

Tired of being typecast

OISHEE

Oishee expressed heartfelt gratitude to her fans, saying, 'I'm so thankful to my fans for being understanding and loyal. There's a big difference between fans and followers, and I'm lucky to have such loyal supporters.'

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

You may remember her as the sweet and docile Sylvi in *Mission Extreme* or the gentle Sajja from *Adam*. Often cast in innocent roles, actress Jannatul Ferdous Oishee is eager to break free from this mould and take on more challenging and exciting projects. Although she hasn't been in the spotlight lately, news has emerged of her upcoming collaboration with Asif Islam in the film *Jatri*.

The *Noor* actress recently spoke with The Daily Star about her upcoming ventures and explained why she took a brief hiatus.

"A lot of people have been asking why I was on hiatus for a while. It's not that I was the only one not sharing updates about work. Others tend to post about their personal lives or share pictures, but I prefer to stay in the limelight only when I'm working. I don't like being 'viral' or in the headlines for personal reasons, which is probably why I stayed off social media for a bit," Oishee shared.

Regarding her role in *Jatri*, Oishee shared how she got involved with the project. "A few months ago, Asif *bhai* shared the story with me, and I liked it. He mentioned he needed time to refine the script. After not hearing from him for a while, I assumed he had cast someone else. But a few days ago, he reached out

PHOTO:
SHEIKH MEHEDI
MORSHED



again, and I happily joined the project. I have full confidence that Asif *bhai* will present me beautifully on screen."

The actress further revealed that while her character in *Jatri* may appear simple, her life is filled with complexities. "The story is one that will resonate with people's hearts. It's a city-centric film, relatable to everyone. I love my

character, and I'm confident the audience will love her too," she added.

Despite her accomplishments, Oishee expressed frustration with being typecast. "I'm really tired of being cast in the same roles over and over. Directors assume I can only play characters that are sweet and naive, similar to my personality. As an artiste, it's frustrating to be boxed into a particular type," she explained.

She also recounted a disappointing experience where a director changed his mind about casting her. "A few years ago, a director told me I had to be in his film. I liked the story and agreed. But when I followed up with him, he said I wasn't 'right for the role' anymore, as he had changed the character from a calm, naive girl to someone livelier and more spontaneous. I was really disappointed."

She continued, "What upset me most was that, as a director, he couldn't see me bringing his desired character to life. Just because someone portrays certain roles, like murderers on-screen, doesn't mean they are that way in real life. Why should casting be based on personality?"

Oishee lastly expressed heartfelt gratitude to her fans, saying, "I'm so thankful to my fans for being understanding and loyal. There's a big difference between fans and followers, and I'm lucky to have such loyal supporters."

With *Jatri* on the horizon, Oishee is hopeful this project will showcase a new side of her acting abilities, and she looks forward to more diverse and challenging roles in the future.

New release date announced for 'Pushpa 2'



Sukumar's Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil-starrer *Pushpa 2: The Rule*'s release has been moved up by a day. The film, which was supposed to be released in theatres on December 6, will now be released on December 5.

The producers of *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, Naveen Yerneni and Yalamanchili Ravi

Shankar, held a press meet in Hyderabad to discuss the film's release, along with the distributors.

Naveen explained that the film's release has been preponed by a day so it has a longer week at the box office in the US, where it will be released on December 4.

Afran Nisho to return to big screen with 'Daagi'



Afran Nisho, one of the most celebrated actors in the country, is all set to make his highly anticipated return to the silver screen with his second film, *Daagi*.

Directed by Shihab Shaheen, the film promises to tackle contemporary themes and will be fully produced in Bangladesh.

Shooting for *Daagi* is slated to begin in mid-November, with a release planned for Eid-ul-Azha 2025. This project marks the second collaboration between Nisho and Shaheen, following the director's success with the popular web series *Morichika*.

Nisho made his big screen debut in *Surongo* (2022), a film that earned critical acclaim not only in Bangladesh but also in West Bengal.

NEWS

Batting debacles: A continuing headache

FROM PAGE 14
in Asia. They also did not win a Test in their last 14 matches in Asia.

Meanwhile, for Bangladesh, Mehedi Hasan Miraz's 97-run knock in the second innings could be considered the yardstick to measure where things have been going wrong time and again.

Miraz played only to his strengths and to the merit of deliveries while Mahmudul Hasan Joy, top-scorer for the Tigers with a 30-run knock during their underwhelming 106 collection in the first innings, stuck to his guns and found the means to survive for longer periods. However, barring Joy or Miraz, there was not much to write home about for the Tigers in the first Test.

In December last year, the Tigers won against New Zealand on a sporting surface in Sylhet. They decided to go for spin ploy in Mirpur in the second and final Test and saw their plans for a series win fall flat on its face.

Bangladesh have played seven Tests this year and failed to find

long-term solutions with the bat.

Against hosts Pakistan in August-September, Bangladesh found meaningful batting temperament after a long time, yet top-order collapse did not evade them in Rawalpindi. Miraz was there with Liton Das during an epic fightback following a collapse to 5-26 in the second Test. Miraz tried something similar this time as well but it was not enough against the Proteas.

"We played good cricket in Pakistan. Maybe we had some shortcomings but still won. But we have room for improvement," Miraz told reporters yesterday, reflecting on how the Tigers went from winning a historic Test series away to Pakistan to being thrashed by hosts India in two match series and by South Africa in the first Test at home.

Miraz, who faced a great challenge in staging a fightback after top-order debacles in recent Tests, tried to figure out where things have been going wrong for the batting unit.

"Decision-making is very

important. Maybe there are lackings and that's why batting has been faulty," Miraz said, suggesting decision-making in terms of shot selection was problematic.

Breaks in play also appear to be deteriorating focus. Even as Miraz had produced a rearguard effort, the batting folded inside just 29 deliveries against the new ball on Day 4 against the Proteas.

"In Test cricket, if the number five or six batter has to face the new ball, it's difficult. We are working on it on how top-order can be successful and the upcoming Tests would show us where we lack," Miraz added.

The second and final Test against South Africa is set to be played from October 29 at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram -- a venue where the surface is expected to be flatter, offering more runs. However, if Bangladesh are to

make a statement as a Test side, their batting would need to find a way to click on various conditions against top-quality attacks.

Giving justification for the age limit, she said many students are interested in BCS exams and if the age limit is increased beyond 32 years, a candidate would take the exams repeatedly, limiting the scope for others.

There are also some economic issues, said the adviser.

About the commission's recommendations, Rizwana said it had discussed the matter with the protesters before filing its report.

"Upon receiving [the recommendations], we tried to analyse the economic implications of the demands for the government. Considering all the aspects, we felt that there is no chance of going above the age of 32."

She also said the council of advisers did not discuss raising the retirement age bar.

Asked about capping the number of BCS exams a candidate can take, Rizwana said, "A candidate can sit for the BCS exams three times. Three means three."

Cyclone Dana lashes Odisha

FROM PAGE 14
prepared to cope with any situation and took adequate measures to mitigate the cyclone's impact.

Odisha's neighbouring state's West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the administration identified over 3.5 lakh people to be evacuated from low-lying areas of the state in the wake of cyclone Dana.

She said 2,43,374 people have taken shelter in camps.

The Bengal CM said that she

would be staying the entire Thursday night at the state secretariat and personally monitor the situation.

Cyclones -- the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the northwestern Pacific -- are a regular and deadly menace in the northern Indian Ocean.

Scientists have warned that storms are becoming more powerful as the world heats up due to climate change driven by burning fossil fuels.

Warmer ocean surfaces release

more water vapour, which provides additional energy for storms, strengthening winds.

A warming atmosphere also allows them to hold more water, boosting heavy rainfall.

However, better forecasting and more effective evacuation planning have dramatically reduced death tolls.

In May, Cyclone Remal killed at least 48 people in India, and at least 17 people in Bangladesh, according to government figures.

Take outdated

FROM PAGE 14
environmental risks to health.

With over two crore residents, Dhaka often tops the list of cities with the poorest air quality, according to Air Quality Index data.

Older vehicles tend to emit more toxic gases due to incomplete combustion of fuel. The older the vehicle, the more pollution it causes, experts said.

Besides, the old and unfit vehicles are considered one of the major reasons behind road crashes, they said.

Hasan acknowledged that people will suffer if all outdated vehicles are removed from the streets immediately.

To avoid any suffering, the government is exploring the possibility of giving loans to transport owners for procuring new vehicles or buying electric buses, she said, adding that the old vehicles could also be converted to electric-run ones.

Fouzul Kabir Khan, advisor to the road transport and bridges ministry, among others, was present at the meeting.

At least 986 killed

FROM PAGE 14
As many as 418 people killed were aged between 19 and 30.

The report logged the deaths of 51 members of different law enforcement agencies.

The HRSS tallied the deaths by compiling reports from 12 newspapers and verification using their own network of researchers.

The victims include students, workers, journalists, service holders, law enforcers, children, women, and political activists, said the report.

Govt to raise age limit to 32 years

FROM PAGE 14
The committee had recommended raising the maximum age for applying for public service jobs to 35 years for men and 37 years for women.

The advisory council in yesterday's meeting discussed the matter and approved an ordinance to fix the maximum age for direct recruitment in government, autonomous, semi-autonomous, statutory authorities, public non-finance corporations and self-governing agencies.

The maximum age limit for entry into all cadres of the BCS and other government jobs has been set at 32 years, according to the Cabinet Division press release.

For autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations, the respective recruitment rules will be applied with necessary adaptations.

In the case of defence services and law enforcement agencies, their respective recruitment rules will remain in effect, it said.

Additionally, based on this ordinance and the authority given by Section 59 of the Government Employment Act, 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration will amend the Bangladesh Civil Service (Age, Qualification, and Examination) Rules, 2014.

Ariful Islam, one of the protesters, said the commission to review their demands had recommended 35 years for men and 37 years. Even the political parties, including BNP, made similar suggestions, he said.

"We don't accept this decision," he told The Daily Star last night.

He said they would announce fresh protest programmes soon.

Asked whether the age bar will be changed again if the protests resume, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said the government would not rethink the decision.

"The decision won't be changed. There can be discussions. And there are counter protests as well," she said during a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

Given justification for the age limit, she said many students are

interested in BCS exams and if the age limit is increased beyond 32 years, a candidate would take the exams repeatedly, limiting the scope for others.

There are also some economic issues, said the adviser.

About the commission's recommendations, Rizwana said it had discussed the matter with the protesters before filing its report.

"Upon receiving [the recommendations], we tried to analyse the economic implications of the demands for the government. Considering all the aspects, we felt that there is no chance of going above the age of 32."

She also said the council of advisers did not discuss raising the retirement age bar.

Asked about capping the number of BCS exams a candidate can take, Rizwana said, "A candidate can sit for the BCS exams three times. Three means three."

Giving justification for the age limit, she said many students are

interested in BCS exams and if the age limit is increased beyond 32 years, a candidate would take the exams repeatedly, limiting the scope for others.

There are also some economic issues, said the adviser.

About the commission's recommendations, Rizwana said it had discussed the matter with the protesters before filing its report.

"Upon receiving [the recommendations], we tried to analyse the economic implications of the demands for the government. Considering all the aspects, we felt that there is no chance of going above the age of 32."

She also said the council of advisers did not discuss raising the retirement age bar.

Asked about capping the number of BCS exams a candidate can take, Rizwana said, "A candidate can sit for the BCS exams three times. Three means three."

Chowdhury, filed three separate petitions in this regard, said court staffer Mehedi Hasan.

The court, however, framed charges against 12 others accused in the case.

They are former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury; Chittagong Port Authority's former chairman Commodore (retd) Zulfiqur Ali and AMM Shahadat Hossain; its director (transport) AM Sanwar Hossain and member AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed; Gato directors Shahjahan M Hasib, Syed Galib Ahmed, Syed Tanveer Ahmed, AKM Musa Kajol and Ehsan Yusuf; and Ismail Hossain Simon, son of former shipping minister; BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, and his wife Jahanara Ansar.

Shahjahan and Simon are absconding, while the rest are on bail.

On September 2, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station, charging Khaleda and several others of misappropriating around Tk 1,000 crore while dealing with Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Company Ltd (Gatco).

On May 13, 2008, the anti-graft body pressed charges against the former premier and 23 others.

Names of nine other accused, including Khaleda's younger son Arifat Rahman Koko, were dropped from the case on different dates following their deaths.