

Want to live a longer life for my children: PORI MONI

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Birthdays have always been a time of overwhelming love for the actress. She expressed her gratitude for the outpouring of affection she receives each year. "It's an incredible gift from the Almighty to be loved by so many. My fans show me so much affection, and I am deeply grateful for their prayers," shared the Swapnajaal actress.

Pori Moni's birthdays are usually a vibrant celebration, full of joy and extravagant themes that reflect her lively spirit. Yet, this year holds a different meaning for the actress, as she marks her first birthday without her beloved *nana bhai* (maternal grandfather) by her side. Despite the sadness, the day promises to be special, with her daughter Saleera Sultana Priom and a slate of exciting new projects making this milestone memorable for her.

Reflecting on the absence of her *nana bhai*, Pori Moni shared her emotions. "This is the first time my *nana bhai* won't be with me on my birthday. Every year, I cut the cake with him, but today, he's not here. It's heartbreaking, but I know he's always in my heart," she said.

Despite the loss, Pori Moni remains grateful for the love around her, especially from her children. "I have my two beautiful children with me, and that's all I could ask for. They are my life, my happiness, my universe."

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As she grows older, Pori Moni reflects on life with renewed purpose. "I feel a strong desire to live for a thousand years. Each birthday reminds me of the desire to live longer, especially now that I have two children. I want to be there for them, to watch them grow and live a full life."

In terms of her professional aspirations, the *Gunin* actress remains focused on making a lasting impact. "I want to work on meaningful projects that will ensure I'm remembered for a long time. Creating lasting memories through my work is my goal, and that's the path I'm committed to."

The actress has much to look forward to professionally as well. Her latest web film, *Rongila Kitab*, is set for release in early November, where she plays the character Shupti. Even before its release, the film has garnered attention, with its poster and sneak peeks creating buzz among fans.

In addition to the web film, Pori Moni is about to make her Tollywood debut with the film *Felubakshi*. The film, set to release soon, generated excitement during the recent Durga Puja celebrations in Kolkata.

"I'm thrilled by the response to my new film in Kolkata," she shared. "I had hoped to visit during Puja to see it firsthand, but I couldn't make it. However, I'm eagerly looking forward to the film's release."

As she prepares for the premiere of her upcoming projects, Pori Moni is excited to continue exploring new roles and genres. She concluded the conversation by inviting her fans to watch *Rongila Kitab*. "Just as my team in West Bengal is excited, I share their enthusiasm. I'm eagerly looking forward to its release in theatres. I invite everyone to watch *Rongila Kitab*. You will surely love it," she said.



Pori Moni with her children

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Jannatul Oishee lands leading role in Asif Islam's next venture



Last Tuesday, director Asif Islam revealed fresh details about his upcoming feature film *Jatri* — with Miss World Bangladesh 2020, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, set to play the lead role. Jannatul Oishee is excited to return to the big screen after a long break. Her last project, *Noor*, with Arifin Shuvoo, finished filming in November 2021, but its release date remains unknown.

Asif Islam debuted as a co-director with *Pathshala* and later directed *Nirvana*, a critically acclaimed film about factory workers that won the Special Jury Award at the 46th Moscow International Film Festival. *Jatri* will be his third directorial venture.

Salman Khan's Chulbul Pandey to appear in 'Singham Again'



Salman Khan's cameo as Chulbul Pandey in the upcoming film *Singham Again* has been officially confirmed. This announcement from Rohit Shetty Films has excited fans and fueled box office success predictions.

Rohit Shetty's *Singham Again* features an ensemble cast including Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, and Tiger Shroff. The trailer, praised for its action and dramatic storytelling, hints at the film's grand scale with references to the *Ramayana*.

Singham Again is the third instalment in the very successful *Singham* film series. With higher stakes and Salman Khan's cameo, this latest entry is poised for even greater success.

NEWS

Demand for auto pass 'unacceptable'

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He added that those who pass without sitting for exams will eventually lack the competence needed to contribute to the nation.

"And conceding to such demands could set a dangerous precedent, encouraging future students to seek similar concessions, which would undermine the country's future... There's no point in destroying a nation by accepting these foolish, illogical and self-destructive demands."

"The government had already made a mistake by canceling the remaining HSC exams after August 5. That decision was also illogical and damaging for the country, the students, and the education system."

Prof Siddiqur also criticised the ousted government's decisions during the Covid-19 pandemic — implementing short syllabuses and granting automatic promotions, saying these actions had created gaps in learning and will have long-term effects.

"Automatic passes cannot be a solution during every crisis."

He called on the interim government to remain steadfast and warned that continued leniency would lead to further unrest.

"If the government is making decisions based on political or reputational concerns, it'll only lead to negative outcomes."

Prof Mojibur Rahman, faculty member of DU's Institute of Education and Research, blamed the government's failure to make timely decisions for the current situation.

Soon after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5, the interim government on August 15 announced that the postponed HSC exams would be held on September 11.

Prof Mojibur said that timing (to hold the exams) was not appropriate as the nation was still reeling from the events centring the mass uprising. "Meanwhile, the country was also facing floods."

He added that the exams could have been rescheduled through consultations with relevant stakeholders.

"The demand to cancel the exams was never a logical one, and the government's lack of foresight has resulted in this situation. Students now believe they can demand and receive whatever they want, which is dangerous."

"The formation of a strong education commission is needed for the alignment and coordination within the education system — primary, secondary, and higher secondary. If we can do that, then we can move towards systemic reforms through consultations with stakeholders."

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chief of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee and chairman of the Dhaka Education Board, has too termed the students' demands "unreasonable".

On Monday, he submitted a letter to Siddique Zohair, secretary to the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the education ministry, asking to be withdrawn from his post. Asked why, he said, "It's wiser to resign

than to concede to their [students'] demands."

His request, however, has not yet been met.

Contacted yesterday, Prof Tapan, however, said the government remains firm on the recently published results and has no plans to make changes despite the protests.

On the other hand, a top official of the education ministry last night said they were considering sending the students' demands to the advisory council to seek their opinion in this regard.

Before the results were published, Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud on October 14 said that granting automatic passes to all HSC candidates would undermine the efforts of the majority of the students, who worked hard to pass the exams.

The HSC exams this year, which began on June 30, were initially scheduled to conclude on August 21.

As the quota reform protests intensified and turned deadly in July, the previous government gradually started postponing the exams from July 16 onwards, after only seven tests had been held. In Sylhet, only three tests were held as the region was facing severe floods at the time.

Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the interim government rescheduled the remaining exams for September 11.

However, on August 20, a group of HSC candidates broke into the Secretariat in Dhaka and locked the gates, demanding the cancellation of the remaining exams.

A rousing riposte from Bangladesh

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midfield the much-needed defensive solidity, with Monika Chakma allowed to roam more freely while captain Sabina Khatun, although not quite in her elements, operated from a deeper position.

The opening goal, though, came from a defender as Afeida Khandaker chipped home from inside the box after India goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu could only half-clear a corner kick from Sabina in the 18th minute.

Rituporna, a handful for the India defence down the left, saw her shot come off the crossbar eight minutes later before setting up Tohura to

bundle home at the far post on the 29th minute.

Bangladesh were relentless as they continued to pour forward and one of those moves culminated in the third goal on 42 minutes, Tohura's powerful shot from outside the box on a set-up from Shamsunnahar Jr gave the India goalkeeper no chance.

Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma, at the other end, had a mixed bag as she made a couple of fumbles, including one in the 44th minute when she let a cross slip through her hands, allowing India's all-time leading scorer Bala Devi to

head home.

The Bangladesh goalkeeper made amends, though, with a string of valiant saves in the second half as India looked to get more out of this game after having brushed aside Pakistan with a 5-2 win in the tournament opener.

Despite India's dominance, the scoreline remained same as Bangladesh players and officials celebrated a much-deserved and much-needed victory.

Butler's charges will have to wait till today to learn their semifinal opponents, the runners-up from Group B.

HC scraps four extortion cases

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On April 1, 2007, one Mir Zahir Hossain filed a case at Dhanmudi Police Station over extortion of Tk 53 lakh.

Another case was filed at Gulshan Police Station on May 4, 2007, on charges of demanding a dividend from the earnings of a business project.

With the scrapping of the four cases, Tarique now faces a total of 22 criminal cases. He has been convicted and sentenced to different prison terms by different courts in four cases.

During yesterday's hearings on the rules, Tarique's lawyers Barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Barrister Kayser Kamal told the court that their client was inhumanly tortured during remand in the cases filed on false allegations.

The trials of the cases against him

cannot proceed, the lawyers argued.

Tarique is currently living in the UK. **BABAR ACQUITTED IN GRAFT CASE**

The High Court yesterday acquitted former BNP state minister Lutfozzaman Babar in a corruption case in which he was sentenced to eight years in prison.

The HC also scrapped an October 12, 2021, verdict that declared Babar guilty of amassing illegal wealth amounting to Tk 7.5 crore.

The bench of Justice Kamrul Hossain Mollah delivered the judgement following an appeal filed by Babar challenging the trial court's decision.

Despite his acquittal in this case, Babar will remain in jail as he faces other lawsuits, his lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told reporters.

Jamaat files petition with

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that had introduced the caretaker government system.

In the first petition filed on August 27, five prominent citizens said that the caretaker government system was introduced through political consensus of the people and therefore, it has become a basic part of the constitution, which cannot be scrapped.

Terming the Appellate Division verdict self-contradictory, they said that the court in its short verdict suggested the next two national elections (10th and 11th parliamentary polls) could be held under the caretaker government system, but this directive was not mentioned in the full judgement.

Govt to appoint law firm

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and technical support from different development partners, said Salehuddin Ahmed, the finance adviser to the interim government.

"We got positive responses from all of them," he said, without disclosing the value of the assistance.

However, nothing has been finalised yet.

"We have to first ensure how repayments will be done before taking any kind of support as a loan. They also have some queries in this regard. A mission will go to Bangladesh for negotiation and the final decision will be made then," he said.

The development partners want to provide support beyond Bangladesh's absorbing capacity, said Lutfey

Siddiqui, the chief adviser's special envoy on international affairs.

Meanwhile, Mansur said banks' assets will be evaluated by international auditors.

"The evaluation will give a clear picture of banks' capital adequacy shortfall and the extent of recapitalisation needed."

The assessment will start in November. In a sideline meeting, the IMF set Sri Lanka as a model for countries aspiring to recover quickly from an economic crisis.

Asked if Bangladesh will follow the same path, Ahmed said Sri Lanka got around a year for their reforms and economic recovery and Bangladesh has passed only two months.

"Bangladesh will do better than Sri Lanka," he added.

ICT's arrest warrant

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for 45 others, including Hasina's son Sajeb Wazed Joy and several of her former cabinet members in another case involving similar charges.

Arrest warrants were issued for former ministers Asaduzzaman Khan, Anisul Haq, Dipu Moni, and AKM Mozammel Haque and ex-state ministers Mohammad Ali Arafat and Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

The court ordered the authorities concerned to arrest the suspects and produce them before it by November 18.

Tigers claw back

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remaining. With a new ball in hand, if play does progress in the morning, South Africa will be looking to wrap things up quickly and chase down the target.

Bangladesh had taken advantage with the ball getting old. The pitch, however, has behaved differently on the three days of the Test match, making for tricky challenges.

"Obviously Bangladesh have done really well today. Conditions got a little bit better, if I'm honest, with a slightly used ball. But I think we're still ahead; Bangladesh have a lead and we've got three wickets more to go," South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj said at the press conference yesterday.

Bangladesh's fightback was largely down to Miraz and Jaker Ali's 138-run stand. With three spinners in the lineup, Bangladesh will be hoping the lead stretches past 150 and goes as close to 200 as possible, so they can exploit the invariable bounce usually seen on day four or five.

Bangladesh spin coach Mushtaq Ahmed was not counting out a win just yet. "Why not? You just have to believe that," he said.

Bangladesh are revelling in their fightback with the bat, but the rain could come like a roll of the dice, favouring either side as the Mirpur Test awaits its conclusion.

Israel bombs

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In Gaza, where Israel has intensified an assault on the northern edge of the territory since killing the leader of Hamas last week, health authorities reported at least 20 people killed in fresh Israeli strikes, most in the north.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Wednesday that at least 42,792 people have been killed in the year-long war between Israel and Palestinian militants.