



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Superstar Shakib Khan is always on the go, and currently, the actor has a wide range of films in the offing. He is slated to play the lead role in award-winning director Kazi Hayat's *Bir*, produced by SK Films. In a recent conversation with *The Daily Star*, Shakib Khan talks about his passion for films and more.

**Tell us a little about your forthcoming film, 'Bir'.**

We just finished filming *Bir*, and we still have a lot to do. It is a special project not only because it is produced under my own production house, SK Films, but also because it is Kazi Hayat's 50th film. People will get to see me in a completely new look in this venture. We aim to reach a wide audience with *Bir*, and we are all working very hard for the film.

**At a time when actors are struggling to find roles, you continue to make successful movies each year. As an artiste, what keeps you going?**

I feel blessed and humbled to be a working actor every day. I am eternally grateful to my fans, who continue to come to the theatres to watch my films. Their love and support are what keeps me going.

**Year after year, cinema theatres are going out of fashion and the number of films being produced in Bangladesh are decreasing. What are your comments on that?**

As an artiste, it is incredibly disheartening to see the deteriorating state of films in my own country. We need to work together as a fraternity to bring about positive changes in the industry. We also need to be more cautious about the quality of projects that we take up.

**Recently, rumours about you settling down in the USA popped up on social media. Is there any truth to these reports?**

Absolutely not! These are completely baseless rumours. I have built my whole life here, and I have no reason to move elsewhere. I belong to films, and I still have a lot to contribute to the industry.

# GAZI RAKAYET'S 'GOR' gets clearance from censor board

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Actor-director-scriptwriter Gazi Rakayet directorial bilingual feature film, *Gor*, has received approval from Bangladesh Film Censor Board, recently. The film will also be released in English under the title, *The Grave*. This is the first Bangladeshi bilingual project that recieved clearance from the censor board.

Following its approval, a press conference was held at Manna Digital Auditorium of Bangladesh Film

Development Corporation (BFDC), where State Minister for Information Md Murad Hasan, MP, handed over the approval letter to Gazi Rakayet and Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director of Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i.

Gazi Rakayet, who has written the script and screenplay of this government funded joint venture film, will also be seen in an important role, alongside many other renowned faces, including Dilara Zaman, A K Azad Shetu, Deepanwita Martin, Gazi Amatun Nur

Duti, Anisul Hoque Borun, Ashiul Islam and Sushama Sarker. The 132-minute film also features Mamunur Rashid and S M Mohsin in guest appearances.

The project, produced in collaboration with Impress Telefilm Ltd, is being shot in both the languages in Dohar. "*The Grave* is for the international audience, whereas, *Gor* is being made for Bangladeshis," shares Gazi Rakayet. "The story of this film is its main attraction and we hope the audiences, both home and abroad, will like our effort."



PHOTO: COURTESY

# 'Dolittle' and 'Bad Boys for Life' hit Star Cineplex today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two films, *Dolittle* and *Bad Boys for Life*, hit Star Cineplex today. *Dolittle* is a fantasy adventure film directed by Stephen Gaghan, from a screenplay by Gaghan, Dan Gregor and Doug Mand, and a story by Thomas Shephard. Seven years after his wife's death, the eccentric John Dolittle, famed doctor and veterinarian in Victorian England, becomes a hermit, hiding himself away behind the high walls of Dolittle Manor, with only his menagerie of animals for company. However, when Queen Victoria falls gravely ill, a reluctant Dolittle is forced to set sail on an epic adventure to a mythical island in search of a cure, regaining his wit and courage as he crosses old adversaries and encounters wondrous creatures. A reboot of the *Doctor Dolittle* films, the film is based on the titular character created by Hugh Lofting, and primarily inspired by *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*. Robert Downey Jr stars as the title character, alongside Antonio Banderas and Michael Sheen in live-action roles. The voice cast includes Emma Thompson, Rami Malek, John Cena, Kumail Nanjiani, Octavia Spencer, Tom Holland, Craig Robinson, Ralph Fiennes, Selena Gomez, and Marion Cotillard.

On the other hand, *Bad Boys for Life* is an action-comedy film directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, Will Smith and Doug Belgrad, and starring Smith and Martin Lawrence. The sequel to *Bad Boys II* (2003) and the third installment in the *Bad Boys* trilogy, the film follows detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett reuniting once again when someone starts murdering people involved in an old case. The film co-stars Vanessa Hudgens, Alexander Ludwig, Charles Melton, Paola Núñez, Kate del Castillo, Nicky Jam, and Joe Pantoliano.



# Alia Bhatt turns mafia queen for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The first look of Alia Bhatt's next with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, was released recently. The actor plays the titular role of a mafia queen in the film.

Bhansali Productions took to social media to release the first-look posters of *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. The posters show Alia Bhatt in two different looks. In the first look, she is seen as a young girl with two ribboned pigtails. She wears a blouse and a skirt, with bangles on her wrists. A gun can also be seen placed on a table near Alia. In the second poster, which is a close-up shot, Alia Bhatt looks a little matured, sporting a big red *bindi*. She has her nose pierced and wears a traditional *Kathiawadi* nose ring. A big choker is spotted on her neck. Her eyes, loaded with eyeliner, look resplendent. *Gangubai Kathiawadi* was announced in October 2019, two months after Bhansali's film *Inshallah*, starring Alia Bhatt and Salman Khan in lead, was shelved.

Alia Bhatt co-stars with Ajay Devgn in the movie, who plays the role of a mobster and eventually falls in love with Gangubai while teaching her the tricks of the trade. *Gangubai Kathiawadi* marks Alia Bhatt's first movie with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film is slated to hit screens on September 11, this year.



# 'Zainul Jonmoutshab' begins in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Marking the 105th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, *Zainul Jonmoutshab*, a week-long programme, will begin at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala auditorium in Mymensingh from today. Mymensingh Bhibagiyo Charushilpi Parshad has organised the programme. The festival includes a discussion meeting on art, an art exhibition, awards for young artists, and the screening of a documentary on life and work of the maestro, stated Mohammad Rajon, Convener of

Mymensingh Bhibagiyo Charushilpi Parshad.

Artworks by 50 artists from Mymensingh and other parts of the country will be exhibited at the festival. Artist Jamal Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad, is expected to inaugurate the programme.

Artists Prof Anisuzzaman from DU, Prof Dr Md Emdadur Rashed and Nagorbashi Barman from JKKNIU, Md Rowshan Alam and Didarul Islam Limon, convener of the celebration committee, will be present at the inaugural ceremony.