



PHOTO:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

‘Daagi’ is for everyone TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actress Tama Mirza has begun shooting for Shihab Shaheen's *Daagi*. The film is being shot in Syedpur, Rajshahi, and other parts of the country.

This project marks the second collaboration between the Tama and Nisho duo after *Surongo*, which marked the latter's debut on the silver screen. In this film, Shahiduzzaman Selim will notably be seen as an antagonist.

Sharing her experience about the shoot, the actress said, "Whatever we've filmed so far has turned out amazing," shares Tama. "We'll finish shooting soon since this film is slated to release this Eid-ul-Fitr."

On working with Afran Nisho for the second time, the *Friday* actress shares, "Nisho *bhai* is an exceptional actor. As a person, he's equally wonderful. We received

a very positive response for *Surongo*, and I'm hopeful about *Daagi* as well."

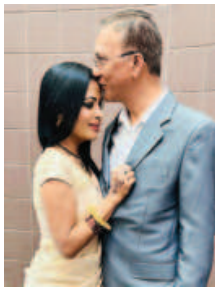
Tama mentioned that *Daagi* is a film for all types of audiences. "It has a compelling family oriented storyline, on top of which viewers will get to witness an extraordinary narrative," she added. "I believe that *Daagi* will be one of the best films in Afran Nisho Bhai's career," says a confident Tama.

In her longstanding career so far, this project is Tama's first collaboration with renowned director Shihab Shaheen. Regarding the filmmaker, she remarked, "He's an outstanding director, and everyone knows of his calibre. Honestly, the production arrangement flaunts a brilliant synergy between the director, Afran Nisho *bhai*, and myself. Shihab *bhai* has also actively worked to present me uniquely. I truly believe this Eid release will leave a mark on everyone's heart," she concluded.



Tamalika Karmaker reveals marriage in heartfelt anniversary post

Tamalika Karmaker, renowned for her impactful performances in theatre and television, has confirmed her marriage after keeping it private for over a year. The actress, who has been living in New Jersey for the past five years, made the announcement through a social media post this Monday. She wished her husband, Pravin, a "Happy Anniversary" along with a photo of the couple, revealing a personal milestone that had been kept out of the public eye.



Chris Martin apologises for British colonialism at Mumbai concert

Coldplay frontman Chris Martin surprised fans at the band's concert in Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium on Saturday by apologising for Britain's colonial past in India. Pausing between songs, Martin thanked the audience for attending and reflected on the band's connection with India, noting it was their fourth visit to the country. He then said, "Thank you for forgiving us for all of the bad things that Great Britain has done," addressing the nation's colonial history. Fans praised Martin's gesture, describing it as sincere and healing. Coldplay's India tour began in Mumbai and will continue with two more shows in the city before moving to Ahmedabad for performances on January 25 and 26.

Jaya Ahsan, Pritom and Elita tease musical film

Netizens are in for a treat as Jaya Ahsan, Pritom Hasan and Elita Karim have announced an exciting collaboration.

"It's my first project with both Jaya Ahsan and Elita Karim. We're coming up with something very special," said Pritom Hasan to The Daily Star. "In the video, Jaya *apa* will be seen portraying a character that will feature prominently in a future project." The musician also

mentioned that he will reprise a character that he had played before, in the video.

Elita Karim praised the filmmaking team led by Sadia Islam Roza and shared her joy over the positive responses they've received. "In times of prevalent negativity, such support inspires me to work harder and push creative boundaries," she added.



NEWS

Govt forms committee

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Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

Even after 27 years, many major sections of the accord are yet to be implemented.

Following the July uprising, demands to implement the treaty resurfaced.

According to the notification, the reconstituted committee will monitor and supervise the implementation process of the agreement, formulate and implement programmes for resolving matters such as the surrender of arms and granting of amnesty under the agreement, coordinate the activities

of all relevant ministries, departments, subordinate government and semi-government bodies, autonomous organisations, and authorities related to the implementation process, and provide necessary advice and directives.

Additionally, it will address and resolve issues related to the implementation of the agreement and make recommendations to the government if necessary.

The committee will also oversee activities related to the repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees, as well as the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons.

The Ministry of Chittagong Hill

Tracts Affairs will provide secretarial support to the committee.

Furthermore, all ministries and departments are required to comply with the decisions and directives of the Implementation Committee and take necessary measures accordingly.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the agreement, the Implementation Committee may form sub-committees as needed, with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs providing necessary assistance and covering all related expenses.

The notification states that the committee will start its activities promptly.

Touhid leaves

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and deliver speeches at the China Institute of International Studies and the Shanghai Institute of International Studies.

Moreover, Touhid will visit Chinese industries and engage with business representatives in China in order to increase Chinese investments in Bangladesh.

Key priorities for the visit include renegotiating loan terms, such as reducing interest rates from the current 2-3% to 1%, waiving commitment fees, and extending grace periods from 15 years to 30 years, according to a foreign ministry official.

Duty-free access for Bangladeshi products following its graduation from the Least-Developed Country (LDC) bracket in 2026, as well as increased Chinese investment and higher exports to China, will also be pursued.

"Economic issues will dominate the discussions. Bangladesh's trade and economic relations with China are vital," Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said at a pre-departure briefing.

Bangladesh will also seek Chinese assistance with Rohingya repatriation, as well as support in the railways, shipping, and health sectors, he added.

During a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen on Sunday, Touhid said Dhaka wants Beijing to designate at least three to four top-tier hospitals in Kunming, close to Bangladesh, to provide improved medical treatment to visiting Bangladeshi citizens.

He said Bangladesh is prepared to provide land and logistical support for establishing a full-fledged tertiary-level Chinese hospital in Purbachal, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Ex-NTMC chief

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The defence had also argued that the amendment which created the tribunal was invalid, saying the government had no power to make such amendments. Ziaul's counsels also argued that the addition of enforced disappearance as a crime under the tribunal's scope was unconstitutional and thus called for acquitting the former major general.

The prosecutor said that the challenge regarding the legitimacy of the tribunal itself was not a matter for the tribunal to decide and should have been taken up before the constitutional court. Challenging the constitutionality of a court before the same court is unheard of, he said.

Citing articles 47(3) and 47(A) of the constitution, Tajul said that "those accused of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes do not have fundamental rights" and

cannot file writ petitions either. He said if there were laws conflicting with these constitutional provisions, those laws would be deemed invalid as they are protected by the constitution. Therefore, the defence arguments are not tenable.

The chief prosecutor concluded that the petition was likely filed to gain media attention and create controversy around the tribunal. They suggested that the tribunal should impose exemplary punishment and fines on Ziaul's lawyers and reject this petition.

The ICT sent Tanzil Ahmed, former assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and Akram Hossain, former constable, to jail after showing them arrested in a case filed on charges of crimes against humanity over the July-August massacre that aimed to quell the student-led mass uprising.

Military, minority armed group agree ceasefire

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It is part of the so-called Three Brotherhood Alliance, with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Arakan Army, that launched an offensive against the military junta in late October 2023 seizing swathes of territory near the border with China.

The MNDAA, made up of ethnic Chinese, said last July it had taken control of a major military base near the Chinese border.

Analysts say China is worried about the advance of anti-junta forces which have pushed the military

out of vital borderlands and started making inroads towards the central city of Mandalay.

The military seized power from Myanmar's civilian government in February 2021, plunging the country into crisis.

China fears chaos along its more than 2,000-kilometre-long border with Myanmar would jeopardise investment and trade.

Beijing previously brokered a ceasefire deal in the northern borderlands in January 2024, but the deal broke down a few months later.

Bhorer Kagoj

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A journalist of the newspaper seeking anonymity said that since August 5, 2024, a group of journalists supporting BNP have been trying to establish control in the newspaper, and they intensified their efforts when its editor was sent to jail.

On Sunday, a group of journalists, along with union leaders and outsiders, held a demonstration in front of the newspaper's main office, he added.

In response, the owner issued the shutdown notice.

A senior journalist at Bhorer Kagoj clarified that no employee had unpaid salaries.

However, the issue arose because some journalists, hired on a consolidated basis, were demanding wages as per the 8th Wage Board since the beginning of their job, leading to the conflict, he added.

No journalists from Bhorer Kagoj wanted to make any comments on the record.

Bhorer Kagoj is considered one of the leading newspapers that established a new trend in journalism in the 1990s for its novel features, magazines, and supplements.

The major Bangla daily went to print on February 15, 1992, from Dhaka.

Nayeemul Islam Khan was the founding editor of the newspaper. He was followed by Matiur Rahman, Benazir Ahmed, Abed Khan, and currently, Shyamal Dutta, who is now behind bars.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) expressed dismay in light of the newspaper's abrupt closure without prior notice.

Yesterday, in a statement, DUJ President Sohel Haider Chowdhury and General Secretary Akter Hossain said the sudden closure notice of the 34-year-old newspaper disheartened the working journalists and staff there.

"If the notice is enforced, many journalists will lose their jobs and struggle to sustain their livelihoods amidst rising living expenses and inflation. Such decisions can never be considered acceptable," the statement said.

Therefore, the DUJ has urged the authorities to reconsider their decision.

Task force for using AI

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By merging traditional methods such as community workshops and meetings with contemporary digital campaigns utilising social media and online platforms, the CSBCC&R would create a unified and impactful communication strategy to drive social change, attitudes, norms, and practices.

Regarding AI utilisation, the draft report says a major strategic emphasis is required within key sectors such as education, health, agriculture, and public institutions to facilitate the widespread adoption of digital and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

For instance, employing satellite sensing technology can enable effective crop early-warning systems to improve agricultural practices, while distance education can ensure that learning continues uninterrupted regardless of geographical barriers.

"By integrating these advanced technologies, we can enhance quality, efficiency and access across multiple sectors, ultimately improving outcomes for the entire population," said the report.

Moreover, the report says utilising digital and AI technologies effectively would help bridge the existing digital divide.

This involves reducing data costs, increasing access to affordable smartphones -- implemented with appropriate safeguards for age-specific content -- and fostering the growth of a robust domestic software and hardware ICT industry.

"By promoting widespread digital access, we can empower citizens, enhance digital literacy, and stimulate innovation within the ICT sector," the report mentions.

The task force also recommended introducing an automatic traffic signalling system for streamlining the urban transport system.

Such a system is a fundamental requirement for any major city worldwide; yet attempts to implement the system in Dhaka have faced challenges, often collapsing due to resistance from vested interests, it said.

This initiative should be regarded as a "low-hanging fruit" because it is both actionable and capable of yielding immediate benefits.

Besides, it said the current model of public transport in Dhaka, characterised by multiple ownership

of bus services, has led to significant confusion and chaos on the roads, directly impacting public safety and convenience.

A transition to a single-owner bus service franchise that unites all the fragmented owners into one provider has been recommended as a solution to end urban bus transport chaos.

This should be marked by a move to put drivers on a fixed salary rather than on a commission.

Key focus areas of the report include pilot projects to demonstrate reform potential, initiatives in infrastructure, education, health, and governance, leveraging digital technology, and fostering youth engagement.

It critiques past governance and economic mismanagement while proposing a human-centered development strategy.

The draft report has suggested for public hospital reform in Dhaka with real-time monitoring and user feedback, rural school and clinic reform tailored to address rural challenges, and revitalisation of the Buriganga river as a symbolic and urgent environmental project.

Besides, for institutional reforms, it said creation of new bodies like the Regulatory Reform Commission, and Centre for Global Excellence in STEM education.

Moreover, it recommended for strategic overhaul of Bangladesh Biman, including potential renaming as "Bangladesh Airways" as well as restructuring or replacement.

Yunus flies

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expected to meet the chief adviser.

Bangladesh will highlight its efforts for an improved business and investment climate during the annual meeting of the WEF in Switzerland to attract the global business leaders and investors giving them a confidence to explore the opportunities that Bangladesh offers.

Yunus, who will lead the Bangladesh delegation, will focus on business and investment opportunities during his series of engagements there.

Chief Adviser's Special Envoy on International Affairs Lutfe Siddiqi and Principal Coordinator on SDG Affairs Lamiya Morshed are accompanying Yunus.

The chief adviser is set to return home on January 25.