



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mosharraf Karim doesn't know how popular he is

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With his powerful performances, Mosharraf Karim has been ruling the TV scene for the better part of a decade. His vast popularity has spread across from the most urban areas to rural villages. Besides acting in plays, he has done some TVCs and films. In a recent talk with The Daily Star at Uttara's shooting house Nilanjana, the supremely talented actor spoke about his profession and more. Excerpts:

You are one of the busiest actors of our times. Do you enjoy the hectic life?
Mosharraf Karim: I don't. Working all day every day is no life. You need leisure. The mind and body need rest sometimes.
But you are still doing a lot of work. Why?
Mosharraf Karim: To keep requests. I get so many work offers, and there is only so many you can turn down. And the people that come to me with these offers are people of the same fraternity, and I have to sometimes bow to the cajoling.
You started your career in theatre. Did you plan for your career to take this trajectory?
Mosharraf Karim: I never did anything with a long-term target. I just kept on doing my work, and it is what I am doing now. My passion for acting drove me to get involved in theatre, and it is where I learned the craft. Then I started working in TV, and it has become my profession now. I never

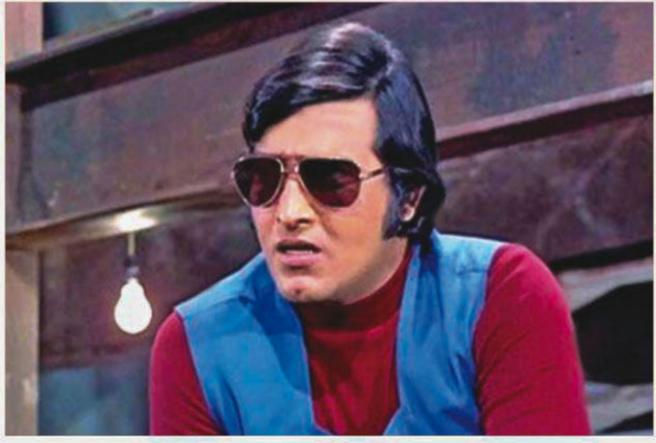
had a target. I just had love for the art. So, you are not the kind of person who makes big future plans...
Mosharraf Karim: Exactly. I don't have any big plans with my career. I just want to continue doing good work. There is no compromise there. I don't work in plays that I don't like.
Do you have any regrets in your career?
Mosharraf Karim: Not at all. I am grateful for all the roles I have played, and I don't have any remorse for any that I could not do. Life is too short for regrets.
Is there anything you miss a lot from your earlier life?
Mosharraf Karim: Oh yes. I miss the hangouts and long adda during my theatre days. I don't get to do that anymore, and it is something I miss sorely. If I go back a little further, I miss chilling out with my friends on the riverbank in Barisal, where I grew up. If only there was a way to go back

to those days...
Do you have a clear idea how popular you are?
Mosharraf: I don't, honestly. But when I go outside Dhaka for shooting, I get an idea, and it is always so gratifying. Big crowds gather up whenever we are filming, to get a glimpse of me. I can feel the love. I also get an idea from some of the crazy antics of my fans. But to be frank, I like living a simple, low-key life.
Tell us about your recent work in films.
Mosharraf Karim: "Halda", directed by Tauquir Ahmed is the last film I worked in. It was shot on the banks of river Halda in Chittagong. I play a failed lover in the film. I am also in talks about new projects for the big screen, but nothing is final yet.
What are you working for this upcoming Eid?
Mosharraf Karim: I have shot for an Eid play. I will visit Cox's Bazar soon to shoot for another single-episode drama, a series named "Jhamala Unlimited" and then another Eid play there.

VINOD KHANNA breathes his last

FROM PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
 Prominent yesteryears Bollywood actor and politician Vinod Khanna, who seamlessly transitioned from negative on-screen roles to hero, died in a Mumbai hospital yesterday.
 The 70-year-old actor, much sought after in 1970s and 1980s, was reportedly battling with cancer for years. In the first week of April this year, Khanna's condition deteriorated and was admitted to HN Reliance Hospital where he remained for about a month. Hospital authorities claimed his condition had become stable in between after doctors put him on drip although he had become frail during hospitalisation.
 The hospital issued a statement today, which said "Veteran actor and Member of Parliament Mr. Vinod Khanna, who was

Desh" that he made it big in Bollywood for the first time playing the role of a villain, opposite Dharmendra.
 Picked out by late Bollywood actor Sunil Dutt, Vinod Khanna was offered, to begin with, only negative and small roles but soon got lead roles in many films. He made his film debut in 1968 with "Mann Ka Meet" and went on to become a star.
 In 1982, Vinod Khanna became a follower of Osho Rajneesh at his ashram in western Indian city of Pune and stayed away from cinema for five years before returning to the tinsel town to give two superhits - "Insaaf" and "Satyamev Jayate".
 Even with a busy career in politics after joining Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and becoming a member of parliament from Gurudaspur in Punjab state, Vinod Khanna did not turn his



admitted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital breathed his last at 11.20 am due to advanced bladder carcinoma."
 Born in Peshawar (now in Pakistan) on October 6, 1946, Vinod Khanna is survived by his wife Kavita Khanna, actor sons Rahul and Akshaye and daughter Shradha Khanna. Before marrying Kavita, Vinod Khanna was married to Getanjali but they later parted ways.
 In his three-decade career in Hindi cinema beginning in 1968, Vinod Khanna acted in more than 100 films including "Mera Gaon Mera Desh", "Imtihaan", "Inkaar", "Amar Akbar Anthony", "Mere Apne", "Lahu Ke Do Rang", "Gaddar Qurbani", "Dayavaan" and "Jurm". It was in "Mera Gaon Mera

back on Bollywood and worked in some of the latest films like "Dabangg", "Players", "Dabangg 2" and "Dilwale".
 Vinod Khanna received the Filmfare award in the best supporting actor category for "Haath Ki Safaai", and in 1999 he received the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award, and again in 2007 he won a lifetime achievement award at the Zee Cine Awards.
 A photo of the actor looking a frail shadow of his former self recently went viral circulating reports about his ailment.
 Playback singer Asha Bhosle condoled the death of Vinod Khanna and wrote, "Very sad to hear about Vinod Khannaji. A decent man and a star till the very end."

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" makes \$6.6M on first day overseas



James Gunn's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" opened to a stellar \$6.6 million in its first three foreign markets on Tuesday, as it began its international assault in 37 territories this weekend, a week ahead of its May 5 launch in North America.
 So far, the Disney and Marvel sequel is pacing well ahead of the first film. "Guardians Vol. 2" debuted to \$4.5 million in Australia, including previews. That's three times more than "Guardians of the Galaxy" did in August 2014. It is also the second-highest opening day for any Marvel release behind 2012's "The Avengers".
 "Guardians Vol. 2" posted similar gains in Italy on Tuesday with \$1.4 million. And in New Zealand, its opening-day haul of \$700,000 represented the biggest first-day take of the year so far.
 Tracking suggests the quirky superhero tent-pole could approach or top \$100 million in its overseas debut.
 In North America, "Guardians Vol. 2" is tracking to launch in the \$130 million-\$150 million range, well ahead of the original's \$94.7 million launch. The first film was a surprise hit and went on to earn \$773 million globally, a rousing number considering it featured a rag-tag group of lesser-known superheroes.
 "Guardians Vol. 2" will also open in raft of other major territories next week, including Russia (May 4) and China (May 5).
 The follow-up reunites Gunn with his cast, including Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista and Bradley Cooper. Newcomers include Kurt Russell and Sylvester Stallone. In February, a Super Bowl spot for the tentpole was one of the best-received movie ads during the game.
 Source: THR

NEWS bytes KATY PERRY unveils new single art



After weeks of speculation, Katy Perry finally confirmed the next single from her anticipated fifth album: "Bon Appetit". The sweet track follows lead single "Chained to the Rhythm", and it will be released on Friday.
 The pop singer announced her new song on Twitter, including the single's cover art and special assistant chefs in the kitchen: Migos.
 The single cover features Perry's head on a platter surrounded by fruits and three tattooed and blinged-out arms. Those hands belong to none other than hip-hop trio Migos, who will be featured on the track.
 Perry is set to appear as a musical guest on Saturday Night Live on May 20, which could mark the TV debut of "Bon Appetit".
 Source: Billboard

Ferdous, Badhan come together for TV ad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Badhan marked her debut in show business on the talent hunt show "Lux Channel i Superstar" where she came through as one of the top finalists. Since then her career soared to popular heights as a model and actor. While a contestant on the show, the actor teamed up with noted film actor Ferdous for the first time in a stage performance, and the duo went onto appear in a number of performances since. However the pair had yet to work together in film or a commercial, until now.
 Director Hasan Morshed has chosen the duo to work in an ad for a noted refrigerator company, and shooting began last Tuesday in the capital.
 Regarding the venture, Ferdous stated, "The commercial narrative highlights everyday aspects of our lives beautifully. It has been a great experience working with Badhan, with whom I have performed on stage on many occasions."
 Badhan added, "I have been acquainted with Ferdous since the start of my career in media, and it has always been an aspiration of mine to work with him in film. This commercial is a great and promising start. Ferdous is a great artiste who makes everyone comfortable, and I look forward to the ad's release."

