

I aspire to see myself on the silver screen

PARSA EVANA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The budding actress Parsa Evana has reached a notable position in the industry today after having delivered multiple dramas over the last few years. Many of these dramas earned much adulation from the audiences. She became widely recognised by people of all ages, particularly after her role in the drama *Bachelor Point*.

She recently starred alongside Mosharraf Karim in the web-film *Mirza*, directed by Sumon Anowar.

Regarding the project and her co-star, Parsa shared, “I worked with Mosharraf *bhai* eight to nine years ago, and after a long gap, we reunited for *Mirza*. He’s still the same! When we first collaborated, I was almost a newcomer, and he supported me as a co-artist then. This time, he has been just as helpful.”

“Mosharraf *bhai* is obviously a huge star, but I’ve never seen any manner of arrogance in him. He is humble and grounded,” she conveyed.

Parsa Evana portrayed a unique character in the web-film *Mirza*. She mentioned, “The story and the character were both appealing to me, and I thoroughly enjoyed working on the project. Our director Sumon Anowar took care of the production with great attention to detail.”

On top of that, the actress is all geared up to make an appearance in a Vicky Zahed directorial one-hour-long drama, which has yet to be officially titled.

She recently wrapped up shooting an advertisement directed by Ashfaque Nipun. When inquired about her experience, she replied, “A good team is key to producing great work.” She highlighted the teamwork of *Bachelor Point*, praising it as fantastic. “Throughout my career, many dramas have been well-received by audiences. However, *Bachelor Point* is a significant turning point because it reached a wide audience,” she admitted, praising director Kajal Arefin Ome for his excellent supervision of the show.

Parsa mentioned that *Bachelor Point* stands

out due to its high-quality production writing, “Every character in it plays an important role, as a result, there were no specific hero or heroine. The story was compelling, leaving an impact on the people.” She added, “Many people would even address me by my character Eva’s name. The show transformed my image, making me memorable to the audience.”

Recalling her professional start, she said, “I began with dancing, and it made me feel I would remain a dancer. Then one day, I began acting but my heart would still push me towards dancing. Dance has stayed with me since I was a school-going student.”

“Once I began actively acting after entering this community, I worked on projects directed by Maburur Rashid Bannah and Imraul Rafat. It was also the point when people would praise my acting skill which in turn sparked my growing interest in the craft.”

“For the past three years, I paid earnest attention to my acting career by putting my heart into every role. Now my commitment to acting has grown even stronger, and I am more focused than ever before.”

When asked if she wants to star in films, Parsa expressed, “I aspire to see myself on the big screen. I want to be part of movies that will not only draw audiences to theatres but also earn their applause. If I come across a film offer that resonates with me, I will definitely take on the project.”



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Shakib Khan’s ‘Dorod’ premiers in 100 theatres

The highly anticipated film *Dorod*, featuring Dhallywood’s leading star Shakib Khan, has been released in theatres today.

Star Cineplex will be featuring 22 daily screenings of *Dorod* across all branches, starting from today.

Directed by Anonno Mamun, the romantic thriller features Bollywood actress Sonal Chauhan alongside Shakib Khan.

The director stated, “The film is releasing in almost 100 theatres, even without an Eid release. I am confident that viewers will have a positive experience watching the film.”

Alongside Bangladesh, the film will also have its global premiere in 22 countries worldwide.

‘Gladiator II’ to hit local screens before US premiere



Gladiator II will premiere in Bangladesh before it even reaches US theatres. The film, directed by Ridley Scott, is set to debut at Star Cineplex today, ahead of its scheduled US release on November 22.

The original *Gladiator* (2000) featured Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix in lead roles. Considered one of the most iconic films of the century, it captured audiences worldwide with its intense action and powerful storytelling.

Now, 24 years later, *Gladiator II* introduces a new chapter in the saga, with British actor Paul Mescal in the lead role. The cast also features acclaimed actors Pedro Pascal and Denzel Washington, among others.

NEWS

Textbooks to feature July uprising

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The interim government had decided to remove any “exaggerated” historical information or “unnecessary” glorification of individuals from the 2025 textbooks.

According to NCTB officials, materials reflecting the former government’s narratives, including speeches of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, would also be removed.

While the current textbooks focus heavily on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s role in the Liberation War, the new editions will also feature the contributions of other key figures, such as Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Tajuddin Ahmad, Syed Nazrul Islam, Gen Ataul Gani Osman, and Ziaur Rahman, according to some members of the textbook revision committee.

In the Bangladesh and Global Studies book for classes four to 10, there might be a change in the chapter on the history of the Liberation War.

According to NCTB sources, “Declaration of Independence by Bangabandhu on 26th March” may be revised. The text may read: “On

March 26, Ziaur Rahman declared independence,” and on March 27, a declaration of independence was made again on behalf of Bangabandhu, they said.

Additionally, various materials in the Bangla textbooks for classes 11 to 12 are undergoing revisions. As part of this, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s essay titled “Days of ‘52” will be removed. Pieces by Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Mahadev Saha are also being dropped, sources said.

Rakkhal Raha, a writer and researcher involved in the textbook revision process, said the primary challenge from an educational perspective is how recent movements can be incorporated into the textbooks.

“There were discussions with the stakeholders about where and how this content should be included. Although there are various points of view, everyone agrees that at least a minimal amount of content on the recent uprising must be added,” he said.

He said textbooks are intended to serve educational purposes, which was not reflected in the actions of

the previous government. “We are focused on avoiding any potential repetition of those past approaches.”

“Our aim is to retain the integrity of the textbooks’ purpose while considering how and to what extent recent history can be included in a way that keeps textbooks educationally focused,” Rakkhal told this newspaper.

Fatihul Quadir, chief editor (in charge) of the NCTB, said there would be poems and essays in some textbooks. “But the contents are not finalised yet. We’re still developing those materials and are hopeful of completing the content within a week.”

This year, the NCTB is printing over 40 crore copies of textbooks for free distribution among over 4 crore students of primary and secondary schools.

Books for classes one to three have already been sent for printing, while the rest is expected to be completed by the coming month.

“We expect to send over 90 percent of textbooks for all classes by December 25 this year. We may see slight delays in distributing the remaining books,” said Prof Reazul.

Freeze accounts

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the board members of NRBC and provided them with loans, violating banking rules.

Despite being the chairman, Tamal behaved like the managing director of the bank and made the one responsible for the post a puppet, industry insiders said.

NRBC official sources said Tamal did not go to the bank’s head office regularly in the last two months, which he used to do before the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 this year.

A joyous stroll

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An old brick wall along the street, weakened by time, collapsed, crashing Jisan under the rubble.

Locals rushed to help, frantically lifting bricks to free Jisan. But it was too late.

Jisan was declared dead by doctors when he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said his uncle Nayan Sarder.

“Fatema was playing with a rattle toy. Suddenly, it slipped from her hands and flew several yards away,” he said.

“As Fatema reached for it, her mother, Jhumur Begum, stepped forward to help retrieve it. That’s when the wall collapsed and fell on Jisan as he was near the wall,” Nayan told The Daily Star.

“The old wall stood there in a crumbling state for a long time posing a risk to everyone who used the street. Vehicles ply on it and people use it frequently... It’s a miracle that Jisan’s sister and mother survived,” he said.

Jisan’s distraught mother Jhumur was still at a loss to describe how it all happened.

“My children were frolicking to the hotel to bring breakfast and tea. They love to accompany me on such errands. Suddenly, the wall collapsed, collapsing my world in seconds,” she said as her husband Miraj Hossain tried to console her.

Md Faruk, in charge of DMCH Police Outpost, said the body was kept at the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The family does not want to file a complaint and wants to take the body without an autopsy, Rampura police said.

Protecting minorities

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Some countries have shown support for the people of Bangladesh, but India has remained silent. Additionally, India has provided refuge to a person who is responsible for all this, he said.

If India genuinely empathises with those who lost loved ones, the people of Bangladesh will appreciate it. “I would like India’s support in ensuring that legal action is taken against those responsible for those acts of violence.”

Replying to another question, he said he was fully aware of what had happened and of the hardships minorities have endured. “It’s important to remember that without timely action, things could have been much worse. For example, during Durga Puja, there were warnings of potential violence.”

“We deployed enough law enforcers, and the celebrations went peacefully. Our government has engaged with the minority communities and assured them of their safety.”

Nahid said he would argue that no previous government has worked as closely with minority communities as

the current administration has. Past governments have used these issues for political gains, eroding the trust of minority communities.

Asked whether extremist groups that are security threats to both Bangladesh and India were gaining strength, Nahid said the people of Bangladesh did not support extremist groups.

“Bangladeshis want a democratic government. What you’re saying reflects a narrative promoted by the Awami League, suggesting that without the party, extremist groups would grow.”

“The Awami League has ruled for many years, and India has supported this viewpoint. But the question is, why should Bangladesh’s internal politics impact its relationship with India? If India truly built its relationship with the people of Bangladesh and not just with the Awami League, this wouldn’t be an issue. For example, we don’t question who is in power in India, whether it’s the BJP or Congress. The same principle should apply here – relations should not hinge on whether the Awami League is in power.”

Talks grapple

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take ownership of building bridging solutions.”

A previous finance goal of \$100 billion per year, which expires in 2025, was met two years late in 2022, the OECD said in May. Much of it was in the form of loans rather than grants, something recipient nations say must change.

Setting the tone at the start of the discussion yesterday, a report from the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance said the target annual figure would need to rise to at least \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 if countries fail to act now.

“Any shortfall in investment before 2030 will place added pressure on the years that follow, creating a steeper and potentially more costly path to climate stability,” the report said.

Behind the scenes, negotiators are working on draft texts, but so far early-stage documents published by the United Nations climate body

reflect the huge range of views around the table.

So far the conference – which many global leaders decided to skip altogether – has been marked more by division than unity.

French climate minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher on Wednesday cancelled her trip to COP29, after Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev accused France of “crimes” in its overseas territories in the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, Argentina’s government withdrew its negotiators from the COP29 talks yesterday.

Argentina’s President, Javier Milei, has previously called global warming a hoax. He is due to meet Trump, also a climate change denier, this week.

When asked whether Argentina would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Ana Lamas, undersecretary for environment for Argentina, who led the country’s delegation at COP29, told Reuters: “We are only withdrawing from COP29.”

Dhaka unhappy

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Toufique said the foreign ministry has not yet received any request from the ministry concerned.

Responding to a question about the issuance of a low number of visas by the Indian high commission in Dhaka, the foreign ministry spokesperson said Dhaka has communicated this to New Delhi. However, the Indian authorities said that they had to suspend the processing of visas for some categories due to a manpower shortage.

According to the official, the foreign ministry is trying to ensure that Bangladeshi students, who need to go to India to obtain visas for a third country, can have their visas from other countries like Vietnam, Uzbekistan or Pakistan.

LABOUR COUNSELLOR STAND RELEASED

Toufique said the government has ordered Mohammed Kamrul Islam, counsellor (Labour Wing) at the Bangladesh mission in Geneva, to return home immediately. It also dismissed a local staff member of the mission following the recent

harassment of Law Adviser Asif Nazrul in Geneva.

“It was an unfortunate and unexpected incident... we have already taken actions against one of our officers and a local staff member.”

The foreign ministry spokesperson noted that his ministry has already instructed all Bangladesh missions abroad to take measures to ensure the security and appropriate protocol for the high-level government dignitaries during their visits abroad.

A video circulating on social media shows a group of people confronting Asif at the Geneva Airport when he went there to attend an ILO event.

The incident occurred just before the adviser entered the airport to catch his return flight, with Kamrul accompanying him. At that moment, the labour counsellor allegedly remained passive.

MEDIA REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN CAUTION

Toufique said some newspapers recently ran reports on a few foreign ministry officials, particularly those supposed to be appointed as

ambassadors.

“This is unfortunate. Officials who are appointed as ambassadors have experience of at least 25 years. The government also considers their ability to represent the country abroad. If such a negative media campaign is run, it hurts the country’s image.”

He requested the media to report on a particular issue only after thorough investigations.

Asked if any reforms initiatives were initiated for the foreign ministry, Toufique said no such initiative has been taken.

He, however, said the government recently decided not to extend the tenures of the ambassadors who have retired.

“We had been demanding this for long. You can consider this initiative as part of reforms.”

He informed journalists that UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Indo Pacific Catherine West will be visiting Bangladesh on November 16-17.

She is scheduled to hold meetings with the chief adviser and the foreign adviser.