

RICHI SOLAIMAN returns to your screens

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Richi Solaiman, a once popular household name on television, is making her way into the realm of Bangladeshi web content with *Girgiti*. Known for her roles in numerous single dramas and serials during the early 2000s, she was one of the busiest artistes in the industry.

Currently, Richi resides in the US with her husband, Rashek Malik, a detective in the New York Police Department, and their two children.

The actress is poised to make her web debut with the film *Girgiti*. She recently wrapped up filming in Kolkata and has now returned to Dhaka.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Richi explained, "I stepped away from work to raise my kids. They have always been my priority, and now that they can take care of themselves, I decided to return to my career."

Proud of her children's independence, Richi considers it a significant achievement that they can manage their studies and other activities on their own.

About getting back to work, Richi shared, "It feels amazing to be back in front of the camera. I can't describe it in words. I'm returning to my roots and my audience, and I couldn't be happier!"

She also mentioned that she will be selective with her projects, aiming to take up one project a month. "The plot of *Girgiti* is women-centric, which is one of the main reasons I chose this project," she confirmed.

The film revolves around the lives of two women. "For the first time in my career, I will be playing a police officer, a role for which I prepared for about four months," she said.

Richi is confident that her return will be special. "Over the last few years, many people have asked when I would return, expressing how much they missed me. I missed them too. Even my son encouraged me to start working again to become actress Richi Solaiman once more. I want my comeback to be memorable, and I hope this project will make it worthwhile."



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Produced by Bengal Multimedia Limited and directed by Bijoy Jana, the web-film will be released on the OTT platform Rtv Plus.

Richi Solaiman embarked on her acting career in the much-acclaimed mini-series *Iti Amar Bon* in 1992. The actress who is also a trained *kathak* dancer, used to dance in BTV programmes and during one of her rehearsals she caught the attention of Mustafizur Rahman. He was planning to direct *Iti Amar Bon* at that point. Although the series was a raging success, Richi didn't continue with acting. Instead she pursued her passion for dancing.

Eventually, she started feeling more inclined towards acting and as a result landed her first

role as an adult in Begum Mumtaz Hossain's *Bela Obela*.

Throughout her acting career, the actress has often been proud of her performance in women-centric roles, when we asked her which performance of hers is close to her heart. The actress revealed, "The serial *Nir* showed an interesting relationship between a woman and her mother-in-law. Anwara *apa* played my mother-in-law in it. That serial received positive reactions from many. I was also highly appreciated by people from all walks of life for my role in the serial *Nabila Chorito*. Many people told me that nobody could have pulled off that character better than me."

The actress further received praise for her performances in the serials *Nil Nirjone*, *Moyur Bahon* and *Tyag*.

Apurba nearly collapses while filming



Recently, Ziaul Faruq Apurba sustained serious hand and back injuries while filming action scenes for the spin-off series, *Gotam Mamun*, which is awaiting release this month.

Sources report that Apurba injured himself during an outdoor action scene, exacerbating his back pain and nearly losing consciousness. Despite being advised to rest, he returned to the set after receiving first aid from a physiotherapist.

Project director Shihab Shaheen commented, "Apurba was seriously injured during filming. Despite receiving painkillers and being advised to rest, he resumed work to avoid delays."

Apurba said, "Many people are involved in a production, so focusing solely on me isn't feasible. Painkillers helped me feel somewhat better."



Gigi and Bella Hadid donate \$1m to support Palestinian families

Gigi and Bella Hadid, born to a Palestinian father, have consistently expressed their pride in their heritage and supported Palestine on social media.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Gigi and Bella Hadid are donating USD 1 million to four organisations focused on children and families: HEAL Palestine, the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF), World Central Kitchen (WCK), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

These collectively provide humanitarian aid, including food, medical programmes, assistance to displaced families, and psychological services, amidst the Israel Palestine conflict.

COUNTRYWIDE

Traditional rice storage bin still in demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Duli, a traditional rice storage bin or a small silo, made of bamboo, is still being used by farmers in different rural areas of the northern region.

Usually, use and sale of traditional duli increase in many folds during the paddy harvesting period as most of the farmers in Rangpur region prefers it for storing rice all the year round.

As a result, local bamboo craftsmen pass busy times in making and selling duli during the rice harvesting season.

Currently, the bamboo-made rice storage bin is available in almost all the Haats (weekly markets) in Rangpur region's five districts—Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Gaibandha.

Locals said duli still has a high demand among farmers in rural areas.

A number of farmers said gradually traditional agricultural practices as well as the tools and accessories, used by farmers, are being replaced by modern machinery and gadgets.

But duli, a traditional paddy storage bin or a miniature silo, is still being used by farmers in rural areas for storing harvested rice at their homes.

Depending on the amount of paddy harvested in a single season, each farmer usually sets up one or two duli at their

homestead to store rice for consumption of their family members all through the year, they added.

Farmer Nagendra Nath Das of Thetrai village in Kurigram's Ulipur upazila said the demand for duli is at its peak during the paddy harvest season.

Moreover, most of the craftsmen remain busy during that period, trying to keep up with orders made by duli traders.

"Duli is considered as one of our traditional accessories for storing rice," he said.

Craftsman Anil Chandra Das of Nayarhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said duli is available in three regular sizes – small, medium and large.

The small one holds about 10 to 12 maunds of rice, the medium one about 20 to 22 maunds, and the large one holds as much as 25 to 30 maunds.

If made with inferior quality and thin bamboo slices, a duli lasts around three to four years, but a duli made with high quality thick bamboo slivers can last up to seven to eight years.

Each small size duli is being sold for Tk 1,000 to 1,200, medium size at Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000 and the large one at Tk 2,500 to Tk 2,700.

It takes about two to three days to make a duli, while profit from each duli is around Tk 500 to Tk 800, he said.



Craftsmen seen busy in selling bamboo-made traditional duli at Nayarhat Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR