift as they are constantly vying for the second spot for the most followed artistes on the platform.

Taylor's immensely popular song, *Anti Hero*, has overtaken Arijit to claim the high ranking spot of the second-followed Spotify artiste.

As of February 11, Swift has 101,081,218 followers on Spotify. She's left behind the *Chaley* singer who has 100,883,025 Spotify followers. Sheeran, on the other hand, stays firm at the top of the Most Followed Artists on Spotify chart with 113,404,496 followers.

NEWS

They took

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me that our house was surrounded by armed men in black uniform. When they were dragging my son out, they put him in a minivan. A black Rab vehicle stood by."

Rahmatullah's sister Razia claimed that "Rab-4" was written on the vehicle.

She said her brother was not involved in any politics and had finished high school and was undergoing training to be an electrician.

The family went to the Manikganj

Rab camp the very next day, but they were sent to Dhamrai Police Station. The police said they had no information on Rahmatullah and were asked to go to the Nabinagar's Rab office and the office of Detective Branch of Savar police.

The family said they returned empty-handed from all those places. "We tried to file a general diary, but police did not record it initially. We could lodge the GD only when a newspaper ran a report," said Razia.

Lt Col Mohammad Abdur Rahman, commander of Rab-4, told The Daily Star, "It is an old issue. We are not

involved in any such operations. It could be done by other agencies or someone might have been using Rab's name as a cover. There are also incidents of using fake identities, but we can assure that we were not involved in such operations."

Mayer Daak, a platform of families of enforced disappearance victims, organised the press conference.

Its Convener Sanjida Islam Tulce said, "We don't want any more families to be added to our ranks. Instead, we want the disappeared to come back, and want our organisation to dwindle."

He said, "His assurance came following meetings with Takeo Konishi, director general of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Arnoud Hamelers, country director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Iwama Kiminori.

He said officials and their family members at the Bangladesh Consulate in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, are being relocated to Yangon on security grounds.

Earlier, the Indian consulate and the foreign officials of the UN and other aid agencies relocated from Sittwe.

Initial signs imply economy

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In reply to another query, the minister said that some 36.62 lakh people have submitted income tax returns until January 2024.

The minister also informed the House that the number of TIN holders in the country is 99.70 lakh.

"But some 36.62 lakh returns have submitted by which some Tk 5,901

crore was deposited in the national exchequer," he said.

Earlier, the minister, while talking to the reporters after meetings at the secretariat, said that Bangladesh is slowly recovering from the economic crisis.

"Many people say Bangladesh has become bankrupt, but a big country like ours won't become bankrupt as

series last year while regular captain Shakib was absent.

Under his leadership, the Tigers won their first ODI and T20 matches against New Zealand in New Zealand after clinching their maiden home Test win against the same rivals.

Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha had praised Shanto following the completion of white-ball tour of New Zealand.

"I thought the leadership of Shanto was outstanding. He was tactically spot on and very clear with the messages to the players and what he expects from them. The environment

Shanto's dream comes true

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was still their "number one choice for captaincy", but they had to make the change due to uncertainty surrounding Shakib's availability following his eye problem.

The BCB chief further informed that they are willing to take some time to designate the vice-captain, and the decision would also be based on the cricketer's availability for different formats.

The decision to appoint Shanto was not surprising, given had led the team in all formats against New Zealand in both home and away

BGB, BSF to use non-lethal

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too," Hasan Mahmud said.

He said 330 members of Myanmar's Border Guard Police, army, and their families who had fled to Bangladesh amid pitched battles between the military and Arakan Army will be sent back to Myanmar soon.

"I don't want to share a specific date. That's confidential, because of security concerns," he said.

Asked if Bangladesh authorities will interrogate the Myanmar army members if they were involved in the

genocide against the Rohingya, he said, "Repatriating all of them is our priority."

Asked about the security situation along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh has already registered strong protests against Myanmar for their internal conflicts spilling over Bangladesh.

"We don't want to see our security compromised due to Myanmar's internal conflict," he added.

Asked about the reports of several hundred Rohingyas waiting on the Myanmar side of the border to enter

Justice for Preeti Urang demanded

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of the Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Guidelines 2015 and enactment of a law in accordance with the policy.

It also demanded that domestic labour be categorised as "hazardous work" under the labour law. The platform called on the public and private institutions to make sure that no underage workers or minors are employed in hazardous work.

In addition, they demanded registration of domestic workers. The Forum also called for effective steps to prevent recurrence of such deaths.

Members of the Forum, whose secretariat is at the office of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), are Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), Association for Land Reform and Development,

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movements, Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies (BILS), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), FAIR, Kapaeeng Foundation, Karmojibi Nari (KN), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Nagorik Uddyog, Naripokkho, National Alliance of Disabled Peoples' Organisations (NADPO), Nijera Kori, Steps Towards Development (Steps), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

The Forum has a seven-member steering committee. The committee members are Faruk Faisal, executive director, ASK; Shaheen Anam,

executive director, MJF; Zakir Hossain, chief executive, Nagorik Uddyog; Saria Hossain, executive director (unsalaried), BLAST; Ranjan Karmaker, executive director, Steps Towards Development; Sanjib Drong, secretary general, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; and Saleh Ahmed, executive director, Bondhu Social Welfare Society.

In a separate statement yesterday, Naripokkho demanded an independent investigation to ensure justice.

"It must be ensured that anyone culpable cannot go scot-free by exercising undue influence, or taking advantage of the legal loopholes," Naripokkho said.

The women's rights organisation also demanded effective measures to stop recurrence of such incidents.

Govt fires four officials

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Commission (PSC) secretariat said the four accused are likely to be slapped with major penalties as they are proven guilty of misconduct as per the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2018.

The PSC gave its opinion on February 8 in response to the four letters the ministry sent on January 28 seeking advice on the decision to sack the officials.

As the PSC appoints the first- and the second-class officers, seeking its advice on firing is a procedural requirement, according to DYP officials.

Early last year, an investigation by the youth and sports ministry found 10 officials, including the four, involved in embezzling the money.

Ashraf and some others illegally allocated the fund to a training and employment programme for the youth in Sylhet's Zakiganj in fiscals 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 even though the programme ended in November 2019, according to the probe findings.

They withdrew the money and misappropriated it in connivance with each other, reads the probe report.

Following the investigation, the ministry filed departmental cases against the four and formed inquiry boards.

The inquiry boards advised dismissing the four officials after reviewing their replies to show-cause notices and considering all other aspects.

The process of taking punitive actions against four other accused – Azharul Kabir, upazila youth development officer; Nurul Amin, accountant; and Babul Patwary and Jashim Uddin, both office assistants – is underway, according to officials.

The other accused are Kamal Hossain, Zakiganj upazila accounts officer, and Iqbal Munshi, auditor.

Make list

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amount is much more. But through write-off, the amount of debt is shown less. Those who have taken loans and invested in factories and failed to repay may be exempted subjected to investigation," he said.

"But those who did not invest in any business and smuggled the money and made home at Begum Para and second home abroad, should be brought under justice through investigation and their list should be published in parliament," he demanded.

The independent MP said those who looted banks are responsible for the rise in commodity prices and inflation. No single organisation is responsible. Azad said Bangabandhu's dream will not be realised unless they are brought to book.

He said he wants to make the parliament effective and lively through constructive criticism of the government. He expected cooperation of the Speaker.

Sharif, Bilawal

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As Khan's independents ran as individuals, PML-N came out as the largest single party.

Imran and Sharif have both declared victory in the polls and both parties claimed the right to form the next government.

According to Dawn, PML-N, in the meeting, wanted to keep the slot of the prime minister and in return, it offered to the PPP the coveted slots of the president, National Assembly speaker, and the Senate chairman.

Geo News yesterday reported the parties also deliberated on the possibility of appointing prime ministers from their parties for a three- and two-year term under a power-sharing formula.

The PPP leaders said they would consult the proposals in meeting with the central executive committee.

Officials from both the PML-N and the PPP, however, said talks were snagged over which leader would take the top job.

"Both sides are interested in forming a coalition, but there is no breakthrough so far. Both parties want the office of prime minister," a top PML-N leader close to the Sharifs told Reuters.

Meanwhile, PTI yesterday said the party has decided, in principle, to ally or merge with "another political party" to claim the reserved seats, a key roadblock for the PTI in its attempts to claim a majority to form a government.