

I've received more than I expected in my acting career: Totini

SHAH ALAM SHAZU



Tanjim
Saiara Totini, a rising showbiz star of her generation, has quickly garnered immense popularity and critical acclaim in the Bangladeshi entertainment industry. Despite her relatively short career, Totini has already made a significant impact with her remarkable performances in various dramas.

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

Her recent drama *Nayantara*, which aired during Eid, was a massive hit, with Totini's stellar performance captivating audiences. Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the drama resonated deeply with viewers.

Reflecting on her success, Totini shared, "Playing the role in *Nayantara* brought me immense love and praise from the audience. It touched the hearts of many, and that makes me very happy."

Another notable drama featuring Totini, *Vitore Bahire*, directed by the acclaimed Mizanur Rahman Aryan, also received a warm reception during Eid.

The actress expressed her satisfaction, saying, "Honestly, only a few dramas aired last Eid. Among them, *Vitore Bahire* gave me a sense of fulfilment and joy. It resonated with everyone just like *Nayantara* did."

Discussing her journey in the media industry, Totini remarked, "Overall, I've been in the media for five years, but I've only been acting for a few years."

When asked what she has received in her relatively short acting career, Totini humbly replied, "I've received more love than I ever expected in my acting career. Considering the few years I've been working, the amount of love from people has been overwhelming and humbling."

Regarding her dreams and aspirations, Totini said, "I want to continue acting and remain in the audience's hearts. I aspire to become a complete artiste."

She also expressed her desire to work on OTT platforms, mentioning an upcoming web series shoot. "I'll share more once the shooting begins. I haven't started shooting anything significant post-Eid, but I'm hoping to kick off work with something great soon," she revealed.

Throughout her career, Totini has worked with several actors, but her pairing with Yash

Rohan has been particularly well-received by viewers. Speaking about her co-actor, Totini commented, "Yash is a very calm person and an excellent actor. I enjoy working with him."

When asked about her view on the concept of on-screen pairs, Totini stated, "The concept of on-screen pairs isn't bad. It's actually good. It depends on the audience's preference. If they like it, then it's possible. From this perspective, I see it positively."

Earlier in February, Totini took on leading roles in four Valentine's Day special projects—Jahid Preeton's directorial *Buk Pocketer Golpo*, Ragib Raihan's *Pori*, Rafat Mazumdar Rinku's *Bolte Chai*, and Vicky Zahed's *Chinno*.

The actress began her journey in the showbiz world in 2019. Her popular works include *Ei Muhurte, Bachibar Holo Tar Sadh*, and *Shomoy Sob Jane*, among others.



Meher Afroz Shaon to return to screen after 17 years

Meher Afroz Shaon, a media figure since her debut in *Notun Kuri* and known for her roles in Humayun Ahmed's works, is returning to cinema after 17 years. She stepped back from acting to focus on family and, since Ahmed's passing in 2012, has made occasional musical appearances.

Now, she is set to return with the government-

funded Fakhru Arefeen Khan directorial film *Neel Jochona*. The film is adapted from Mustak Ahmed's parapsychology novel *Neel Jochonar Jibon*.

She starts shooting *Neel Jochona* in Dhaka today, with co-stars Tariq Anam Khan, Intekhab Dinar, Partha Barua, SM Naeem, and Paoli Dam.

Fawad Khan to return to Bollywood after eight years

Famed actor Fawad Khan is all set to return to Bollywood in a romantic comedy film opposite Vaani Kapoor.

According to reports by the Indian news agency IANS, the still-untitled film, directed by Aarti Bagdi,

will be shot entirely in the UK.

Fawad Khan's last appearance in a Hindi-language film was eight years ago. The versatile actor has featured in Indian movies like *Ac Dil Hai Mushkil, Kapoor & Sons*, and *Khoobsurat*.

Fawad Khan, a top Pakistani actor, starred in 2022's *The Legend of Maula Jatt*, the highest grossing Pakistani film ever, while also debuting in the Marvel Cinematic Universe with *Ms Marvel*.



NEWS

He was in plain sight

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directors Ayrin Islam and Shariful Islam; director Rashel Mirza; and shareholder Ziaur Rahman to recover due licence fees and revenue share.

BTRC took the decision to file the case against in the 16th Commission meeting. It also decided to send a letter to the ministry concerned for cancellation of its licence, documents show.

The court issued arrest warrants against Asif, Ayrin, Shariful, and Rashel between September 23, 2021, and November 30, 2021.

Since then, the four have been fugitives, according to the case records.

Locals said Asif has regularly attended various political and government programmes, and election campaigns between May 2022 and June 23 this year.

A Facebook page named "Adv Asif Shams Ronjon" shows Asif was live at least on 120 occasions in Bera between the time the arrest warrant was issued and yesterday.

According to locals, a rally led by Asif Shams paraded Bera streets, marking the AL founding anniversary on June 23. He also sought votes for candidates in the Bera upazila parishad polls on May 6.

He took part in his father's campaign for the 12th national elections.

According to BTRC documents, Vision Tel Ltd got its licence on April 12, 2012.

A BTRC official said the case was filed to recover the dues arisen from



Asif in a procession marking the founding anniversary of Awami League in his hometown in Pabna on June 23.

PHOTO: SOCIAL MEDIA

revenue sharing and annual licence fees, which has now become over Tk 235 crore with interest.

The last hearing on the case was on June 26, said a court staffer, adding that since there were no developments regarding arrests, the court set August 25 for the next hearing.

Contacted, Asif yesterday said, "I have severed links with Vision Tel Ltd in 2013 with the BTRC's permission. The case was filed against the company.

"I was not informed about the court's notices and the arrest warrant earlier," he told The Daily Star by phone.

His personal assistant told this newspaper that the mayor last worked at his Bera office on June 28.

Fun trip turns fatal

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He drove to his village home in Azampur village a day earlier. He then met up with his friends, they wanted to go to Ishwardi in his car.

They went on a drive in the evening, said police.

On the way back home, Nayeem was driving fast. At one point, he lost his control over the steering and the vehicle skidded off the slippery road and hit a tree.

Three of them died on the spot, said OC Rafiqul, adding that the two others were declared dead at Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

Nayeem and Shahid were transferred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for better treatment, said the OC.

Labour landslide

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forecasting its biggest ever victory.

But Starmer was taking nothing for granted as he urged voters not to stay at home. "Britain's future is on the ballot," he said. "But change will only happen if you vote for it."

Voting began at 7:00 am (0600 GMT) in more than 40,000 polling stations across the country, from church halls, community centres and schools to more unusual venues such as pubs and even a ship.

Sunak was among the early birds, casting his ballot at his Richmond and Northallerton constituency in Yorkshire, northern England. Starmer

voted around two hours later in his north London seat, shortly before Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey.

Hannah Tinsley, 26, a trainee lawyer who was voting in south London, told AFP that it was "important" for young people to cast their ballots.

"The voter turnout for young people compared to older people is really low and obviously, it's going to affect us in the long term," she added.

In Saint Albans, north of London, 22-year-old student Judith told AFP: "I don't really trust any of them but will vote. A lot of my friends feel the same."

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Charges framed against Alal, Tuku, 87 others

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who is now in jail custody, pleaded not guilty after Judge Md Aminul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Special Tribunal-16 read out the charges to them yesterday.

Before that, the tribunal dismissed the petitions seeking to have them cleared of the charges in the case.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that around 12:25pm on February 8 of 2018, a group

of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations led by Alal held a demonstration in the city's Moghbazar area ahead of a judgment against Khaleda Zia, her elder son and BNP's then senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman and four others in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

They also chanted slogans against the government, instigated destructive activities, obstructed

movement of vehicles and prevented law enforcers from discharging their duties, the prosecution said.

Following the incident, Sub-Inspector of Ramna Model Police Station Abdul Kuddus filed a case against Alal, Shimul Biswas and 178 others in this connection.

After an investigation, police pressed charges against 90 people, including Alal, Tuku, Sohel and Shimul.

Hezbollah rains rockets on Israel

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areas near Khan Yunis and Rafah after the military on Monday issued a sweeping evacuation order that the UN said impacted 250,000 people.

Witnesses reported air strikes and intense artillery shelling in western Rafah yesterday.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 38,011 people have been killed during nearly nine months of offensive. The toll includes at least 58 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

US President Joe Biden, under

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Washington's support for Israel, in late May outlined a roadmap for a six week ceasefire and exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

There has been little progress since, but Hamas said later on Wednesday it was communicating with officials in Qatar and Egypt as well as Turkey with an eye to ending the conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was due to convene his security cabinet yesterday evening to discuss new Hamas positions on a possible ceasefire deal in Gaza, reports Reuters.

A Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters that Hamas has shown flexibility over some clauses, that would allow a framework agreement to be reached should Israel approve.

Univ teachers carry on strike

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Though academic buildings remained open in most of the universities, students were hardly seen. Most classrooms and examination halls were locked.

Additionally, the university authorities either kept the transport service suspended or significantly reduced trips to and from campuses.

Teachers at the public universities said that they will continue their indefinite work abstention until their

demands are met.

Teachers of 35 public universities under the banner of FBUTA have been refraining from work since Monday demanding reinstatement of the previous pension facilities instead of the newly introduced "Prottoy" scheme of the Universal Pension System.

They have been demonstrating against the government decision to include all officers and employees, joining the service of autonomous,

self-governing, nationalised, statutory, or similar organisations and their subordinate institutions on or after July 1 in the "Prottoy" pension scheme.

Teachers said the newly recruited teachers will suffer financial loss, and many will not take up teaching at universities if the new pension scheme is introduced. They also demanded a separate pay scale for university teachers and inclusion of professors in the pay grade equivalent to that of a senior secretary.

Both teams topped their

respective groups before Germany

broke down a resolute Denmark to

pick up a 2-0 win, while Spain came

from behind to trounce Georgia

4-1 in their respective Round of 16 fixtures.

The weekend of fascinating football fixtures will end with Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal taking on Kylian Mbappe's France in Hamburg, starting at 1:00 am.

Messi, Ronaldo and plenty more

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Messi had hurt his right hamstring and skipped Argentina's final Group A match against Peru, which the defending champions won 2-0 to qualify for the last eight as group champions.

Even if Messi ends up a no-show, Albiceleste fans will