

## Did not expect 'Booking' to do so well: PORI MONI

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Recently Pori Moni returned to Dhaka after visiting Tangail and Manikganj as a brand ambassador for a company. Upon returning, she immediately took her son Rajya for sightseeing, amidst nature. The actress has recently earned wide acclaim for her performance in Mizanur Rahman Aryan's short film *Booking*, alongside ABM Sumon, proving once again her status as one of the biggest stars in Dhallywood.

The Daily Star caught up with Pori to learn more about her recent and upcoming ventures, personal life, and more.

**How was your experience of visiting Tangail?**  
It was a wonderful experience; I was deeply moved by the warm welcome I received there. Tangail's sweets are renowned across the country, and I received them as gifts. Visiting this place was a remarkable experience for my career, and afterwards, I travelled to Manikganj, making it a trip to remember.

**'Booking' was well-received by the audience. How do you feel about it?**  
Honestly, I didn't think this project would get such a response. It's truly gratifying when people admire and value your work. I can say that after a long time, I have returned to the romantic genre with this project.

**You have been engaged with several projects so far this year.**

Following the demise of my nana *bhai* (maternal grandfather), I felt utterly shattered. Over time, I came to the realisation that immersing myself in work would provide me a temporary distraction from the pain. Presently, I find myself deeply engrossed in my professional commitments.

**How do you get time for yourself and your son, Rajya?**

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PHOTOS: COLLECTED



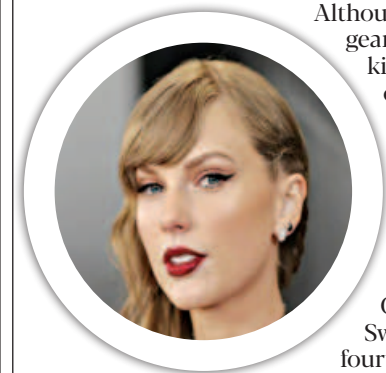
Taking time off work is also necessary. As my son is my only loved one and also my world, I try to give him as much quality time as I can. Even during my shootings, he is with me. Since his birth, I've been dedicating more and more time to my child. If I

were to say, I'm there for him round the clock. I try to take him closer to nature. I'm currently visiting such a place – full of greeneries, trees, birds, fishes, and dogs – and being so close to natural beauty makes him very happy. When he sees birds and listens to their chirps, he gets excited and shouts with joy.

**How far are you with the shoot of 'Dodor Golpo'?**

We are almost near the end of filming it. I'm really happy to be a part of this project and hopeful that the audience will find me in a new avatar with this film.

## Taylor Swift announces latest variant of 'Tortured Poets Department'



Although Swifties were geared up for all kinds of surprises on the first day of the Eras Tour in Singapore itself, their favourite songbird decided to unleash the big announcement on Day 2 instead. On March 3, Taylor Swift revealed her fourth and final bonus track from the upcoming

album **The Tortured Poets Department**. Taylor also shared the monochromatic album art of the special edition on Instagram, revealing the fourth variant of the album **The Black Dog**.

The final new edition of her forthcoming music album is now available for pre-order on her website. The follow-up act to Swift's 2022 record **Midnights** is set to arrive on April 19.

## Kabir Suman declines further 'modern' music performances

Popular musician Kabir Suman has announced the conclusion of his performances of modern music, as conveyed via a social media post on Sunday. However, he expressed his desire to continue regular performances focusing on Bangla kheyal. In his Facebook post, Kabir stated, "The upcoming event that I will be organising will be the last modern music performance of mine, which will consist of half Bangla kheyal and the remaining modern Bangla songs."

Prior to this decision, Kabir Suman conducted a four-day workshop on Bangla kheyal in Dhaka in November 2023.



## NEWS

### HC slams

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The order came after two writ petitions were filed by Supreme Court lawyers, Md Eunus Ali Akond and Ishrat Jahan, on March 3 seeking directives on forming an expert committee to probe the tragic incident.

The HC issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why their failure to set up fire exits in the Bailey Road building should not be declared illegal.

The petitioners themselves moved their petitions while Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta represented the state during the hearing.

Meanwhile, another HC bench yesterday issued a rule regarding compensation for the families of the victims who were killed and injured in the fire.

In the rule, the court asked the Rajuk chairman and director general of fire service and Anwarul Hoque, owner of Chumuk restaurant at Green Cozy Cottage, to explain why they should not be directed to do so.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Atabullah issued the rule after a petition was filed by rights organisations, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Ain o Salish Kendra, and Supreme Court lawyer Najmus Sakib, relative of a fire victim.

The court also ordered the fire service and Rajuk to submit a report before the court on how many high-rise buildings caught fire between 2023 and 2024, how many people were killed and injured in those incidents, and how much damage was caused by those fires.

Lawyers Sara Hossain and Aneek R Haque appeared for the petitioners while Assistant Attorney General Md Selim Azad represented the state.

### Bangladeshi

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he took his wife six years ago." The family of the deceased sought help from the government to bring the bodies back to the country.

Senbagh Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Jisan bin Majed said, "I heard the news. I will visit the house of the deceased. The upazila administration will assist in bringing their bodies back to the country and the burial."

### UN voices worry

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About the situation in Bangladesh, Türk further said, "I continue to be concerned by allegations that the justice system is being used to harass human rights advocates, journalists, and civil society leaders. I encourage investigation into alleged enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, in line with international standards."

While talking about the situation in the world, he said, "Around the world, 55 conflicts are flaring. Widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law are generating devastating impacts on millions of civilians. Displacement and humanitarian crises have already reached an unprecedented scale."

He said, "With elections in over 60 countries – where nearly half of the world's people live – 2024 could be a landmark for democratic principles, Demos, the people; kratos, rule: a meaningful, safe, and fully participatory electoral process is key to ensuring that governance serves the people's human rights."

### 5 newsmen, 8 others sued

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member of Ward 6 of Sadar Union Parishad under the Sadar Upazila.

According to the case statement, on February 19, Hafiz confined Masood at the Barguna Press Club and assaulted him with the other accused.

Police rescued him about an hour later and admitted him to Barguna General Hospital. Later, he was sent to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. After 11 days, Masood died while undergoing

### States can't bar

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The Colorado court had found that Trump took part in an insurrection for inciting and supporting the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by his supporters.

The justices determined that only Congress can enforce the constitutional provision against federal officeholders and candidates. But four of the nine justices, including the court's three liberal members, faulted the rest of the court for announcing rules limiting

"But democracy is also broader than the singular electoral moment every three, four or five years. It lives – or dies – with the people's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs, constantly," Türk added.

In his speech, he also said that good governance requires constant oversight and accountability, via independent checks and balances to the exercise of power.

Corruption is also a major challenge to democracy and rights as it diverts decision-making and public resources from the common good to private benefit – thus, it empties the institutions of the state and deprives people who are poor and dispossessed of their rights.

"In many parts of the world, many politicians are deliberately inflaming antagonism and xenophobia to garner support, particularly in electoral periods. In this headlong rush to abandon the common good for short-term personal benefit, they are tearing up the fundamental human rights principles that can unite us all," said the UN Human Rights chief.

treatment on Saturday.

The victim's wife, Sajeda, said, "My only daughter is still in school, and my son is only 13 years old. How will I now raise my children without my husband?"

Despite several attempts, Barguna Press Club President Golam Mostafa Quader did not receive phone calls from this correspondent.

Barguna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abul Kashem Md Mizanur Rahman said, "We are trying to arrest the accused as soon as possible and bring them to justice."

how the provision may be enforced in the future.

Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden in the Nov 5 US election. His only remaining rival for his party's nomination is former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

The ruling was issued on the eve of Super Tuesday, the day in the US presidential primary cycle when the most states hold party nominating contests.

### Tigers fall

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Premier League (BPL) campaign, Jaker's inclusion in the squad for the Sri Lanka series was accidental as an injury to mystery spinner Aliss Al Islam paved the way for him.

The 26-year-old batter, however, did not delay in making a statement and proved his prowess as a finisher – a role for which the Tigers have been searching a suitor for a long time in the shortest format.

Having lost four for 68 in 8.5 overs, it looked as if Bangladesh were only playing to reduce the margin of defeat. Experienced Mahmudullah, who had come at three down, then stitched together a 47-run stand with Jaker to give the Tigers some hope.

Mahmudullah, who played his first T20I in 18 months, made his statement with a knock that featured two boundaries and four maximums and kept the Tigers in the game.

It was Jaker from then on, stitching a 65-run stand with Mahedi Hasan (16 off 11) for the sixth wicket. With Bangladesh needing 10 off the last four deliveries, Jaker departed trying to hit his innings' seventh maximum – his six maximums in one T20I innings is now the most by any Bangladeshi batter.

Shoriful Islam struck a boundary the very next ball but the Tigers could not go over the line eventually.

### Gaza 'powder keg'

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gripped by dire food shortages in the war.

Qatari and Egyptian mediators were meeting with United States and Hamas envoys – but no Israeli delegates so far – in Cairo for a second day of talks. They are aiming for a halt in fighting before the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan starts on March 10 or 11.

An Egyptian TV channel linked to the intelligence service reported "significant progress" towards a deal without giving further details, while a Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks were continuing.

The plan under discussion is for a six-week truce, the exchange of dozens of remaining hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and for more aid to enter Gaza – but sticking points remain.

### Rice at Tk 15 per kg

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meeting on behalf of Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader as he is now in Singapore for health checkup, said the DCs were asked to take necessary measures so that people's home journey is safe and smooth.

He added that the DCs placed 22 proposals, including expansion of Dhaka-Chattogram and Chandpur-Cumilla highways and several other major ones. "We agreed to the proposal."

The DCs urged the Bridges Division to construct four major bridges, including bridges on Paturia-Daulatdia and Cox's Bazar-Maheshkhali routes.

In another session, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury put emphasis on saving rivers as the issue is related to climate change.

The planning ministry instructed the DCs to place development project proposals that will be beneficial for the people of their districts.

State Minister for Planning Md Shahiduzzaman Sarker told reporters after the meeting that projects

should not always be taken up by the ministry.

"Usually, the ministries initiate development projects and field-level officials implement them. We urge them [DCs] to place [development] proposals if required for the locals," he said.

State Minister for Finance Waseqa Ayesha Khan said the DCs are requested to implement the development projects prioritised according to the election manifesto of the government.

"We have 11 priority sectors in our manifesto that should be the focus of the district administrators while implementing the projects," she added.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said there is no uncertainty about the economy now.

"After the independence of Bangladesh, now it is the peak time for development. All economic indicators are upwards. But the BNP has been spreading propaganda against us."

He, however, did not reply to a query on inflation, saying that the Cabinet Division would issue a statement in this regard.

### Fire breaks out at S Alam

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the fire alongside the firemen.

Factory officials claimed that warehouse had about 70,000 tonnes of unrefined sugar.

Assistant Manager of the factory Hasmat Ali said the fire engines reached the scene 30 minutes after the fire broke out at the upper portion of the warehouse.

Sarwar Sani, a worker, said the unrefined sugar reaches the warehouse from vessels on a conveyor belt. He added that the fire was seen yesterday at the upper section of the belt.

"We had fire-fighting equipment but we could not extinguish the blaze as it was high from the ground," he said.

"There is heavy smoke in the building making it difficult for firefighters to douse the blaze," said Abdul Malek, assistant director of the FSCD, Chattogram, adding, "We are trying our best."

Jahir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, said they have no information regarding casualties or anyone missing.

Seven-member committee headed by Additional District Magistrate of

Chattogram Mamunur Rahman has been formed to investigate the fire at the unrefined sugar warehouse of the mills in Ichhanagar under Karnaphuli Police Station.

Other members of the committee include representatives from the FSCD, Industrial Police, Metropolitan Police, and upazila administration.

The committee has been asked to submit the probe report within seven working days.

### Maintain chain

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including smuggling, drug and women, children trafficking in a responsible manner," she said.

The BGB stands beside the people during any problem and has gained the trust and confidence of the nation, she said.

Recalling the 2009 BDR mutiny, Hasina shared her deep emotional connection to the tragedy, in which 74 individuals, including 57 distinguished officers, were tragically killed. The events unfolded on February 25 and 26, 2009, marking one of the darkest chapters in Bangladesh's history.