

Mondera set to show off her dance chops

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

With just two films under her belt, Mondera Chakroborty has already managed to gain a massive following on social media. Her soothing expressions and alluring screen presence have made her one of the most talked-about actresses.

"I have been in the industry since 2012, but I didn't do much work back then. When I started working in films, I thought that I would be doing a lot more. When my first film, *Kajol Rekha*, was released in theatres during Eid, I was really anxious about how the audience would accept me. But when I visited the halls, people showered me with immense love."

She continued, "Honestly, when I watch myself acting, I feel embarrassed. I keep noticing my flaws and feel like I'm not giving my best. Yet, when people come up and compliment my performance. It feels

like a true blessing." Mondera has been passionate about the art form since she was three years old.

"Dance has always drawn me in too. I have participated in numerous competitions, including *Channel i Shera Nachiya*. The last time I counted, back in 2014-2015, I had around 70 certificates. Although I don't get to practice much nowadays, I still want to continue dancing whenever I can," she revealed.

This year, Mondera is set to step onto the stage for her first-ever performance at the Blender's Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards. "I am really excited since this will be my first performance at a big event. My background is in classical dance, especially *Kathak*, which I've practiced for a long time. But people haven't really seen me perform much in Western styles. Maybe this time they'll get to see that," she said.

Recently, her glamorous birthday

photoshoot sequence went viral on social media. She spoke about it, "Simply cutting a cake felt too ordinary. In other countries, people often do themed birthday shoots, so I thought, why not try it too?"

Mondera's glamorous avatar is undeniable, but it can sometimes make it difficult for actors to land challenging roles. She, however, is determined to break that mould. "The two characters I played in *Kajol Rekha* and *NeelChokro* were both sweet and simple. They were different in their own ways, but as an actress, I know I can take on a variety of roles. I've even said in interviews that if I were offered the role of a villain, I would be able to pull it off perfectly. I want people to see me in a different light," she concluded.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Jaya Ahsan-starrer 'Fereshteh' set for theatrical release



Bangladesh-Iran co-production *Fereshteh*, starring Jaya Ahsan, is expected to hit local theatres this month, with September 12 being discussed as a possible release date. Star Cineplex and Lion Cinemas officials confirmed discussions are ongoing, while Lion Cinemas recently teased the release on its Facebook page.

Directed by Iranian filmmaker Morteza Atashzamaz, the film portrays the struggles and resilience of underprivileged families. The cast also includes Sumon Faruk, Rikita Nandini Shimu, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Shahed Ali, Shahin Mridha, and child artiste Sathi.

Jaya, who co-produced the film, has already received international praise for *Fereshteh*, which was completed in 2022 and screened at several global film festivals.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Guardians of the Gods'

The play *Guardians of the Gods* is a collaboration between Prachyanat (Bangladesh) and Unga Klara (Sweden), exploring childhood in an adult-ruled world. Written by Erik Uddenberg and directed by Gustav Deinoff, the play has toured 11 countries, giving voice to children's experiences as a powerful global theatrical project.

DATE: SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
TIME: 7PM AND 8.15PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI

Chanchal Chowdhury receives Bengal Int'l Excellence Award

Chanchal Chowdhury was honoured with the Bengal International Excellence Award at the fifth edition of the ceremony, held alongside the second Kolkata Ratna Samman at a Kolkata hotel on August 31.

He received the award for his outstanding contribution to acting from Bollywood actress Mandakini and entertained the audience by singing *Shada Shada Kala* on request.

The event, organised by Ad-Mrin Entertainment, also honoured Rituparna Sengupta, Laboni Sarkar, Abir Chatterjee, Kaushik Banerjee, Surajit Bandopadhyay, singers Lagnajita and Anik Dhar, filmmaker Gautam Ghosh, and footballer Dipendu Biswas.

On the work front, Chanchal is set to star in Bratya Basu's *Shekor* next and is also in talks for Amitabh Bhattacharjee's *Tridhara*.

NEWS

Inaugurated 20 days ago

FROM PAGE 12

BPC director (operations), said, "This is not a major issue. The pipeline was formally inaugurated as part of the handover process of the project. Once oil is supplied regularly through the pipeline, this problem will not persist."

The state-owned BPC spent around Tk 3,699 crore from its own coffers to complete the project. Bangladesh Army's 24th Engineer Construction Brigade is the project implementing authority.

The pipeline is expected to supply 27 lakh tonnes of diesel and save around Tk 200 crore annually by eliminating the hassle of time-consuming fuel transport via rivers, according to BPC officials.

It comprises two segments -- a 241.28km stretch from the port city's Patenga to Godnail via Feni, Cumilla, Chandpur, and Munshiganj, and an 8.29km segment from Godnail to Fatulla.

According to BPC officials, the anomalies were detected while fuel was transported from Patenga's Padma Oil and Jamuna Oil depots to Fatulla,

Cumilla, and Godnail during the trial runs in June-July.

The combined figure of the two state-owned distributors shows a total shortage of 3.39 lakh litres against the total supply of 3.34 crore litres of diesel, whose market value is Tk 3.45 crore.

Contacted, Molizur Rahman, managing director of Padma Oil Company, and Qudrat E-Elahi, MD of Jamuna Oil Company, on Tuesday said they wrote to BPC regarding the issue.

According to a BPC official, the allowable wastage (loss) margin for pipeline fuel transport is 0.05 percent. As per the 2009 gazette, the allowable wastage during inland diesel transportation by ship is 0.17 percent.

BPC has established a wing named Petroleum Transmission Company (PTC) to operate the pipeline project. PTC Managing Director Raihan Ahmed told this correspondent yesterday that the 24th Engineer Construction Brigade is yet to hand over the project to them.

Project Director Colonel Sultan Mahmud said the handover process has already begun.

"The 250km-long project is being handed over in phases. By the end of this September, the project will be fully hand over to the PTC," said the PD.

Regarding the issues during the trials, he said, "Such technical issues can occur at the initial stage of any major project. Due to variations in temperature, pressure, and the density of diesel in this long pipeline, some problems may arise.

"Efforts are underway to resolve the issues. We are hopeful that through fine-tuning, the problems will be solved very soon."

The 250km pipeline crosses at least 22 rivers and canals, including 10 rivers, with large portions laid beneath the riverbeds. There are nine pumping stations along the pipeline.

Approved in October 2018, the project was initially scheduled for completion by December 2020 at an estimated cost of Tk 2,861 crore. However, construction delays led to cost escalation and deadline extensions -- first to December 2022 and then to December 2024.

SC ends uncertainty

FROM PAGE 12

Canteen, expressing satisfaction.

Farhad said, "In this case, no one has lost; since justice has been ensured, everyone has won. No conspiracy will be able to stop Ducsus."

Fahmida too said it was a matter of joy that the Ducsus was not postponed as that was not her objective when filing the appeal.

However, she told The Daily Star that there is still scope to challenge Farhad's candidacy. "I felt it was my responsibility [to challenge it], and that is why I did it. The rest, of course, is a matter for the court."

She said she still thinks that her appeal was valid as per the Ducsus constitution.

After filing her appeal, Fahmida

faced rape threats on social media from sociology student Ali Husen on Monday, which drew widespread condemnation.

Following a probe body's recommendation, the DU authorities yesterday suspended Ali Husen for six months.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, on its second day of protesting the rape threat, formed a human chain in front of the SC gate.

In the latest development, the university authorities decided to cancel the previously announced three-day closure centring the election. Instead, only polling day will be a holiday for the students.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Zashim Uddin said the number of polling booths has increased and the voting

hours have been extended as per students' demands.

Adding that they have prepared for a 100 percent voter turnout, he said, "As per our calculation, each voter will require eight minutes to cast their vote."

Additionally, the university authorities announced additional bus services for voters on polling day.

According to a press release issued yesterday, buses on all regular routes will run as per their usual schedule, while an extra trip will be added on four major routes -- Narsingdi (Wari-Bateshwar), Savar/Nabinagar (Hemanta), Bikrampur (Mawa), and Munshiganj (Idrakpur) -- to ensure the smooth commute of students traveling to the campus to vote.

Will base academic reforms

FROM PAGE 12

formed with the aim of building an overall student-friendly and inclusive campus, Nayem explained.

"We have been fighting for student rights for a long time. That is why I believe we will get strong support in the Ducsus election, and I am confident that the results on September 9 will reflect that."

Pledging to prioritise the fundamental issues faced by the students, he said, "There is no end to problems at Dhaka University. Making impractical plans over countless issues is futile. I will focus on ensuring four basic needs -- food,

education, accommodation, and healthcare.

"I will push for hall canteens to be run under the direct supervision of the university administration. I will also work to make the medical centre fully functional for 24 hours, set up medical corners in every hall, and establish pharmacies in hall areas."

A student of the Department of Communication Disorders, Nayem said his greatest strength was his communication with the students. "From my involvement in the struggle for ensuring students' rights, I can confidently say that I

will be better at dealing with issues professionally for students' rights. My engagement with students is stronger compared to other candidates, and I believe this is why students will vote for me."

However, he expressed concern over the Ducsus electoral environment. "The university administration is trying to give space to anti-liberation forces. Some panels and independent candidates have violated the electoral code, yet the administration has taken no action. There have even been attempts to give the incident of banner removal a political shape from a religious perspective."

Manifestos expose issues unresolved at DU

FROM PAGE 12

On food: most panels pledged subsidised meals. Pratirodh Parshad said it would not support private-owned canteens, instead vowing to establish university-operated cafeterias. The Shibir-backed panel did not mention direct subsidies but promised to introduce "special meal vouchers" for needy students.

On accommodation: all panels promised a "one seat per student" system at dormitories and vowed to end political exploitation of the seat crisis. Four panels also pledged to introduce "residential allowance" for those unable to secure dormitory seats. Chhatra Dal and Pratirodh Parshad did not include such initiatives.

On healthcare: Boishommo Birodhi Shikharthi Sangsad and Swatantra Shikharthi Oikya vowed to introduce insurance schemes to make specialised services affordable, while Oikyaboddho Shikharthi Jote proposed signing MOUs with private hospitals. Chhatra Dal and Pratirodh Parshad, on the other hand, promised to improve the university's own facilities.

However, food, accommodation, and health services are under the administration's jurisdiction, not Ducsus.

Three other panels are also contesting the central students' union and hall union elections scheduled for September 9.

According to the Ducsus constitution, its mandated functions include maintaining common rooms, providing indoor games, publishing journals and magazines, and arranging debates, cultural events, sports competitions, lectures, and social gatherings. Ducsus is also tasked with fostering social service

among its members through lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions.

But candidates said they identified students' problems and placed their views on such issues because Ducsus also has a mandate to preserve and protect student rights.

On mandated duties, the most detailed plans came from Pratirodh Parshad. It promised to create separate practice rooms for students of dance, drama, music, and fine arts; revamp hall auditoriums; publish magazines; and organise traditional folk festivals. It also pledged to create a sports calendar, expand library facilities, and increase the number of common rooms.

Chhatra Dal promised to organise inter-hall and inter-department tournaments, youth festivals for cultural and creative activities, and promote student involvement in drama, short films, photography, drawing, and recitation.

The Boishommo Birodhi panel pledged to upgrade student clubs and turn TV rooms in dormitories into mini-cinemas, while Swatantra Shikharthi Oikya promised to renovate basketball courts, table tennis facilities, and the central field.

Notably, none pledged to organise debates, despite this being a core responsibility of Ducsus. Instead, they promised seminars, workshops, research activities, and career fests.

The manifestos also reflected aspirations to transform DU into a research-based, top-class institution. Currently, the university allocates only around 2 percent of its budget to research. Pratirodh Parshad pledged to increase this to 10 percent, while

the independent panel proposed 20 percent. The other panels did not specify figures but vowed to improve the situation.

Most panels also pledged to introduce a university-owned transport system with increased routes and trips; extend entry time limits for female dormitories; enhance campus security both on and off site; and protect the greenery of the campus.

Contacted, former DU Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said, "Since independence, no political party has focused on student issues. Instead, they used the crisis as a tool to mobilise political forces." He added that only the government's goodwill could resolve these problems.

We want ASEAN

FROM PAGE 2

"It is also important for us because the issue has become a burden for us... ASEAN should tell the rest of the world about the crisis we are facing," he added.

Charles Santiago said ASEAN parliamentarians visited Rohingya camps in 2018 and have since been following the issue.

"We are always trying to flag the Rohingya issue as an ASEAN issue. But I must confess, for the last two-three years we had been quiet because we were focusing on restoring democracy in Myanmar," he said.

The delegation also included Wong Chen, member of Malaysia's House of Representatives; Raoul Manuel, former member of the Congress, Philippines; and Chonlathan Supphaiboonlerd, the programme director of APHR.

Forming 'opposition union'

FROM PAGE 12

students' problems. As I live in the hall, I have first-hand experience of the issues, and I also know the problems non-residential students face. I want to work on these, and that's why I am contesting the election," he said.

Mahin added, "I want to initiate whatever is needed to build an ideal nation, starting from Dhaka University. My goal is to ensure equal opportunities for all students regardless of gender,

religion, or caste. Whenever needed, I will serve as the voice of the students."

On the election atmosphere, Mahin expressed concern: "The environment is not entirely satisfactory. Many have violated the code of conduct, yet the administration has taken no action. This has made larger political groups reckless. I think the level playing field has not been ensured. Still, I trust students to vote for the deserving candidate."

Expressing optimism about his chances, Mahin added, "I have always worked for students, and they know me well. I have not made flashy promises but realistic ones. I believe students will choose a candidate who offers practical solutions."

Mahin Sarkar was previously the joint member secretary of the National Citizen Party (NCP). The party expelled him after he fielded a panel in the Ducsus election without its approval.