

Wish for peace and safety this Puja: MOUTUSHI BISWAS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

This year, Moutushi plans to spend the holiday at her father's home in Khulna. "I'll be there with my mother and my daughter. Being in my father's home will bring back a flood of memories. We'll stay for a few days so I will be able to meet many relatives and friends during the Puja break."

Moutushi Biswas, a versatile actress known for her work in modelling, hosting, and television dramas, has unfailingly won over audiences throughout her career. Her debut film, *Bachelor*, made quite a splash, followed by performances in *Krishnopokkho* and *U-Turn*. Most recently, she appeared in the critically acclaimed film *Priyo Satyajit*, a tribute to the Bengali cinema maestro Satyajit Ray, where she portrayed the character of Aparajita.

In a heartfelt conversation with The Daily Star, Moutushi opened up about this year's Durga Puja, which will be her first without her father. "This Puja feels different. There's a lot more responsibility on my shoulders now. I'll miss my father terribly this time. His absence will be felt every moment."

She reflected on the emotional toll of her father's passing, adding, "It feels strange to even think that he's no longer with us. Just the thought of him being gone makes my heart heavy. He was more than a father—he was my everything. There are so many memories tied to him, especially during Puja. It's hard to imagine going through this time without him."

This year, Moutushi plans to spend the holiday at her father's home in Khulna. "I'll be there with my mother and my daughter. Being in my father's home will bring back a flood of memories. We'll stay for a few days so I will be able to meet many relatives and friends during the Puja break."

Growing up in Chattogram, Moutushi has fond memories of celebrating Durga Puja with her family. "My childhood was filled with joy during Puja. The celebrations in Chattogram were unforgettable. New clothes, family gatherings, endless fun—it was such a wonderful time. To me, the real joy of Puja lies in those childhood memories."

When asked what she hopes for during this year's Puja, Moutushi replied, "I only wish for peace and safety for everyone. If we have peace and security, everything else will fall into place."

Moutushi has been away from the film set for a while now. When asked why, she explained, "I've done quite a bit of work, and I believe in taking a step back to bring something fresh and new. The audience should feel that they're seeing something truly extraordinary when they are presented with new projects."

Talking about *Priyo Satyajit*, she shared, "This film offers deep insights into the life of Satyajit Ray. My character, Aparajita, was a joy to play. It was an overall fulfilling experience, and I hope audiences will connect with the story."

Directed by Proshoon Rahmaan, the film features the late actor Ahmed Rubel in the role of Satyajit Ray. Since September 15, the film has been streaming on Amazon Prime Video, but only for audiences in the USA and UK. Another platform will soon allow viewers from South Asia to watch the film, even if a platform for viewers in Bangladesh has yet to be confirmed.

Although the film has won numerous awards and received praise at international festivals, it has yet to be released in the country.



PHOTO: RAHUL CHOUDHURY LUNA

BTS leader RM's documentary premieres at Busan Film Festival

RM's much-anticipated documentary, *RM: Right People, Wrong Person*, made its grand debut at the prestigious Busan International Film Festival amid a plethora of films from around the globe.



The rapper's debut documentary premiered in the Open Cinema section of the 29th Busan International Film Festival, held at the outdoor theatre of the Busan Cinema Center on October 7.

The documentary centres on RM's eight-month-long journey in crafting his second solo album, *Right Place, Wrong Person*, — showcasing his perspective both as the leader and a solo artiste.

Shakib Khan starrer 'Dorod' announces release date



The much-anticipated film *Dorod*, starring Shakib Khan and Bollywood actress Sonal Chauhan, has officially received screening approval from the Bangladesh Film Certification Board. Moreover, it was announced that the Annono Mamun directorial film is set to be released on November 15.

Following the approval, promotional efforts have already begun. Shakib Khan's verified Facebook page posted a collage of his different looks from the film with the caption, "*Dorod* is coming... with all the love."

Annono Mamun expressed excitement over the release date to The Daily Star, stating, "We have begun promotions with unique plans for this film, as we await its release in one month. The certification board members have praised Shakib Khan's performance and we are all feeling pretty optimistic about *Dorod*."

NEWS

BNP to help ensure safe Durga Puja celebrations

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The BNP leaders must be vigilant at all times to prevent any plot to create any untoward situation during Durga Puja, according to the instructions.

The party also asked its leaders and workers to cooperate with each other so the "followers of the fallen Awami League regime cannot conduct any mischief surrounding the Puja".

If anyone is found involved in misdemeanours in the name of security, they will face organisational action, the BNP warned its leaders and activists.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a member of the party's National Standing Committee, said people fear that the

Awami League may try to create a situation.

"So, we are alert, and our acting chairman has issued instructions for us. We've taken it as a challenge to ensure that the Puja will be celebrated peacefully and safely," Gayeshwar told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said that party leaders were exchanging views with the Hindu community leaders to ensure festivity during the Puja.

The Awami League aims to blame the BNP for untoward incidents to show that the minority people will not be safe if the BNP is voted to power, party leaders said.

Asked why they have taken such

steps about security, BNP Organising Secretary Syed Emran Saleh Prince said a conspiracy is afoot to create an unrest centring the Puja to hamper the transition to democracy.

"But we will not let that happen. We are in constant contact with the Hindu community leaders," he said.

Nazrul Islam Azad, BNP assistant organising secretary for Dhaka division, said that the party's acting chairman is "very serious" about the Hindu community and their Puja celebrations.

"We will ensure the safety and security of the Hindu community at any cost," he said.

Interim govt struggling

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in to people's demands. Masud said he believed that the government was not acting on the right kind of information all the time.

Speaking about the appointments of DCs last month, a top official close to the council of advisers said the order was made after proper verifications. But the Secretariat witnessed an unprecedented scene and later the government had to cancel the appointments of eight DCs due to protests.

The official said personal secretary to a minister is just another bureaucratic post, but most bureaucrats consider holders of these posts as loyal to the party in power.

This perception caused the interim government to backpedal from its decision to appoint some of these officials.

The missteps in appointments are pretty significant and frequent.

AKM Matiur Rahman was promoted to secretary to the shipping ministry on September 30 only to be made an officer on special duty (OSD) within three days. OSD is considered a punishment post.

Immediately after his appointment, his books on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went viral on social media and many raised questions over his appointment that compelled the interim government to change its decision, according to sources.

But according to the top official, this bureaucrat was a brilliant officer. In another case, the interim government appointed retired officer

Ilahi D Khan as the secretary to the food ministry on September 30 on a two-year contract only to cancel the deal within nine hours.

Although the government did not mention any reasons for scrapping the contract, sources said it was because of corruption charges against him by the Anti Corruption Commission.

Mohammad Khorshed Alam Khastagir, a career diplomat of the 20th BCS batch, was promoted to ambassador for Poland on September 25. But his appointment was cancelled within 10 days reportedly for his role during the uprising.

The interim government replaced head of the Constitutional Reform Commission Shahdeen Malik with Prof Ali Riaz within a week of his appointment.

Economist and public policy expert Masruq Reaz was appointed as the chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on August 13, but he regretted his inability to take the job four days later.

Lawyer Ehsanul Haque Samaji was appointed as the new public prosecutor of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on August 27. A day after his appointment, pro-BNP lawyers staged a protest in front of the Dhaka Bar Association, demanding its cancellation.

The next day, Samaji declined to accept the appointment.

On September 1, BSEC appointed seven independent directors to the board of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). One of them, Majedur Rahman, chairman of Maldives Islamic Bank, declined to take the charge.

Hopfield, Hinton

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University, created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data, said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the prize.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the academy said in a statement.

"Machine learning based on artificial neural networks is currently revolutionising science, engineering and daily life."

Congress-NC

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minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Haryana, where the electoral battle was mainly between BJP and Congress, the saffron party won 48 of total 90 assembly seats and was poised to form a government for a third time while Congress got 36.

The victory in Haryana is likely to help BJP in coming assembly elections in Maharashtra, India's most industrialized state where it is caught in a bitter seat tussle with allies, Delhi and in Jharkhand in the next few months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said BJP's win in Haryana was a "victory of the politics of development and good governance" while Congress described the defeat in the state as "totally unexpected".

Ex-minister Saber freed

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Md Mehedi Hasan granted his bail in four cases filed with Khilgaon Police Station, including those filed over the killing of Jatiyatabadi Srantik Dal leader Hasan Mahmud on July 31 this year, and the custodial death of former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Nuruzzaman Jonny in January 2015.

The development came a day after he was placed on a five-day remand in a case filed over the death of BNP activist Mokbul on December 7, 2022.

Yesterday, police produced him before court, saying he fell ill during

remand.

According to the police forwarding report submitted before the court, Saber was not able to answer any questions during the police interrogation.

It was learned he is suffering from physical illness and heart disease.

On Monday, Saber was assaulted on the premises of the CMM court while he was being taken out of a remand hearing.

Witnesses said that as Saber was being taken to a lockup of the CMM Court, at least three people were throwing punches at him. Eggs were

also hurled at the former minister.

Several police personnel were seen pushing the attackers away, they added.

A video clip of the assault was also making the rounds on social media.

Saber Hossain was arrested from the city's Gulshan area on Sunday.

On September 30, Mahfuzur Rahman, a BNP activist, filed a case with Paltan Model Police Station against 256 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and Saber, and 700 unnamed people over the killing of Mokbul.

Riyad calls time in T20Is

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momentum before the first T20I, when skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto hinted that Mahmudullah would have a discussion about his future with the selectors after the series.

Mahmudullah put an end to all the rumours yesterday in the pre-match press conference, saying that his decision to retire from the format after the India series was 'predetermined'.

Thus Bangladesh's 'finisher' called time on his T20I career, announcing that the third T20I to be played in Hyderabad would be his last.

Asked to remember his high and low points in T20Is, the answer must have been pretty easy for Mahmudullah, as his role is such that it usually converges with Bangladesh's high and low points.

"The most frustrating moment was in Bangalore 2016 against India," Mahmudullah said referring to the T20 World Cup match against India where he and Mushfiqur Rahim failed to score two off three balls.

"And greatest moment was probably in Nidahas Trophy, the match that we won against Sri Lanka," he recalled the match where he hit an unbeaten 43 off 18 balls to seal a thrilling victory.

The end of Mahmudullah's 17-year journey in T20Is is in sight, but the 'Tigers' post-Mahmudullah era has not begun quite yet. The veteran batter will be there in the second T20I in Delhi in the same venue where he and Mushfiqur stayed till the end to ensure Bangladesh's maiden T20I victory — a seven-wicket win — over India back in

2019.

Bangladesh also hold fond memories of beating Sri Lanka here in the 2023 ODI World Cup, the last international fixture to be played at the venue.

Following a poor batting performance in the first T20I, which they lost by seven wickets, the 'Tigers' batting unit will have to find answers if Bangladesh are to make it three in three at the venue. Batting lower down the order, Mahmudullah has been the difference maker in many of Bangladesh's memorable wins.

With the Tigers trailing the series 1-0, another such heroic performance in the second T20I, which will begin at 7:30 PM Bangladesh time, might prove to be exactly what they need to keep the series alive.

No alternative to repealing CSA

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"Intelligence agencies, in particular, used the Cyber Security Act the most to harass people, and that's why keeping them in check is essential. Even if a new law is enacted, its name cannot carry the words 'Cyber Security' because the current law has taken away the security of the ordinary people," Itteharuzzaman said.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, a Supreme Court lawyer, said that a large number of people have been harassed under the CSA.

The chief adviser of the interim government has encouraged open criticism, but cases are being filed now under the CSA like it was done during Hasina's regime.

He said that 275 cases have been filed under the CSA since its enactment in 2023. Additionally, at least 5,818 cases

filed under the DSA and the ICT Act are currently under trial.

Eminent photographer Shahidul Alam, Rastra Sangskar Andolon's Chief Coordinator Hasnat Kaiyum, Regional Director for Article 19 South Asia Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam, and Managing Director of Digitally Right Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke at the programme, among others.

CR Abrar, chair of the event and also the executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, said, "As citizens, we need to ensure security of our digital devices so no one can control those as they please."

Rights activist Rezaur Rahman Lenin presented a concept paper highlighting 12 points on why the CSA should be abolished instead of amended.

At least a dozen speakers, who were

victimised by the CSA, DSA and the ICT Act, shared their personal experiences and called for scrapping the CSA. They detailed the physical and mental trauma they endured in jail after being repeatedly denied bail.

Nusrat Jahan Sonia, a schoolteacher from Pataukhali, said that she was arrested on August 4 in 2018 on charges of spreading rumours on social media about the student protests demanding safe roads.

Terming her arrest "unjust", she said that she was seven-month pregnant at that time.

Didarul Islam Bhuiyan, an activist of Rastrachinta, demanded justice for the "killing" of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in prison. Didarul and Mushtaq were arrested in the same case filed under the DSA in 2020.