

In conversation

## Afzal Sharif: A penchant for comic roles

ERSHAD KAMOL

Afzal Sharif is firmly established in Bangladeshi filmdom as well as the small screen in the role of comic characters. Going back in time, Sharif asserts that he embarked on his acting career on stage in 1984. As a member of Theatre, Afzal was a regular on stage till 1995. The stage plays in which he has performed are *Jamidar Darpan*, *Khobobi-khato*, *Shat Ghater Kanakori*, *Rakkhusi* and *Mahapurush*.

Watching his performance in the stage play titled *Mahapurush*, eminent director Humayun Ahmed picked him for the popular TV series *Bahubrihi* in 1988. From then on he became popular for his rendering of insolvent and comic characters.

Said Afzal, "Though I won appreciation for my performance in *Bahubrihi*, I consider the play *Ummed*, directed by Abul Hayat, as my big break. In *Ummed*, I performed as the protagonist. Since then directors both in film and TV media have been opting for me."

Afzal's first film was *Padma Nadir Majhi* (1992), directed by Indian filmmaker Goutam Ghose. From that point he took interest in films rather than stage and TV. Subsequent performances in movies such as *Dangafasid*, *Abdar*, *Bangler Bou*, and *Natobanu*, made him a popular name in Bangladeshi filmdom.



Afzal Sharif (L) with co-actors in a scene from a film

Why comedy? Said Afzal in response: "It's not true that I act only in comic roles. In some films I've played the part of the antagonist. But, my directors prefer to cast me in such roles since my performance is natural and entertaining to the masses."

Like many other film actors, Afzal Sharif is also hopeful about the future of Dhaliwood. While admitting that the film industry was temporarily derailed because of some mediocre directors, he

points out that the situation is improving. Overall remuneration of actors should be increased so that talented youngsters can take it up as a profession, he said. To quote him, "Only the lead characters in Bangladeshi filmdom get a handsome amount. Moreover, because of faulty acoustics in movie theatres, dialogues are not always audible. The actors use monotonous high-pitched voice modulation that goes against the demand of the sequence."

As for the future, Afzal is eager to become a film director. He said, "Most of the renowned directors in the country such as Subhash Dutta, Amjad Hossain and Dilip Biswas in their early days were popular 'comedians'. I believe performing in comic characters is challenging. To do it successfully one needs to have keen observation. A successful actor can become a quality director."

## Weaving

## A proud heritage of Chittagong Hill Tracts

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachari

The 13 minor indigenous communities of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) have a deep

rooted culture. One of these is weaving. Most of the women, including Chakma, Marna, Tripura, Rakhain, Tanchangya, Khumi, Banjghi and Bome, have the expertise to



PHOTO STAR

Indigenous women prepare colourful handmade items from cotton

weave cloth. Their products include *khaddar chadar*, sari, bedcover, warm clothes and decorative household items. In fact, in some communities the skill of weaving is considered as the most essential criterion for marriage.

While cotton has to be collected from at least 150 local markets in the three hill districts of Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban, the locals have the requisite machines (both handloom and waist loom) to weave cloth. By and large the machines are crafted out of local bamboo and wood. There are 20 handloom-based textile enterprises in the CHT, all located in Rangamati district while at least 50,000 waist loom based textile enterprises dot the three hill districts.

After making clothes, bedcovers, bags or other handicrafts, the indigenous people stop by at local institutions such as Boyon, Hill Fashion, Banarashi, Paharika and Bain to sell their products.

"One full day goes into producing two bedcovers which we weave from 1kg cotton," said Konika Chakma, from Perachhara under Khagrachari sadar upazila. Besides this they also make at least three handbags per day.

"Many rootless families have maintained their households through weaving. The small enterprises have boosted their confidence and given them financial strength," said Dr Sudin Kumar Chakma, a retired principal of Khagrachari Government College.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

#### BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am; 12:10 pm; 2:00 pm; 3:00 pm; 4:00 pm; 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am; 1:00 pm; 5:00 pm; 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm; 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

#### CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am; 9:00 am; 2:00 pm; 7:00 pm; 9:00 pm; 10:30 pm; 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am; 10:00 am; 2:00 pm; 6:15 pm; 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am; 2:00 pm; 5:00 pm; 7:30 pm; 10:00 pm; 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am; 2:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 7:15 pm; 10:30 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 pm.

RTV

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am; 3:00 pm; 7:15 pm; 10:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30 am.

#### BTV

08:40 Bishwa Protidin

09:05 Shomapti

11:15 Shukhi Poribar

12:05 Desher Gaan

12:30 Maa O Shishir Kotha

01:00 Shobor Jonno Shikha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Musical Programme

02:40 Cartoon

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Educational Programme

04:00 Amader Angina

04:30 Band Show

06:40 Tagore Song

07:00 Quiz Quiz

07:30 Drama Serial: Uzan

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

09:25 Rang Berong

10:30 Probash Mela

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Akhel Anyodishi

12:15 Amar Computer

01:30 Shur Chhobi

02:30 Talk Show

03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar

Chokhbari Nai

03:45 Aki Anondo

04:20 Musical Programme

05:10 Aamar Sharney

05:45 Perakirir Bangladesh

06:20 Akhel Protidin

08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal

05:20 Apran Jigysa

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 K. Taharey Chhinet

Parey

08:00 Shapmodchon

08:50 Magazine Programme: Char Dayal

10:45 Rtv Exclusive

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobash Bangladesh

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi

10:30 Bangla Feature Film

11:25 Din Dorpon

Rtv

09:10 Talk Show: Khola

01:05 Money

10:00 Look At Me

10:30 Praner Manush

#### Shongbad Potrey

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

04:05 Selected Drama

04:25 Amader Gaan

04:35 Sharif Melamine

Shangeetmela

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 i Speed

06:00 Drama Serial:

Klanto Shomoy

06:20 Shorona Gaon

07:00 Shobor Jonno Shikha

07:30 Shobor Jonno Shikha

08:35 Aker Shokal

Bhoborer Shondhane

09:30 Bhimno Swader

Khobor

09:35 Music Express

10:00 Rup Rohoshyo

10:00 Drama Serial: Shada

Ranger Swapno

12:00 Gramophone Ajker

Shangbadpotro

12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno

01:00 Shonar Gaon

01:30 Shobor Jonno Shikha

02:40 Kartik Serial: Swapno

03:05 Kartik Serial: Swapno

03:30 Kartik Serial: Swapno

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