



PHOTO: AFP

ZAHANGIR ALOM

He was suffering from a rare colon cancer, called Colitis. He is survived by his wife, Sutapa Sikdar, and two sons, Babil and Ayan.

In a statement released after the actor's death, his family said that Khan spent his final hours surrounded by his family, for whom he most cared about. The statement further said that Irrfan was a strong soul, someone who fought until the very end, and always inspired everyone who came close to him. His last rites took place in Mumbai.

"Irrfan was buried at the Versova Kabrastan in Mumbai," said yet another statement released by his family. "In March 2018, he was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumour. After extensive treatment in London, he recovered well enough to shoot Angrezi Medium, the film which would turn out to be his last." The film's theatrical release in March was cut short because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a film career spanning almost thirty years and featuring in around 100 films, Khan has received numerous awards, including a National Film Award and Filmfare Awards in four categories. Film critics, contemporaries and other experts consider him to be one of the finest actors in Indian cinema for his versatile and natural acting. In 2011, he was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour



Dev Patel with Irrfan Khan in Danny Boyle's 'Slumdog Millionaire'. for his contribution to the field of arts. He was lauded for his roles in internationally acclaimed films, including Slumdog Millionaire, Life of Pi, The Amazing Spider-Man and Jurassic World.

Irrfan Khan's death has left a void in the world of cinema. Amitabh Bachchan, who co-starred with Khan in Piku, tweeted, "An incredible talent, a gracious colleague, a prolific contributor to the world of cinema left us too soon, creating a huge vacuum." Shah Rukh Khan, who worked with Irrfan Khan in Billu, described him as "the greatest actor of our times."

He was "a rare talent and a brilliant actor," tweeted Indian President Ram Nath Kovind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Irrfan Khan's death as "a loss to the world of cinema and theatre", in his condolence tweet.

Bangladeshi filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, who had directed Irrfan in the Bengali film Doob (No Bed of Roses), was in a state of disbelief when the news of the actor's demise broke out. In an interview with The Times of India, Farooki shared that memories of meeting Irrfan in London some six months back are still fresh in his mind. "For me, Irrfan was more than an actor. He was like a poet, a friend and philosopher with whom I could talk for hours," he said.



The actor won the Asian Film Award for 'The Lunchbox'.

Farooki also recalled the shooting of a poignant scene from his film, where Irrfan had dialogues that spoke about how people die only when they become irrelevant to the world or the world becomes irrelevant to them. "Before shooting the scene, we had a three-hour-long journey by car through Chattogram when we talked about life, death and the mystery behind the force that keeps us alive for the entire period of time," he shared with The Times of India.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, in his tweet, called Irrfan a versatile and talented actor, who was a popular Indian brand ambassador on the global film and TV stage. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "I am shocked at the demise of Irrfan Khan, one of the most exceptional actors of our time."

Khan was born as Saahabzaade Irfan Ali Khan in Jaipur in 1967. The son of a tyre seller, he went to the famous National School of Drama after failing as a cricketer. He struggled to make headway in the film industry, despite being cast in a small role as a letter writer in Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay! in 1988.

Khan's breakthrough role came from an unlikely source – the feature debut of the then-unknown British director Asif Kapadia, whose low budget samurai-esque tale The Warrior was shot in India. Released in 2002, The Warrior was selected for the prestigious San Sebastián film festival and won the BAFTA award for Best British film. Khan subsequently broke into mainstream Indian films, often playing cops or villains, including the titular role of Maqbool, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth set in the Mumbai underworld. More orthodox Bollywood productions followed, such as Rog and the slice-of-life musical Life in a ... Metro. Meanwhile, Khan found box-office success with the Indian-produced

film The Lunchbox, in which he played an accountant who strikes up a letter-writing romance with an unhappy housewife, played by Nimrat Kaur.

Danny Boyle described his performance in Slumdog Millionaire as "beautiful to watch", and the late Roger Ebert commended him for his subtle, engrossing work in Mira Nair's The Namesake. Khan truly transformed himself for the characters he played on the silver screen.

Irrfan Khan's mother Saeeda Begum died at the age of 95 on April 25 in Jaipur. According to news agency ANI, Irrfan, who couldn't travel from Mumbai due to the coronavirus lockdown, paid his last respects to his late mother through video conferencing.

"I suppose in the end, the whole of life becomes an act of letting go, but what always hurts the most is not taking a moment to say goodbye." – were one of Irrfan Khan's most notable lines in Life of Pi, which tragically rings true in the case of the man who made his mark as a true international superstar.



PHOTO: THE STATESMAN/ANN

Looking back at RISHI KAPOOR'S LEGACY

SHABARA IQBAL

Eminent Indian film star Rishi Kapoor breathed his last at 67, after a two-year battle with leukemia. He was admitted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai a few days ago after complaining about breathing difficulties, and ultimately passed away on April 30. His last rites took place at Chandanwadi Crematorium in Kalbadevi, Mumbai.

In 2018, Rishi Kapoor was diagnosed with the bone marrow cancer, following which the actor was in New York for more than a year to receive treatment. While he returned to India this year, he had again been hospitalised in New Delhi in early February, while on a visit to New Delhi.

He is survived by his wife Neetu Kapoor, son Ranbir and daughter Riddhima. In a statement released after the actor's death, his family said he remained jovial and determined to live to the fullest right through two years of treatment across two continents. The statement further said that family, friends, food and films

late 1920s. Rishi Kapoor's father, Raj Kapoor directed, produced and starred in his own films, and had already rolled out one of his finest works, Awara, the year before he was born.

His brothers, Randhir Kapoor and Rajiv Kapoor, are actors as well. Rishi married his co-star, Neetu Singh, and his son Ranbir followed in his parents' footsteps, alongside some of his nieces and nephews, notably Kareena Kapoor who is a stalwart in the industry.

His death has robbed the world of a seasoned entertainer. Kapoor first appeared before the camera as a child in Raj Kapoor's Shree 420 (1955), in the song, Pyar Hua Iqar Hua. Rishi Kapoor understood the pleasures, peculiarities and pitfalls of show business very early. His first full-scale role was in his father's Mera Naam Joker, in 1970. When filming began in 1968, Rishi Kapoor was 16, and was recruited to play the younger version of Raj Kapoor's character Raju, a circus clown. He also appeared in a few plays as a child.

After he started his career in earnest as an adult in Raj Kapoor's Bobby (1973) opposite Dimple Kapadia, his

Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was a part of hit films such as Amar Akbar Anthony, Laila Majnu, Rafoo Chakkar, Sargam, Karz, Bol Radha Bol and others. He also directed the 1999 film, Aa Ab Laut Chalen, starring Akshay Khanna, Aishwarya Rai and Rajesh Khanna among others.

Kapoor played character roles and showed his mettle in films like Hum Tum, Fanaa, Delhi-6 and Do Dooni Chaar, where he appeared with wife Neetu Singh, after more than 25 years. He also appeared in a rare, critically acclaimed negative role in



Rishi Kapoor during his prime.

Agneepath in 2012. In the later stage of his career, he was seen in films such as Kapoor and Sons, D-Day, Mulk and 102 Not Out, in which he starred alongside Amitabh Bachchan after more than 20 years.

His loss has left his fans, friends and colleagues shocked. Many took to social media to express their condolences to the family.

Among countless tweets, Amitabh Bachchan was one of the firsts to take to the platform to mourn the death of his co-star in multiple films. He wrote, "Rishi Kapoor... gone... passed away. I am destroyed!"

Rishi Kapoor had shot some portions of the comedy film, Sharmaji Namkeen, in Delhi in February. He was last seen in Emraan Hashmi's The Body, and had recently announced his next project, a remake of Hollywood film The Intern, also featuring Deepika Padukone.

This has been a tragic week for the entertainment industry as the news of Rishi Kapoor's death came a day after another brilliant actor, Irrfan Khan, passed away due to colon infection and a rare form of neuroendocrine cancer.



Rishi and Neetu Kapoor in 'Do Dooni Chaar'.

remained his focus and everyone who met him during this time was amazed at how he did not let his illness get the better of him.

Rishi Kapoor was born on September 4, 1952, in Mumbai, the second of the five children of Raj and Krishna Kapoor. His family heaves of film legends. His grandfather, Prithviraj Kapoor, was a renowned stage and film performer since the

range of roles spanned romances, comedies, socially themed dramas, thrillers, historicals and melodramas.

In a career spanning over five decades, the actor played the romantic lead in over 90 films between 1973 and 2000. He won numerous awards throughout his illustrious career, including the National Film Award for his role in Mera Naam Joker and the Filmfare

Missing the sets



Chanchal Chowdhury



Mehazabien Chowdhury



Nusraat Faria



Tahsan Khan

PHOTOS: STAR

SHARMIN JOYA

With the world at a standstill because of the coronavirus pandemic, Bangladesh's entertainment industry is witnessing abandoned sets, closed cinema theatres and actors with empty diaries. From managing busy weeks and tight schedules, stars are now confined to their homes.

Noted actor Chanchal Chowdhury last shot for a television show, helmed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, in Manikganj. "I was concerned about the circumstances and stopped shooting as soon as possible," the actor told The Daily Star over the phone. "I am trying to raise awareness on the coronavirus through active participation on social media." Chanchal shares that he misses getting good scripts and working on quality projects. "Apart from missing my work, I am concerned about the livelihood of our daily wage earners," he adds.

Nusraat Faria returned from Mumbai after shooting for a film. Her last working day was March 10. "I was supposed to start a film with Shihab Shaheen on March 11. However, due to

concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, we did not go ahead with it," she shares. "I miss the entire process of shooting, from waking up for work to packing up to leave the sets." Nusraat completed five years in the film industry on April 19.

On the other hand, celebrated singer turned actor Tahsan Khan, noted that unlike previous years, there were no Pohela Boishakh programmes and there will be no new Eid productions this year. "On March 14, I announced on Facebook that I will be cancelling all my shoots. My last shoot was with Mabruur Rashid Bannah," he says. Tahsan misses his colleagues and the ambience of shooting sets. "In these difficult times, I have come to realise just how much we take the little things in life for granted."

Moreover, popular actor Mehazabien Chowdhury last went to work on March 17, to film a project helmed by Mizanur Rahman Aryan. "We had to pack up early without finishing our work, since we were worried about the situation," she says. "I usually spend twenty to twenty-five days in a month with my co-artists and everyone else on the sets during shoots. They are like family to me. I miss them the most at the moment."

Prito Reza's highlight reel

From charging BDT 20 per photo to Fujifilm ambassador

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

One of the most commercially successful Bangladeshi photographers, Prito Reza had to scratch and claw his way to the top, through hard work and dedication. For his endeavours, the artiste was the recipient of the Photofee Photographer of the Year 2014 award, and the ICE Today Special Award for Outstanding Contribution in Wedding Photography Industry. The Daily Star talks to Prito about his humble beginnings, love for photography, and more.

With everything now at a standstill, do you reminisce your beginning as a photographer?

I always remember my humble roots! When I was a student in City College, I used to see a banner of a Chanchal Mahmood photography course, which I was interested in. However, it was impossible for me to enroll there, as the course fee was too steep, and I did not have a camera of my own. One day, I stumbled across an advertisement – "Learn Photography for BDT 500!" I promptly enrolled, and my teacher was Shahiduzzaman Badal from Dhaka Photographic Institute. I did not learn photography from this course, but importantly, I discovered my inner passion for the craft. I knew that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. In honour of my first teacher, I take a photography course for BDT 500, once

a year.

How did you turn this overwhelming passion into your profession?

I believe that the most important part was always staying in practice. I managed to buy a fourth-hand camera with my savings, and immediately started to find opportunities to take photos wherever I could. I set up booths in university functions and took photos in exchange of BDT 20 each! With time, I would go on



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

to take photos for newspapers, and start my own wedding photography outlet, Wedding Diary. However, the most important part of my endeavor was to constantly improve myself, in whichever way possible. I always wondered, why do photography companies always hire celebrities, who are barely

related to photography, as their brand ambassadors. After that, I constantly made my presence felt, talked to the right people, and worked towards a goal. Today, I stand before you as a Brand Ambassador of Fujifilm and a Photo Ambassador of Huawei – the first Bangladeshi photographer to do so. **You have been involved in Auction 4 Action, a unique and commendable initiative to provide Covid-19 relief. Talk us through the idea, and its inception.** During these trying times, I was constantly pondering over what we can do for the society, especially the less fortunate ones. When the idea of auctioning came to me, I called co-founder Arif R Hossain and asked him, "How much would you be willing to pay for Shakib Al Hasan's gloves, the one with which he made World Cup centuries?" This was when Auction 4 Auction was born, as we got the likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Asaduzzaman Noor, Suborna Mustafa, Nirmalendu Goon, James, Shafin Ahmed, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, among many others, to join our cause. These stars will essentially put up their storied possessions for auction, and the funds will directly go to the voluntary organisations which are providing directly by working in the field to help the less fortunate during these times. I am grateful to Chisti Iqbal bhai for joining our initiative and helping our cause.