



PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

A censor board can create unnecessary complications, and we must question whether its members truly understand cinema. Replacing censorship with a well-structured rating system would allow greater artistic freedom while still guiding viewers effectively.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nazia Haque Orsha has never been one to shy away from speaking out against injustice. Whether as a concerned citizen or a committed artiste, she has consistently raised her voice for the right causes. During the peak of anti-discrimination protests, she stood with the people in a time of national crisis. Her activism seems innate—during her years at Jahangirnagar University, she was known for her fearless stance against wrongdoing, laying the foundation for the strong advocate she is today.

There has been a lot of buzz around the Actors' Equity lately. Do you think the organisation needs reforms?
Absolutely, reforms are essential. Many outdated practices and systems, relics of a bygone era, have lingered far too long. To stay relevant and meet today's demands, these must be updated. Artists should be able to focus on their craft, and membership should be inclusive of all those actively working in the industry. I know many talented artistes who aren't members, yet we are still working without the guild. This creates a disconnect. Reforming the Association would bridge that gap, making it more relevant and inclusive.

A censor board may no longer be necessary: ORSHA

I strongly support reforms within Actors' Equity to better serve both its members and the industry.

The industry hasn't fully bounced back yet. What's your take on the situation?
I share the same concerns as many others. I've been meeting regularly with fellow actors, and this topic keeps coming up—why is there still

"I strongly support reforms within Actors' Equity to better serve both its members and the industry."

no work? When can we get back on set? The uncertainty is weighing heavily on us. This is where the equity could make a real difference, but we find ourselves in the dark. We're not receiving updates, nor is the equity providing guidance. It's high time for the organisation to step up, communicate openly, and help us navigate this difficult period. Silence isn't an option; they need to be the voice of the artistes they represent.

What are your expectations from the interim government?
With the new government in place for a month now, we understand that nation-building is a gradual process. New appointments are being made across various sectors, but it's also essential to reflect on our role in the issues of the past 15 years, including corruption. For instance, a farmer may earn just Tk 12 for tomatoes, while we buy them for Tk 190. This glaring disparity shows that the farmer isn't fairly compensated, and consumers are left with little choice from vendors.

Additionally, the wage gap is stark—some earn Tk 15,000, while others make up to Tk

2 lakh. It's crucial that even those with lower incomes can afford basic necessities, like three meals a day. This won't happen overnight, but with time and sustained efforts, it's possible. The fight against corruption must be relentless, ensuring fairness and equity in every sector of society.

As an artiste, you're likely aware that the censor board sometimes bans or halts films. Do you think the censor board needs reform?

I believe the censor board may no longer be necessary. Cinema is incredibly powerful—films from other countries can convey profound messages, even when we don't speak the language. We might not understand every lyric of a song, yet we still hum along and feel its essence. Instead of censorship, we need a rating system with clear guidelines about what's appropriate for different audiences.

A censor board can create unnecessary complications, and we must question whether its members truly understand cinema. Replacing censorship with a well-structured rating system would allow greater artistic freedom while still guiding viewers effectively.



You were notably active in the anti-discrimination student movement. What gave you the courage to take such a stand?

My courage comes from my experiences and background. I studied at a public university, where I was immersed in student politics and saw how those I cared about stood up against injustice. I've always been inherently bold and not easily intimidated. The turning point for me was the assassination of Abu Sayed. When a university student was gunned down, it shocked the world and made me realise that passivity was no longer an option. Witnessing such brutality made it clear that protest was necessary. It wasn't about media attention; it was about a genuine sense of urgency in a national crisis.

Legendary actor James Earl Jones no more



Legendary American actor James Earl Jones, famously known for lending his iconic voice to the *Star Wars* villain Darth Vader, has passed away at the age of 93.

His agent, Barry McPherson, confirmed that Jones died peacefully early Monday morning, surrounded by his loved ones.

Throughout his illustrious career, Jones appeared in numerous films, including *Field of Dreams*, *Coming to America*, *Conan the Barbarian*, and *The Lion King*. However, he will be most remembered for providing the unmistakable, deep voice of Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* saga.

'Toofan' OTT release date announced

After smashing records in theatres, *Toofan* is now set to make a debut on OTT platforms, with the much-anticipated release date finally revealed.

The film will be available for streaming on both Chorki and Hoichoi from September 19.

Directed by Raihan Rafi, *Toofan* originally hit theatres on June 17 and features a star-studded cast, including Shakib Khan, Chanchal Chowdhury, Masuma Rahman Nabila, Mimi Chakraborty, Gazi Rakayet, and Fazlur Rahman Babu.

This Shakib Khan-starrer film made a massive impact at theatres as soon as it was released on Eid-ul-Azha. Fans struggled to get tickets, and the film's hit songs, including *Dushtu Kokil* and *Laage Ura Dhura*, got millions of views on YouTube.



NEWS

US plans talks on economy with Yunus

FROM PAGE 14
Development and the Office of the US Trade Representative.

Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu will also join the delegation.

"The United States is optimistic that, by implementing needed reforms, Bangladesh can address its economic vulnerabilities and build a foundation for continued growth and increased prosperity," Brent Neiman, assistant US Treasury secretary for international finance, told the Financial Times.

He said Washington planned to "underscore US support for Bangladesh's continued engagement with the IMF and other international financial institutions" as Bangladesh "seeks to strengthen economic growth by deepening financial sector reforms, improving fiscal sustainability and reducing corruption".

The discussions with the US are expected to span fiscal and monetary policy, as well as the health of the financial system. US officials will also meet representatives of the private sector.

The collapse of Hasina's

government last month followed weeks of violent protests. The turmoil disrupted South Asia's second-largest economy and its economically vital garment sector, which is the second largest after China and a major employer. Industry officials said last month that some chains had shifted orders to rival producers in Southeast Asia.

The US has called on Bangladesh to implement reforms in the industry, including the decriminalisation of trade unions, and Yunus has called for labour reforms to help garment producers win more orders.

DU dorms finally rid of 'gono rooms'

FROM PAGE 14
in the same room, but with only five students," said Tanim Chowdhury, a first-year student of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

This correspondent spoke to at least 20 students of various halls, who said that there are no "gono rooms" in any of the halls now. They hope that the dormitories' authorities will soon issue notices allotting seats to students once administrative activities fully resume.

On Monday night, the DU authorities issued a notice abolishing "gono rooms" in all halls. They asked the students, who were admitted in 2017-18 session and those who have completed their master's examinations, to vacate the dormitories before September 30.

Students and house tutors of five halls said many Chhatra League leaders continued to occupy rooms in their dormitories even six to seven years after having finished their

graduation and post-graduation.

However, the hall administrations turned a blind eye to students' plight. Finding no way, many students would seek help from BCL leaders for somewhere to stay in the hall, and the BCL leaders took advantage of the situation and accommodated the students in the "gono rooms".

"There was an unwritten rule that the first-year and second-year students would not get seats in the halls. As they [Chhatra League leaders] had absolute control over the seat management, students had no choice but to follow their directives," said fourth-year student Saiful Islam Farhan.

He alleged that BCL leaders forced students to attend their political events. And those who did not follow their instructions, they would drive them away from the dorms or torture them.

A house tutor of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall said there was never a seat

crisis in any of the halls. "It was created artificially by the then ruling party student body to serve their purposes."

In September 2021, the DU authorities announced plans to get rid of "gono rooms". But their announcement remained only in mere words.

This time, the authorities started allotting seats to students in the dormitories.

For example, the Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall authorities issued a notice allotting seats only to regular students.

"We exchanged views with students and distributed the seats based on the students' academic session. With this, the 'gono room' culture in our hall is finally over," said Khandakar Rubayat Mursalin, a house tutor.

"For the first time, I saw smiles on the faces of hundreds of students in my hall. I had always dreamed of such a day where teachers would take the responsibility of the dormitories."

40 garment factories shut in Ashulia

FROM PAGE 14
to work, he said, adding that in the Narsingpur area, workers of Hamim Group were sitting idle while discussions between the owners and workers were going on.

He added that although no workers have taken to the streets so far, there are concerns that the situation could escalate if they walk you in large numbers.

Joint forces, including police, continue to patrol the industrial area to prevent any untoward incidents.

On Monday, 79 factories were closed

due to similar protests in the region.

Meanwhile, in Gazipur, operations in at least 25 garment factories were fully or partially suspended yesterday, said Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Zone Police-2.

Of those, workers of seven garment factories observed a strike to press home their 13-point demands, including wage hikes. Meanwhile, owners of 18 factories declared an indefinite closure for fear of unrest.

According to protesters, their demands include the distribution of

pay slips by the 3rd and salaries by the 7th of every month; the introduction of a Tk 1,000 attendance bonus; a 15 percent hike in salaries; the payment for the 18 days of annual leave be paid all at once, and the service bill be paid.

Moreover, a Tk 50 tiffin allowance and a Tk 200 night allowance must be paid for those working after 7:00pm; pregnant workers should be given a four-month maternity leave with pay in advance and should be allowed to re-join work after the leave; no protesters can be fired and no worker can be mistreated.

Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury and Gazipur city AL advisory council member Riaz Mahmud when they were attempting to flee the country, said a press release of Police Headquarters yesterday.

Mehedi and Riaz are accused in cases filed with Adabor Police Station in Dhaka and Bason Police Station in Gazipur respectively, it added

Rab, and Ansar have been conducting joint drives to recover firearms and bullets looted by mobs from different police stations and establishments across the country during the mass uprising.

So far a total of 111 firearms, including 30 pistols and an AK-47, have been recovered. As many as 51 suspects were also arrested during the drives, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) said in a statement yesterday.

Hasina's energy adviser

FROM PAGE 1
Branch (DB) of DMP, told The Daily Star.

He stands accused in many cases filed after August 5, when the Awami League government was toppled in the face of a student-led uprising.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi, who was appointed Hasina's energy adviser in 2009, served in the position

till August 5. After the fall of the AL government, many cases were filed against government high ups, including former prime minister, former ministers Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan, and Anisul Huq, and top police officials.

Meanwhile, Jhenaidah police arrested Supreme Court lawyer and former additional attorney general

Two die in custody

FROM PAGE 14
wee hours of yesterday, law enforcers raided their village and arrested five people, including her husband, and started beating them up with sticks.

"They alleged that my husband had weapons. But I told them he did not have any. They stayed in our village till 7:00am. I was not allowed to go near my husband. My husband died due to their torture. I want justice."

Chairman Mosharraf Hossain,

who is undergoing treatment at the hospital, told local reporters, "Someone gave false information that we had the firearms looted from police stations. Based on that information, they arrested me and beat me and my nephew for hours. They did not find any weapons during the raid."

Since September 4, members of the armed forces, Border Guard Bangladesh, Coast Guard, police,

publisher of The Daily Star, said, "It is unfortunate that there is a culture that before elections a lot of promises are made to make people happy but after assuming power, interest of their parties are served.

"The constitution will be a literal version of the new Bangladesh that we are dreaming of. And implementation of this framework will be through an elected leadership, we must ensure that we do not deviate from our core values," he added.

Writer Jalal Firoj also spoke at the event.

Six winners of a speech competition organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Torkojoal were awarded.

Another

FROM PAGE 2
All the accused were charged with genocide and crimes against humanity.

Farhan Faiyaz was a second-year student at DRMC. He was shot multiple times while attending a protest rally of students near Dhanmondi. After being taken to a hospital in Mohammadpur in a critical condition, he was declared dead by doctors.