

The role that changed Mousumi Mou as an actress

"I would constantly observe Al Pacino's performance — how he ate, spoke, expressed anger, vulnerability, and even silence. I tried to 'consume' his character in every possible way."

SHARMIN JOYA

Known for her fluent and lively anchoring, Mousumi Mou steps into one of her most striking roles yet as Jenny in *Chokro 2*, directed by Vicky Zahed. Portraying a character that balances innocence with an unsettling brutality, her performance has earned widespread praise from acclaimed personalities, firmly establishing her as a promising talent ready to take on bold, challenging roles.

"To begin with, the character itself was incredibly different," shares the artiste. "When Vicky *bhaiya* first sat down with me, even before going into the detailed brief, he said, 'Mou, this is a very different character—not something we usually see. It's going to be difficult, and your role is completely grey. So first listen to the story, then decide whether you can actually pull it off.'"

When she heard the story, she was immediately intrigued. "The character is a blind girl, someone who, after a certain point, is perceived as extremely innocent, almost fragile, especially following an accident that takes away her sight. But then, as the narrative unfolds, there's a transformation, and that shift was something entirely new for me."

Mentioning that the preparation process was quite intense, she revealed that a director friend of hers suggested Mou watch *Scent of a Woman* (1992), and Vicky *bhaiya* also strongly recommended it. He simply told me, "Watch Al Pacino and absorb him."

"I would constantly observe Al Pacino's performance — how he ate, spoke, expressed anger, vulnerability, and even silence. I tried to 'consume' his character in every possible way."

At the same time, the 'devil' aspect of the character came from within. "I believe all of us carry a certain darkness, suppressed anger,

frustration, unspoken emotions. I tried to tap into those parts of myself and channel them into that side of the character, and it's needless to mention how cooperative my co-actors were, especially Tawfik Mahub."

There's a thing about the director, she admits, that if the artistes couldn't meet the director's expectations, he won't compromise. "What stands out is how deeply he belongs to every character, and creates his own world on the sets. Jenny was one of his personal favourites, and he told me that this role would be an Eid gift for me. I am grateful to him that he believed in me for this role."

On a personal level too, the character stayed with her. "Jenny's journey is about trust, vulnerability, and survival. It made me reflect on how easily we place blind faith in people and how important it is to value oneself, to be aware, and to choose the right relationships. Friendship, in particular, can shape your life in profound ways — for better or worse."

She shares that directors like Srijit Mukherji, Maksud Hossain have sent her message praising her work! "It was really an honour for me that these talented filmmakers have extended their wishes and praised my work."

Meanwhile, Mou was featured in the Eid drama *Sakhina*, directed by Abul Hayat. "I was really surprised to get a call from Dolly Zahur *maa*, she really appreciated my work."

Before wrapping up, the conversation turned

to an amusing coincidence. Many noticed Mou's resemblance to Susmita Chatterjee, and when they finally met, it made for a delightful moment. "She's warm and lively, and we instantly connected," Mou shares. Since then, they've stayed in touch, exchanging messages and laughing over audience reactions. She added that Siam Ahmed had also pointed out the similarity. Recalling a funny incident, Mou said, "A couple who regularly watch my shows went to see *Rakkhosh* thinking I starred in it—only to realise later it wasn't me, much to their surprise!"



PHOTO: ZAHID HASAN ZIBON

Nuhash Humayun begins filming debut feature 'Moving Bangladesh'

Filmmaker Nuhash Humayun has begun shooting his debut feature film *Moving Bangladesh*, after six years of development. Backed by Goopy Bagha Productions Limited, the project entered production following an eight-day countdown campaign and will be filmed across 20 locations in Dhaka until mid-May.

The film follows the struggles of a bike rider and features a new face in the lead role, selected after extensive auditions.

Nuhash said he took time to develop the script, budget, and story on his own terms. The project has received international backing, including \$89,800 from the Taipei Film Commission and Tk 25 lakh from Screencraft Film Fund, along with support from Cannes, Locarno, and India's Film Bazaar.



WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Chitrangada'



Swarnadal returns with a lucid, finely controlled staging of *Chitrangada*, directed by Zahid Repon. Drawing on Rabindranath Tagore's original poetic text, the production sharpens its focus on identity, illusion, and emotional truth, unfolding a woman's struggle between desire and dignity with quiet force and intellectual clarity.

DATE: TUESDAY | APRIL 14, 2026
TIME: 5 PM AND 7 PM ONWARDS
VENUE: STUDIO THEATRE HALL, BSA

NEWS

Classes 3 days online, 3 days in person

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taken after further discussion.

According to the ministry, the new model will be launched at institutions such as Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Rajuk Uttara Model College, and Residential Model School and College, among others.

The ministry, however, did not publish an official list of the institutions as of yesterday. The minister said the plan was intended for well-established schools with large student populations, particularly those to which many students commute by car.

He said that institutions with the capacity to adopt the system would be able to join voluntarily.

Teachers will be required to remain present at their respective institutions even while conducting online classes, he said, adding that the government would take steps to address technical

challenges, including improving internet connectivity and Wi-Fi facilities.

At the briefing, teachers stressed the need for uninterrupted power supply, internet access, and proper monitoring to ensure students' participation.

Asked about English-medium schools, where O-level and A-level examinations are scheduled from July, with authorities reluctant to move online, Milton said he had already discussed the matter with all stakeholders.

This move comes despite concerns raised by students and guardians at a seminar on Wednesday attended by educationists, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Kamal Hossain, a student of Nayatola Anwarul Uloom Numania Model Kamil Madrasa, said online classes could increase students'

dependence on mobile phones and encourage distractions such as social media and gaming.

Fahmida Akter, a guardian of a student at Motijheel Ideal School and College, said many families do not have access to quality smartphones needed for platforms such as Zoom, making online classes difficult.

Shahida Begum, a guardian of a ninth-grader at Shah Ali High Girls' School in Mirpur, said reducing classroom hours would be better than shifting to online classes, as students would still be able to study directly at school.

On March 31, the minister first mentioned introducing a mix of online and in-person classes for schools in metropolitan areas. At the time, he said a survey had found that around 55 percent of respondents supported some form of online education.

'Only Allah knows who did what in 1971 war'

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Al-Shams, the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezam-e-Islam, and "Shanti Committee" — between March 26 and December 16, 1971, to achieve Bangladesh's independence.

The category specifically mentions "Biranganas" — women who suffered torture at the hands of the occupation forces and their collaborators — as well as medical staff who served in field hospitals.

A newly added category, "Associates of the Liberation War", will now officially include individuals who played organisational roles, built international public opinion, or provided diplomatic and psychological support.

Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman raised objections to the bill, while the National Citizen Party, a key partner of the Jamaat-led II-party alliance, formally informed the Speaker that it had no objections.

The Jatiya Muktiyoddha [National Freedom Fighter] Council (Amendment) Bill, 2026, was later passed by voice vote.

After being given the floor, Shafiqur said only the Almighty knows who played what role in the 1971 Liberation War. "Allah alone is the complete witness; the rest of us

are partial witnesses," he told the House.

"Our region has gained independence twice — once in 1947 and then again after 23 years through the Liberation War. I pay respect to all those who fought bravely for the country and the nation during the great Liberation War," he said.

Although the country was born with great hopes, those aspirations were not fulfilled by the rulers at the time, Shafiqur continued.

He said multi-party democracy was killed through the establishment of BAKSAL soon after independence.

"Following the political changeover of 1975, late president Ziaur Rahman restored multi-party democracy. The nation benefited from it in subsequent periods, and today's parliament is part of that continuity," the Jamaat ameer said.

The Jamaat ameer said, "What is in this bill? It mentions the names of three organisations: the then Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Nezam-e-Islam Party. Alongside the Pakistan army and some ancillary forces, the names of these three political parties have been included, and the current proposal refers to these organisations."

Reiterating his earlier point, he said his party wanted every political

organisation in the country to operate with a sense of responsibility and compassion towards the people.

Saying they did not want divisions in the nation, he added, "In 1979, the Awami League itself was revived in Bangladesh through the Political Parties Revival Act. At that time, all political parties regained the opportunity and the right to engage in politics. We, too, regained that right then."

Earlier in the special parliamentary committee's report, members of Jamaat gave a note of dissent, stating, "If the ordinance is passed in its current form without bringing any changes, then existing political parties like the Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Nezam-e-Islam will continue to exist as part of Pakistan, which is not logical."

The note also said the ordinance requires changes in the definitions of "Bir Muktiyoddha" and the "Liberation War".

Jamaat further argued that during Khaleda Zia's government in 2002, the law did not identify these parties as collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces.

"It was Sheikh Hasina, a distorted symbol of fascism, who incorporated it into the definition. The subsequent interim government maintained the provision with slight modifications."

Dhaka, KL discuss

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of excessive labour supply and high cost of recruitment.

Between 2022 and May 31, 2024, Malaysia recruited about 4,50,000 Bangladeshi workers through a syndicate of 101 recruitment agents, selected unilaterally by Malaysia despite Bangladesh's call for making it a syndicate-free recruitment mechanism.

The recruitment cost for an individual was fixed at Tk 79,000 (\$750), but each migrant worker spent between \$4,500 and \$6,000 for a job in Malaysia, according to a UN report.

This is the first ministerial visit to Malaysia since the BNP government took office, aimed at reviving talks on Bangladeshi access to Malaysia's labour market.

Dhaka expressed full support and readiness to collaborate in implementing the technology-based platform as a global initiative engaging all other sending countries.

The details of the digital platform could not be known, but the two countries committed to a fair, ethical, and transparent recruitment process, including addressing structural challenges to reduce intermediaries and migration costs.

Fuel Pass app launched for 2 Dhaka pumps

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The digital system will integrate fuel distribution with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's database to track vehicle specific allocation and usage.

Users will receive a QR code linked to their vehicle registration, allowing filling stations to digitally record fuel distribution. Consumers will be able to view their quota and collect fuel by scanning the code, while a centralised dashboard will enable authorities to monitor nationwide supply in real time.

To ensure accessibility, users without smartphones can register at the official website (<https://fuelpass.gov.bd/>) and download or print their QR codes.

Energy Division Joint Secretary Monir Hossain Chowdhury briefed the media about the app at the Secretariat yesterday. The initiative would reduce misuse, improve efficiency, and strengthen fuel management, particularly during crises, he said, urging stakeholders to support its rapid expansion.

Meanwhile, a major consignment of fuel has arrived at Chattogram Port,

They also discussed utilising credible and qualified recruitment agencies, as well as establishing measures to quickly facilitate the recruitment of several thousand Bangladeshis who could not travel to Malaysia despite having work visas, as Malaysia had set a cut-off date and frozen the entry of foreign workers after May 31, 2024.

The two sides exchanged views on addressing challenges faced by irregular workers and enhancing cooperation in skills development, training, certification, and information sharing, to better align labour supply with market demand and improve productivity.

They also discussed concerns regarding ongoing legal cases related to human trafficking in worker recruitment in Malaysia.

The joint statement, however, did not mention specific cases. On April 23 last year, Malaysia wrote to Bangladesh, requesting the review or withdrawal of the cases.

During the interim government, a number of recruiting agencies were sued on human trafficking charges related to labour recruitment.

At the meeting, the Malaysian side stressed addressing any unfounded or malicious actions that may affect

its international reputation, while the Bangladesh side reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, accountability, and timely justice.

A migrant rights researcher, wishing not to be named, said Malaysia is sensitive about media reporting on irregularities in foreign worker recruitment as it has already affected its image internationally.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has extended an invitation to his Bangladeshi counterpart Tarique Rahman to visit Malaysia at a mutually convenient time.

He extended the invitation as Ariful and Mahdi called on him at his office in Putrajaya yesterday. He also extended warm felicitations to Tarique on his election victory.

Mahdi conveyed warm personal greetings of Tarique to Anwar and handed over a letter from the Bangladesh leader.

The two sides also explored avenues to enhance bilateral trade and investment, with both parties expressing interest in expanding economic engagement for mutual benefit, cooperation in education sector, including the exchange of teachers and academic collaboration.

raising hopes of easing the ongoing octane shortage.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker MT Central Star, carrying 26,000 tonnes of refined octane from Malaysia, anchored at the outer anchorage on Wednesday night.

Port Secretary Syed Rafayet Hossain said five vessels carrying octane, diesel, and LPG from Malaysia, India, and China have already reached the port, with more expected in the coming days. BPC will unload the shipments as scheduled.

According to BPC data, around 34,000 tonnes of diesel arrived from Malaysia on Wednesday, while about 7,500 tonnes of LPG from India, China, and Malaysia has also reached the port.

Officials said contracts were signed in March to import 440,000 tonnes of diesel and 200,000 tonnes of crude oil, though several shipments were delayed due to the war. With a ceasefire now easing vessel movement, supply is expected to stabilise soon, Monir said.

Over the past month, a severe octane shortage for motorcycles and cars has disrupted the retail market,

forcing motorists to queue for hours, often without securing adequate fuel.

At the same time, enforcement drives have intensified. On April 8 alone, authorities conducted 361 drives across the country, recovering 1,362 litres of illegally hoarded fuel. The authorities filed 192 cases, jailed two individuals, and imposed fines of Tk 579,050 during the drives.

Between March 3 and April 8, a total of 7,342 drives led to the recovery of 469,042 litres of fuel, with 3,011 cases filed, 36 individuals jailed, and fines totalling Tk 14,384 million.

Despite the market strain, officials maintain that supply remains sufficient. As of April 9, the country holds 143,143 tonnes of diesel, 16,812 tonnes of petrol, and 9,569 tonnes of octane in stock.

"There is no shortage of diesel," Monir said, attributing continued pressure on filling stations to panic buying. "Fuel is being supplied regularly in line with demand."

"The government has ensured fuel supply for the next two months, and there will be no shortage," he added.