



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

Channel i is set to air a nearly three-hour tribute programme titled *Jui Phool: Sabina Yasmin* on September 5 at 2:40pm, celebrating the 55-year journey of one of Bangladesh's most iconic voices. The programme takes its name from the singer herself: Sabina means "Jui". The special feature, which runs for 2 hours and 48 minutes, consists of performances from well-known singers and candid reflections of Sabina Yasmin's life and music.

Filmed across three locations — Thikana Resort, Channel i's studio, and the singer's own residence — the production added together two parts: a music showcase featuring her most beloved songs, and a personal interview where Yasmin revisited the milestones of her career.

During an event announcing the progmmme last Tuesday, Director Shykh Seraj talked about her dedication. "Sabina *apa* was physically unwell. Yet, the second the camera was on, her face lit up with a smile. Without her excitement and co-operation, I wouldn't have been able to make

this show whole."

The programme also screened an old interview with late actress Kabori Sarwar, alongside noted artistes Farida Akhtar Babita, Sujata, and Rozina, who shared their memories of Yasmin. Sujata recalled first seeing her as a child. "She was only wearing a frock; I was surprised to find out that she

For Sabina Yasmin, the experience was equally rewarding. "I am speechless at how the show turned out. There is not a single moment where it is boring."

was going to sing."

Yasmin also revealed little-known anecdotes. Her birth certificate had the name Dilshad Yasmin, but the world came to know her as Sabina only after her breakout song *Shudhu Gaan Geye Porichoy*. At that time, Kabori admitted she initially disliked one of Yasmin's

songs, *She Je Keno Elona*. The singer also talked about her international encounters, including her meeting with Lata Mangeshkar and the moment Raj Kapoor famously described her as "Awazo ki Devi" (Goddess of Vocals).



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHANNEL I

Beyond nostalgia, the singer did not shy away from addressing industry issues. She raised the issue of Bangladeshi singers not getting royalties for their music. "Because of it, many suffer financially. If this existed, a lot of

talented singers would not have to suffer in their later years," she said, urging reforms on behalf of her fellow musicians.

The musical segment was carried by seven contemporary singers — Dilshad Nahar Kona, Somnur Monir Konal, Imran

Eki Shonar Aloy, Ei Prithibir Pore, Shoto Jonomer Shopno, Cherona Cherona Haat, Ei Mon Tomake Dilam paid homage to the singer's rich musical footprint.

The evening closed with all seven singers uniting for *Shundor Shuborno Labonno*.

Shykh Seraj described both the motivation and challenges behind the project. "Many artistes of earlier generations are slipping out of public view. Their work carries immense archival value, and it is our responsibility to preserve it. That is why I continue such efforts," he said.

For Sabina Yasmin, the experience was equally rewarding. "I am speechless at how the show turned out. There is not a single moment where it is boring."

Jui Phool: Sabina Yasmin is not just a tribute; it is an ode to the legendary life of Sabina Yasmin. It captures the voice of a woman who began as Dilshad, grew into Sabina, and became the nightingale of Bengali music. Fifty-five years on, her songs remain just as evergreen as she is.



Bangladeshi short wins at Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival

Bangladeshi filmmaker Bijon Imtiaz's short film *A Thing about Kashem* has won the Grand Prize in the Alternative Spirit (Short) category at the Oscar-qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival. This win makes the film eligible for Academy Award submission.

The 17-minute film stars Intekhab Dinar alongside Moutushi Biswas, and Hashnat Ripon among others. Notably the story was written by Nuhash Humayun, with Bijon contributing.

Produced by Arifur Rahman, Nuhash Humayun and others under Goopy Bagha, Long Story and Screenxcope, the film explores identity and inner conflict.

The film has already been screened in Spain, New York and Los Angeles.

Hollywood stars back Gaza-set drama

Hollywood stars Brad Pitt, Joaquin Phoenix, and Rooney Mara have joined Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania's Gaza-set drama *The Voice of Hind Rajab* as executive producers.



With support from Alfonso Cuarón, Jonathan Glazer, and producers Nadim Cheikhrouha, Odessa Rae, and James Wilson, the actors' involvement boosts the film ahead of its world premiere at the 82nd Venice Film Festival on September 3.

The drama, featuring Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Clara Khoury, and Amer Hlehel, recounts the tragic story of six-year-old Hind Rajab, killed in January 2024 while fleeing Gaza City with family. Her final moments were recorded by Red Crescent volunteers struggling to dispatch an ambulance.

The Venice Film Festival officially opened yesterday.

NEWS

New demands a plot to derail polls

FROM PAGE 12
The BNP leader said his party had fully cooperated with the interim government since its inception and had neither created obstacles nor raised demands on the streets to embarrass it.

"But, unfortunately, some political quarters are trying to foil and disrupt the polls by raising new demands," he said.

Saying reforms are difficult for the masses to grasp, Fakhrul said the proportional representation (PR) system in voting is even more difficult to explain to them.

"Moreover, voters would not know who they are voting for [in the PR system]. Yet, many are speaking about implementing these measures and issuing threats," he added.

Expressing regret, Fakhrul said the anticipated change in mindset after last year's uprising had not materialised.

"I have never felt depressed in politics; I was never frustrated. I have

always given courage to everyone. But, recently, a shadow of despair has crept into me. You may ask why? ... Most people have become spoiled."

He said corruption has worsened and bemoaned the complicity of political leaders in it.

"An industrialist told me that before he had to pay one lakh taka, now he has to pay five lakh. What this means is, the change that was supposed to come in people's mindset has not come."

Alleging that those who seek to derail the polls are exploiting the situation, Fakhrul demanded that the government must hold polls without delay.

"Finish the July charter and reforms quickly, without adding more complications. Make arrangements for the polls quickly. Make the political parties election-oriented," he said.

"There is no alternative to elections."

He also criticised the attack on Adviser Mahfuj Alam, which he blamed on Awami League activists.

Referring to recent reports, Fakhrul said, "A Bangladeshi, known for bank looting, has given Tk 2,500 crore to Sheikh Hasina in Delhi. They are now planning how to use that money to stop Bangladesh's election and bring Hasina back."

He also highlighted the ongoing liquidity crisis in banks.

"Today, my wife called the bank to withdraw some money. The bank officials said, 'sorry madam, we cannot give more than Tk 5,000'."

"These problems could have been avoided if the polls were held within three months," he said, adding that he had faced criticism for making that demand soon after the uprising.

He also recalled that the 1/11 military-backed caretaker government had stayed in power for two years and "handed over power to the fascist Awami League."

Father watches son's final moments

FROM PAGE 12
delivered the opening statement and uttered Sayed's name, Mokbul's eyes teared up.

But when two video clips of police shooting his son and a bloodied Abu Sayed collapsing were displayed on a large screen, Mokbul, who travelled from Rangpur's Pirganj to be there, was unable to hold back his tears.

The chief prosecutor said Sayed became the symbol of courage during the uprising.

"Despite being bloodied by truncheon charges, he stood with outstretched arms as if to say people cannot keep dying like this. The one who tried to protect students faced the barrel of a gun purchased with people's tax," he said.

He reminded the court that more than 30,000 people were injured and over 2,000 others killed during the uprising. "These figures are not mere statistics; they are a testament to the price paid for justice."

"This trial is not merely about

punishing perpetrators; it is about ensuring justice for victims and shaping a future where the politics of murder ends," Tajul told the court.

Tajul alleged that deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her associates used the state power to systematically suppress peaceful protests through mass shootings, abductions, and torture.

"The evidence will show these crimes were premeditated and executed with chilling precision," Tajul said, comparing Hasina to authoritarian leaders like Hitler, Mussolini, and Pinochet.

He stressed the case was not about vengeance. "We have no grievance against any individual," he said. "We are here to seek justice for crimes that scarred the nation's soul and shattered thousands of families like Mokbul Hossain's."

"This is not merely the closing of a chapter. It is the writing of a new one — a future where no government

dares to commit mass atrocities. Let this tribunal send a message to history: justice lives here."

BRUR former vice-chancellor Md Hasibur Rashid, ex-Rangpur Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Moniruzzaman and 28 others are among the accused in the case.

The evidence brought against them is not only credible but also irrefutable and strong, the chief prosecutor said, adding that it includes eyewitness accounts, video-audio records, government documents, forensic and ballistic reports.

BRUR student Sayed was shot dead on July 16 last year. His defiance in the face of state violence turned students' demonstrations into a mass uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5.

Of the accused, 24 remain fugitives, but the trial continues in their absence.

The tribunal also set today for cross-examining the witnesses.

Authorities pull down campaign posters, banners

FROM PAGE 1
spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination; Pratirodh Parshad, backed by some left-leaning parties; Oikyaboddho Shikkkharthi Jote, supported by Islami Chhatra Shibir; along with independent candidates.

The same day, Ducusu Chief Returning Officer Prof Mohammad Zashim Uddin issued an urgent notice instructing all candidates to take them down immediately.

Professor Golam Rabbani, convener of the taskforce on the electoral code of conduct, told The Daily Star, "Many put those up without knowing the rules. That's why we have served show-cause notices. Today [yesterday] we cleared them, and if anyone puts them up again, punitive action will be taken."

Some independent candidates, however, alleged bias in enforcement.

Samsuddoza Nabab said, "This is visible discrimination against independent candidates. No action has been taken against the politically-backed ones. Only independent candidates been show-caused."

According to section 7(a) of the electoral code, campaigners are permitted only to print and distribute black-and-white posters, leaflets, or handbills. The use of PVC or any type of banner, festoon, or board is strictly prohibited.

Oikyaboddho Shikkkharthi Jote's general secretary candidate SM Farhad said, "We did not violate the code of conduct. The rules only mentioned that posters cannot be pasted on trees or walls. We followed that and instead created frames to hang our posters. Before doing so, we asked the commission and they said there was no problem.... Now a new circular has been issued, instructing us to remove those."

Meanwhile, on the second day of campaigning, most panels focused on reaching non-residential students. They campaigned at Mall Chatter, Curzon Hall, TSC, and campus bus stations used by commuters, and also visited academic buildings after classes to distribute leaflets. Many

panels planned to visit dormitories at night.

Boishommo Birodhi Shikkkharthi Oikya, backed by Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangshad, launched its campaign by paying tribute to poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at his grave.

The panel's vice-president candidate Abdul Qader said, "Almost every panel is violating the code of conduct, even though the Ducusu election commission has clearly provided the rules. It seems they are competing over who can breach more rules."

From the first day of campaigning, Chhatra Dal-backed candidates began distributing leaflets from Ekattor Hall. The panel also submitted a written complaint to the election commission, demanding action against code violations, more polling centres, and shutting down Dhaka University-related social media groups.

JCD GS candidate Shaikh Tanvir Barea Hamim said, "Due to complaints over the lack of a level-playing field, a lot of time is being wasted instead of reaching out to students. Yet, we're seeing no remedy."

PRINTING DELAY STALLS CAMPAIGNING

With orders for campaign leaflets piling up, printing presses in Katabon and Nilkhet are struggling to keep pace, slowing down the campaign process for many panels.

Some panels, including Swatantra Shikkkharthi Oikya and Pratirodh Parshad, could not distribute leaflets on the first day of campaigning. A candidate from Umama's panel said they received their printed materials in the evening.

Pratirodh Parshad's assistant general secretary candidate Jabir Ahmed Jubel said they had to photocopy a small number of leaflets during the day and later went to dormitories to reach voters.

Several candidates from Boishommo Birodhi Shikkkharthi Oikya also struggled to campaign effectively due to a shortage of leaflets.

Japanese climber

FROM PAGE 12
As well as an avid hiker, the retired livestock farmer from the central Gunma region volunteers at an elderly care centre and teaches painting.

The preparation for the climb up Mount Fuji — which is also an active volcano — came after he tripped while walking up a mountain near his home in January and then fell ill with shingles and was hospitalised with heart failure.

His physical condition worried his family, but Akuzawa was determined to climb, his daughter Yukiko, 75, told AFP. "The recovery was so fast that his doctors could not believe it," Yukiko said.

To get back into shape, Akuzawa woke up early every morning and set off on an hour-long walk, and also hiked up a mountain almost every week.

Israeli tanks

FROM PAGE 12
deaths "due to famine and malnutrition" over the past 24 hours, including two children, bringing the total number of hunger-related deaths to 313, 119 of whom were children, reports Al Jazeera online.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military yesterday launched an operation involving dozens of soldiers and armoured vehicles in the old city of Nablus, in the northern occupied West Bank, witnesses and Palestinian officials said.

The military said in a statement that its forces were operating in Jabalia and the outskirts of Gaza City to "dismantle terror infrastructure sites and eliminate terrorists".

Trump's doubling

FROM PAGE 12
India's junior Foreign Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh told reporters: "We are taking appropriate steps so that it does not harm our economy, and let me assure you that the strength of our economy will carry us through these times."

"Our concern is our energy security, and we will continue to purchase energy sources from whichever country benefits us."

There was no domestic market reaction to the move yesterday as bourses were closed for a Hindu festival but equity benchmarks logged their worst session in three months on Tuesday after a Washington notification confirmed the additional tariff.