

I still get nervous working with Selim: Rosey Siddique

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rosey Siddique, in her career of over three decades in the industry, has not only become a staple name but a familiar face as well. Ranging from the theatre stage, television, and OTT, to even the silver screens, she has maintained her acting prowess whilst dispersing her unshakable charm.

Her powerful portrayal of a politician in the film *Poran* (2022) previously made yet another substantial mark in her career. The actress is now poised to appear in the upcoming Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz directorial film *Omar*, which is scheduled to hit theatres for Eid-ul-Fitr.

"I play Omar's (played by Sariful Razz) mother in this film," she said. "The audience appreciated my former portrayal of a negative role in *Poran*. This role is nevertheless a positive one and I hope they will accept me this time as well." While talking about working on the project she also mentioned that this film is going to be the best project that Raz has directed, yet.

In *Omar*, she will share the screen with her husband and noted actor Shahiduzzaman Selim. She quirkily praised Selim stating, "I literally get nervous while sharing screens with him. He is a brilliant actor, and while acting with him any artiste feels the need to be extremely careful about their performance to try and add to the quality of his portrayal."

The actress further shared that she is open to more roles on the big screen since films remain evermore. "Both Selim and I actively search for roles in cinema, and personally, I've never had to have a specific role in mind that I aspire to play. I would rather experience each challenging role I am offered."

Recently, the Rosey featurette television series *Mashrafe Junior* completed airing its 1,000 episodes. "This fiction has wide popularity, and I am happy to be a part of it. I congratulate the team for completing a milestone," she expressed.

Film lovers tend to look for a good story in a cinema. In response to being asked what *Omar* offers, Rosey responded, "The film contains a story-driven narrative, that promises to appeal to viewers of all ages."

On the theatrical front, Rosey has been associated with the theatre troupe Dhaka Theatre for two decades. "Theatre stage is my most loved medium of acting, I always try to continue working for theatre no matter how busy I get," she asserted.

"In the upcoming June, I will visit the US, with acclaimed playwright Selim Al Deens's play *Shakuntala*," she confirmed. On the other hand, the versatile actress will also resume playing a pivotal role in the play *Prachyo* which she has been actively depicting for the past 20 years.

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Koel Mallick suffers injury during shooting of new film



On Saturday (March 30) night Tollywood actress Koel Mallick reportedly sustained a severe injury while filming an action scene for Arindam Sil's directorial venture.

For several years, Koel has been portraying the popular detective character Mitin Mashi, created by Suchitra Bhattacharya. During the shooting of action scenes, including a fight scene, for the upcoming film *Mitin Mashi'r Upakhyar: Ek Khunir Shondhane*, she suffered a severe injury to her right hand.

Following an X-ray, it was confirmed that Koel had fractured her bone. She is currently taking a break after having a plaster cast applied.



Archana Puran Singh admits to 'fake laughing' on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'

Indian actress and television personality Archana Puran Singh, known for her infectious smile and good humor, recently made headlines for admitting to "fake laughing" during her tenure on *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

Archana addressed past criticism, acknowledging, "In the past, people said I laughed at subpar jokes, which I wasn't happy about." She clarified that her laughter was sometimes prompted by creators to enhance weak jokes, but this didn't always connect with viewers, resulting in doubts about its authenticity.

Archana noted that things have changed over time, "In the last three years, especially with our show on Netflix, you'll notice a shift. I genuinely laugh at the good jokes."

COUNTRYWIDE

Low price frustrates pumpkin growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Pumpkin growers in different upazilas of five northern districts have been deprived of fair price of the vegetable as the price dropped significantly this season.

The price is too low this season, although it was much higher in the previous year, local growers said.

Although each kg of pumpkin is selling for Tk 25 at local markets, farmers are getting only Tk 12 to Tk 13 from the wholesalers for the item, they said.

Farmers said a major portion of the pumpkins produced in the five districts of the Rangpur region are usually cultivated in the sandy char lands along the Teesta, Brahmaputra, Dharla, Dudhkumar and Gangadhar rivers.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), pumpkin has been cultivated on a total of 12,300 hectares of land in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Rangpur districts.

While the production target of vegetable has been fixed at 4.6 lakh tonnes.

While talking to this correspondent a number of pumpkin growers said due to prolonged cold and thick fog this season the yield of pumpkin is 25 to 30 percent less than that of the previous year.

Last year, farmers sold each kg of

pumpkin for Tk 15 to Tk 16, but the vegetable is being selling for only Tk 12 to Tk 13 this year.

Farmer Rashedul Islam of Char Kalmati village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said about 500 pumpkin saplings can be planted in each bigha of land.

Each plant can yield up to two to five pumpkins, each weighing around four to eight kg.

Farmers have to spend Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 for cultivating pumpkin on one bigha land.

If the yield is expected and the price is good, farmers can make a profit of Tk 60,000 to Tk 65,000 by cultivating pumpkin on one bigha land, he said.

Farmer Nazir Ali of Begumganj village along the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram's Ulipur upazila said 12 char farmers together cultivated pumpkin on 15 bighas of char land this year, but the yield is quite low due to persistent cold spell during the winter this season.

Ganesh Chandra Das, a vegetable vendor at a marker in Rangpur City, said they are buying pumpkin from wholesalers at Tk 18 to Tk 19 per kg and selling those at Tk 25. Rangpur DAE Additional Director Obaidur Rahman Mandal said many farmers in char areas are growing pumpkin in groups on sandy land and making good profits.



PHOTO: STAR

Good yield of pumpkin failed to make farmers happy as its prices are awfully low. The photo was taken from Mahipur area in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila.

India rejects

FROM PAGE 12

On Monday, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar told reporters that "changing names will not do anything". "If I change the name of your house, does it become my house?" he said.

Last month, following a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state to inaugurate infrastructure projects, China had said it was opposed to his activities

in the region. India termed the arguments "baseless".

The US also weighed in on the issue, saying it recognised Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and "strongly opposed" any unilateral attempts to make claims on it by military or civilian "incursion or encroachments".

China had opposed these remarks, saying the matter "has nothing to do with the US".

Most people

FROM PAGE 12

The ACC chief said, "In the past, corrupt people used to walk on one side of the road after leaving houses in the darkness of night so that people can't see them. Now the corrupt walk openly in the middle of the streets."

"In most cases, the corrupt don't consider themselves corrupt even after committing graft. We all must work from our respective positions to identify them in society. In

this case, the responsibility of journalists is crucial."

ACC Commissioner (investigation) Asia Khatoon said, "Besides, filing of charge sheets, efforts must be made to advance prevention work. Journalists must be provided with fully-fledged information and evidence for preparing reports."

ACC Secretary Khursheda Yasmin, RAC President Jameson Mahbub, and senior ACC officials were present at the event.

7-year-old murdered

FROM PAGE 12

victim by offering her candies late at night on Sunday and took her to a quiet place in the CRB area and raped her. He then killed her and left the body there. On Monday evening, he went back and put the body in a sack and

left it in a dustbin," he added.

The suspect admitted that he had previously sexually abused homeless children, but was never caught.

Sukhi's mother filed a case with Kotwali Police Station.

Take punitive action

FROM PAGE 12

release said they voluntarily reviewed a report published in Daily Desh Rupantor on March 7, 2024, that said its reporter was sent to jail for seeking information under the RTI Act.

During the hearing, the commission recorded the statement of Nokla UNO

Sadia Ummul Banin and came to the conclusion that she was "guilty", said the press release.

Chief Information Commissioner Abdul Malek, Information Commissioner Shahidul Alam Jhinuk and Information Commissioner Masuda Bhatti were present during the hearing.

117 citizens call for fair probe

FROM PAGE 12

the Penal Code, which deals with death caused by negligence.

The couple have since been in jail, and have been denied bail three times.

Sent to the media by Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform Development (ALRD), the statement said, "There have been allegations of killing Preeti Urang by pushing her off the eighth floor apartment."

The statement added that Preeti was 13, and not 15 as mentioned in the case document.

Signatories include Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, Dr Hameeda Hossain, Zi Khan Panna, Anu Muhammad, Meghna Guhathakurta, Dr Ittekhazuruzaman, Dr Gitirara Nasreen, Rana Dasgupta, Rahnuma Ahmed, Shahidul Alam, Robaet Ferdous, Nur Khan, Farha Tanzim Titil, Priscilla Raj and Pallab Chakma.

The statement also mentioned the incident of August 6, 2023, at the same flat, saying another house help, a 7-year-old, "either fell from or jumped off" the residence and suffered injuries.

Worker killed as girders

FROM PAGE 2

"Three girders of an under-construction bridge collapsed on three workers when they were working under the bridge, leaving one dead on the spot and two others injured."

On information, police and firefighting units rushed to the spot and carried out a rescue operation, he added.

Sirajganj Fire Service and Civil Defence Deputy Assistant Director Abdul Mannan said

it took two hours to recover the body of the

deceased, adding that the girders likely collapsed due to a fault in the construction.

The 203-metre-long bridge is being constructed over the Jamuna River canal at a cost of around Tk 55 crore. Property Development Limited (PDL), a sister concern of PRAN-RFL Group, is implementing the project, said sources.

Despite multiple attempts, this correspondent failed to reach any economic zone officials for a comment over the incident.

The citizens also termed the statement given by The Daily Star editor on Preeti's death 10 days after the incident "surprising and unfortunate".

They said The Daily Star should have relieved Ashfaqul from his post "instead of protecting him right from the beginning". Only then, the editor's statement would have been meaningful to some extent.

"We express our resentment and condemnation over the indifference of the authorities in the reaction to the incident and visible negligence in the investigation process. We think the death of Preeti Urang is akin to murder," said the statement.

"We will not accept any attempt to divert the investigation in a different direction. We call upon all the editors in the country to uphold the neutrality and fairness of journalism. We strongly demand independent and fair investigation into the incident."

Other demands made in the statement include ensuring punishment to those responsible upon investigation into the death of Preeti as well

180 Myanmar

FROM PAGE 2

"Besides, we proposed bringing back 170 Bangladeshis detained in Myanmar. They [Myanmar] responded positively to our proposal," he said.

About the international response to the Joint Response Plan (JRP) meeting held in Geneva on March 13 to deal with the Rohingya crisis, the foreign minister said the foreign secretary and the prime minister's principal secretary attended the JRP meeting in Switzerland.

"The response to our proposed funding and cooperation is better than last year," he said.