



AISHA KHAN'S silver-screen dreams

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Just after completing the film 'Shekor', Aisha will start shooting for another one, titled 'Shongbad', under the direction of Sohel Arman.

SHARMIN JOYA

This year has been particularly hectic for Aisha Khan. "From 2020 to 2023, I've been involved in numerous projects. Yet, it feels like I've taken on more work than ever before, including TV projects, anchoring jobs and others," shared the multi-faceted artist.

Aisha took on the role of Phalguni, in Proshoon Rahman's *Shekor*, where she will be sharing the screen with FS Nayeem. "After the release of *Ahoto Phuler Golpo* in 2016, I'm returning to the silver screen after six years, and this time, the director was the reason to take on this project," she said.

Clearing the air, she expressed her admiration for Proshoon's direction, and love for *Sutopar Thikana* (2015). "Proshoon *bhaia* thinks out of the box, and we haven't seen him making commercial films, rather he focuses on projects that are more life-like, and artistically grounded in reality."

The team of *Shekor* completed shooting the film, which took them nearly two weeks. "During the shooting, we felt relaxed because the entire pre-production was well-organised. This is why we could complete the shoots

within such a short time."

The filming took place in three locations—Gazipur, Rajshahi, and Kushtia—and Aisha shared that the entire team was fun to shoot with. "Nayeem *bhaia* is very energetic, and he kept the team on its toes. We also had eight-year-old little Muntaha (Muntaha Amilia), the cutest team member. Shooting with her was an amazing experience. The team deserves a huge shoutout for maintaining everyone's health while shooting in the extreme heat."

Shekor tells the story of a non-resident Bangladeshi, focusing on the struggles usually faced by those living abroad. "There are a lot of sacrifices a person makes who leaves behind his land, home, and family just to ensure his family's stability and happiness. This film focuses on one such story to which people living abroad would be able to relate well."

Just after completing one film, Aisha will start shooting for another one, titled *Shongbad*, under the direction of Sohel Arman. This film features Irfan Sajjad alongside Aisha. "We will begin the shooting on June 1

and continue till the end of the month," asserted Aisha.

Meanwhile, she will complete the previously committed works for small screens. "Last Eid-ul-Fitr, the response from the audience was great. Although I'll not be able to invest much time in the upcoming Eid projects, I have to complete the committed ones."

After completing *Shongbad*, the actress wants to take a break. Being the homesick kind, she mostly enjoys her own company, however, she also shared that she needed a vacation this time. "I want to explore a new country this time. It depends on my mood; whenever I feel a little pride in myself, I want to run to the hills and mountains, it makes me feel grounded, and helps me to stay humble. When I feel exhausted, I prefer going near the sea, it helps me to be calm."

This Eid-ul-Azha, Aisha will be featured in five fiction projects, where she will be seen opposite Tawqif Mahbub, Musfiq R Farhan, Abu Hurayra Tanvir, and Syed Zaman Shaon in respective ones.

Aryan Khan wraps up shoot of his directorial debut 'Stardom'

Aryan Khan, son of the legendary Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan, has completed the shoot of his highly anticipated directorial debut series, *Stardom*. Celebrations marked the end of the shoot, as Aryan and his team commemorated this significant milestone.



Stardom, set against the dynamic backdrop of the film industry, is both written and directed by Aryan and is produced under the banner of Red Chillies Entertainment, Shah Rukh's home production.

Earlier, it was reported in April that actress Mona Singh has been cast in a pivotal role in the series.

Nusraat Faria becomes goodwill ambassador of Gujarat's Parul University



Renowned Bangladeshi actress Nusraat Faria Mazhar, who also has been working consistently in India's West Bengal film industry, has recently been appointed as the goodwill ambassador for Parul University in Gujarat, India.

Nusraat will represent the university for the next year.

The university held a pre-convocation ceremony for one of its international batches on last Friday, where Nusraat attended as a guest of honour, sharing her life's journey and experiences with the students.

The actress shared, "It was truly an amazing experience. Being a guest of honour at such a prestigious institution brings me immense joy."

COUNTRYWIDE

Wheat cultivation on the decline

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Wheat production as well as its cultivation area in five northern districts of Rangpur region is seeing a significant decline over the past few years as farmers shifting to other crops for higher profits.

The country now requires about 85 lakh tonnes of wheat annually, but the production is only about 11 lakh tonnes in recent years, which is far below than the required quantity, agronomists said.

As a result, the country has to depend on wheat imported from other countries to meet the local demand.

Higher cost of cultivation against poor yield is one of the main reasons behind the dwindling popularity of wheat among farmers in the region comprised of five districts—Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Farmers said they are shifting to other crops as they were not getting expected profit from wheat cultivation. So instead of wheat cultivation they are cultivating other crops including maize.

Most of the farmers across the country used to grow wheat only a few years back. But nowadays, the number of growers has decreased significantly due to its higher production cost and less profit.

At present, it costs a farmer Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 to cultivate one bigha of land and get a yield of eight to ten maunds of wheat, while each maund of wheat is being sold for Tk 1,300 to Tk 1,350 in local market.

According to Rangpur Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), this year wheat has been cultivated on a total of

17,167 hectares of land in five districts of Rangpur region, compared to 18,210 hectares last year.

Mentionable, about 25,650 hectares of land was brought under wheat cultivation in 2020, which was nearly 67,500 hectares only about a decade ago.

This year, wheat has been cultivated on about 3.2 lakh hectares of land across the country, while the production target has been set at about 11 lakh tonnes, DAE sources said.

Farmer Sahir Ali of Char Gokunda village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said as farmers in the northern districts have been struggling to turn a profit from wheat farming in the past few years, about 95 percent farmers of the village have given up wheat cultivation in recent years.

Mansur Ali, a farmer from Rayanj village in Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila, said even 10 years ago he used to cultivate wheat on eight to ten bighas of land.

But for the last four years, he has been cultivating maize instead of wheat for a better profit.

Like him, many other farmers of his locality have given up wheat farming and opting for other crops.

Farmer Suresh Chandra of Madhupur village in Rangpur's Kaunia upazila said wheat farming gradually losing its popularity as other crops now ensure higher profits for farmers. Rangpur DAE Additional Director Obaidur Rahman Mandal said they are encouraging farmers to grow wheat as they can get up to 12 to 14 maunds of wheat by cultivating the improved variety on each bigha land.

KKR thrash SRH to win

FROM PAGE 12

the most dominant team after they ended top of the table with 20 points in the league phase.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer was unbeaten on six, and at the other end, when Kolkata players came rushing on to the pitch.

Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins won the toss and elected to bat first and go with his team's strength of scoring big, after they racked up IPL record totals of 277 and 287 in this year's edition.

Hyderabad took Cummins for \$2.5 million in the same auction and made him captain after he led Australia to two titles, including the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup last year.

But Starc took the limelight as he struck in his first over when he bowled in-form Indian batsman Abhishek Sharma, for two, on a delivery that pitched in the middle and caught the top of off stump.

Travis Head followed his fellow left-hand opener Abhishek to the dug-out, caught behind for his second duck in three matches off fast bowler Vaibhav Arora.

Starc struck again and the opposition top order was in disarray at 47-4 inside seven overs.

Andre Russell took down Aiden Markram for 20 and wickets kept tumbling as fellow South African Heinrich Klaassen fell for 16.

Cummins, who was dropped on 10 by Starc, took the team past 100 before falling for 24 off Russell, who ended with figures of 3-19.

2 journalists convicted over

FROM PAGE 12

Moniruzzaman filed the case with the tribunal against three people, including Morshed and Ezaz, under the Digital Security Act.

In March 2022, the Criminal Investigation Department of police submitted a probe report before the tribunal, accusing

Morshed and Ezaz. The CID, however, relieved the third accused from the case as the charges against her could not be proved during investigation.

On November 13 that year, the tribunal framed charges against the duo in the case.

According to the case documents, the weekly

magazine in October, November and December 2020 published several reports about the plaintiff in both print and online versions, which contained false and defamatory information.

Later, its editor Morshed shared screenshots of the news on Facebook in December 2020.

Star Savar correspondent

FROM PAGE 12

hearing the news around 10:30am. While taking photos, local activists of the ruling party [Awami League] attacked and beat me up. They also took away my mobile phone," said Akash.

Fellow reporters first took him to the local upazila health complex. He was later moved to Enam Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Mohammad Mahmud, of Popular Medical College Hospital, said, "We have put him on 24-hour rest. After getting test results, we will know his condition."

Shah Zaman, officer-in-charge of Savar Police Station, told The Daily Star

that actions would be taken against the criminals upon receiving a complaint.

After visiting the factory, the OC told reporters, "We found no chaos when we arrived at the scene. We still don't know who the actual owners are."

Injured Akash said he would lodge a complaint with the police station.

Witnesses said officials of Sea Pearl Group were seen breaking locks of gates of the factory and replacing them with new ones. They were also giving their men instructions to ensure that no one could enter the factory.

Abhijit Kumar Roy, executive director of Bengal Fine Ceramics Ltd, said they have been operating the

factory for five years, but Sea Pearl Group yesterday seized it with the help of local political activists and several hundred thugs.

Sea Pearl Group Manager (administration) Mashur Rahman denied the allegation, claiming that they entered the factory peacefully and that "Abhijit Kumar Roy's presence was illegal".

He added that they had no knowledge of any journalist being assaulted.

Meanwhile, Savar Press Club condemned the attack on journalist Akash and demanded justice for those involved.

It will form a human chain on the club premises at 11:00am today, protesting the attack.

50 ruling party

FROM PAGE 12

members from the Mahila Awami League, six from Jubo Mahila League, five from Mahila Sramik League, and eight members from Chhatra League, is expected to have meetings with senior CPC leaders.

Five members of the AL's database team and two involved in making the party's election manifesto were also in the delegation.

AL Deputy Office Secretary Sayem Khan said the activities and political structure of the CPC, relationship with the government and the way of conducting politics would be discussed.

After concluding their workshops in Zhejiang, the delegation would travel to Beijing on June 1 and visit the CPC headquarters on June 2 and June 3. They would exchange views with senior party leaders there.

The delegation would leave Beijing for Dhaka on June 4, he said.

Party sources said another delegation, led by party presidium member Kazi Zafarullah and consisting of senior AL leaders, is likely to visit China on June 25.

Ready for new truce talks

FROM PAGE 12

on Saturday, though the Israeli military denied the claim.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 35,984 Palestinians have been killed in the territory during more than seven months of offensive. The toll includes at least 81 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

The UN has warned of looming famine in the besieged territory, where most hospitals are no longer functioning.



A farmer looks after his wheat plants at Rayganj village in Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila. PHOTO: STAR