

BIRTHDAY BASH

I want to work till the end
...Raisul Islam Asad



ZAIMA ZAHRA

Today the noted actor Raisul Islam Asad turns 63. Born in 1953, the actor has mesmerized his fans with his performances in both TV and films. Regarding his birthday plans the actor shared he has none and prefers to keep his birthday a secret so that he can work in peace.

As we asked the celebrated actor what he would desire had he been magically granted three wishes, he responded with: "My first wish is—I do not want to sit back idly home, I want to work till my last. As for my second, I wish to drive out the tension we are facing as a country now, so that we can lead peaceful lives. For my third, I wish for freedom from discrimination. I believe we need to work together to get rid of such unrest."

He also mentioned he will miss his late mother, as she used to cook something special for him on his birthday. On this occasion he asked all his fans to stay safe, and remain vigilant.

"PAINTING IS MY PASSION"

... Bipasha Hayat

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bipasha Hayat is one of those rare personalities who seamlessly juggles many roles. And it is not just her undeniable acting skills we are talking about but also her talents as painter, writer and anchor. Married to a well known fellow actor Tauquir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat shares snippets of her life with The Daily Star:

When do you usually write?

Bipasha Hayat: I like to work in silence. I can't write with chaos or noise around me. This is why most of my writing is at night, when it's quiet and my thoughts are uncluttered.

How do you manage to juggle so many activities?

Bipasha Hayat: I work less frequently as an actor now. I try to devote much of my time to writing screenplays and paint too. My aim is to channelise my love and care into whatever I have chosen to work on. My work is the product of my love, and I do it for the love of my audience too.

Are you working on a story at the moment?

Bipasha Hayat: Not really, but I have written a short story titled "Ekta Odbhut Premer Golpo", that was published in Prothom Alo. A few days ago I wrote a poem, and for Eid I worked on a few screenplays.

Do you like to call yourself a writer?

Bipasha Hayat: I am not a professional writer, so I will not go by that title. However, there is unfettered freedom in writing; there are no limits to what you can dream up. I enjoy looking at the ordinary lives of men and women and writing about them.

When do you usually manage time to work on your paintings?

Bipasha Hayat: I usually work at night



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

when everyone is asleep. Sometimes I also work while my children are playing. Painting is my passion and there was a time when I considered pursuing it full time.

Any plans to work on a new screenplay?

Bipasha Hayat: At the moment I am not working on a new screenplay. I have only done one so far, titled "Amra Shomudro Dekhte Giyechhilam." Joya Ahsan and Tauquir Ahmed were the

actors and it was telecast on Desh TV.

Can you share your memories of your father, renowned actor Abul Hayat?

Bipasha Hayat: My father was a completely different person from me, and I can never aspire to reach the same heights of talent or respect. I have accompanied him to rehearsals and shootings and he is the inspiration behind the scripts I write, everything I do.

What do you want for your children?

Bipasha Hayat: I just want my children to grow up into good human beings and find beauty in the little things in life. For that they have to have utmost respect for nature and the people around them.

Do you miss working in theatre?

Bipasha Hayat: I miss being on stage a lot. Those are days that will never return. I like to listen to the audio of staged plays, and recently heard "Tiner Talawar" which I really enjoyed. Sometimes at home I practice poetry recitation.

What are you reading at the moment?

Bipasha Hayat: Currently, I am reading "Meghnad Bodh," a collection of poems by Michael Madhusudhan Dutt.

How does it feel to be a celebrity?

Bipasha Hayat: I do not regard myself as a star. When you have figures of stature in history like Tagore, or Shakespeare I am a mere ordinary human being. My only goal is to lead a simple, yet fulfilling life.

WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Sublime Beauty of Lands and Rivers
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
Date: July 15-20
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thur) & 9am-12noon & 5-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Bharatnatyam Recital
Organiser: Kolpotoru Ensemble
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: July 16
Time: 6:30pm

Group Photography Exhibition
Title: Chittagong Hill Tracts: People and Nature
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: July 15-19
Time: 3-8pm

Theatre
Play: Gohonjatra
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: July 15
Time: 7pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: A Philosopher's Portrait
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, Dhaka University
Date: July 9-15
Time: 11am-7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Enigma" by Sayed Fida Hossain
Venue: EMK Centre, Midas Centre Building (9th Floor), H-5, Rd-27, Dhanmondi
Date: July 16-28; Time: 10am-8pm

Bangladesh to make strong showing at Locarno

Six films to be screened at Swiss Film Festival



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Six critically-acclaimed feature and short films from Bangladesh made by talented young directors will be showcased in the non-competitive section of Locarno Film Festival beginning August 3 in Locarno, Switzerland.

Three films -- "Under Construction" directed by Rubaiyat Hossain, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Television" and documen-



tary "Shunte Ki Pao" by Kamar Ahmad Simon, as well as shorts "The Container" by Abu Shahed Emon, "720 Degrees" by Ishtiaque Zico and "I Am Time" by Mahde Hasan will be screened.

The non-competitive section is meant for the festival audience, and every year presents a selection of films particularly representative of the cinematographic and cultural landscape of the region on which its project 'Open Doors' focuses on. This year, the selec-



tion is dedicated to 4 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal.

The programme will include works by both emerging young talents and directors already established in the international arena; the films will be screened all throughout the Festival from August 3-13.

Meanwhile, Emon's award-winning movie "Jalaler Golpo" will be screened at the London Indian International Film Festival beginning July 14.

Unfolding tales untold

Stars share little-known stories about themselves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mehreen, singer

I believe in astrology. I consider this a science -- my favourite kind of science. My star sign is Scorpio, according to which Taurus is my best match. I also follow Chinese zodiac, according to that my sign is a dog and my best match is a horse zodiac. I have always been keen about marrying someone who is a Taurian Horse, and I was lucky enough to find one. (laughs)

I have always been private about me being interested in astrology, since people tend to deceive who believe in such concepts. So, to save myself from such embarrassment, there was a time when I used to study it all by myself. I have learned palmistry, some astrological mathematics and many more. I do follow some websites who prove online help to be believers."



SADAT



ATN BANGLA TURNS 20

A CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla, one of the first satellite channels of the country, celebrates 20th year of successful telecast today, as it steps into another year of airing news and entertainment in Bangla to viewers worldwide. The channel has had a vibrant journey to be where it is today.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary ATN Bangla will present a special programme titled

"Paanchforon," a variety show that will feature dance and song numbers among many items. Featuring stars such as Apurba, Keya, Ishita, Chanchal Chowdhury and many more, the show will offer entertaining performances from popular actors and singers alike. Apart from a dance piece by Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa, actor-host Aupee Karim has participated in a Tagore dance number. The show will be anchored by noted actor Tarin. "Paanchforon" will be aired on today at 8:50pm.

Pokémon Go coming on big screen

The worldwide success of Nintendo's mobile game Pokémon Go has led to renewed talks over a live-action movie.

Legendary Pictures, the producer of hits like "Inception", "Jurassic World" and "Interstellar", is close to finalising a deal to purchase big-screen rights to the Japanese franchise. Details are yet to be announced but Victor

Frankenstein writer Max Landis has been rumoured to be in charge of the screenplay.

After the augmented reality game was launched earlier this month, Nintendo saw its stock price rise 25%, adding \$9bn to the company's value. Pokémon Go is now the fastest ever game to top both Apple and Google charts, despite reports of privacy con-

cerns and inappropriately located "Pokéstops".

The Pokémon franchise has had mixed success at the box office. "Pokémon: The First Movie" took \$163m worldwide in 1999, but the most recent film, "Pokémon Heroes", brought in just \$28m four years later.

Source: Variety

