In fond memory of Nayak Raj Razzak

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actor Abdur Razzak, fondly known as Nayak Raj Razzak, was one of the most beloved actors of the Bangladeshi film industry. He ruled over the silver screen and many hearts with his memorable performances. Today is the legendary actor's 79th birth anniversary.

Razzak during his prime.

The actor used to spend this day at his Gulshan residence with his grandchildren. However, the celebrations were often graced by many, especially his peers, co-stars, and crew members, who came to wish him on the auspicious occasion.

Minutes would turn into hours as they would get together and commemorate his journey in films, starting from playing the lead in Zahir Raihan's "Behula". Razzak was part of blockbusters such as "Rongbaj" (1974), "Ki Je Kori" (1976), "Ashikkhito" (1978), "Boro Bhalo Lok Chhilo" (1982), "Chandranath" (1984) and "Jogajog" (1988), among many others.

The actor had once invited all his friends from the industry, and journalists to his house to celebrate his birthday. After the cake was cut, the star walked from table to table, serving his guests personally. He wished to live with the love of his fans by his side.

His birthday is still celebrated by his wife, children, and grandchildren at his residence. "We look back on our moments with him, and his grandchildren cut his birthday cake," shares Razzak's son Shomrat. "We miss him every minute. His absence will always be there, but he will live on through his work."

"We used to celebrate this day in a very grand way," shares noted actor and Member of Parliament Farooque. "Nayak Raj Razzak is a legend who cannot be forgotten. I cherish my friendship with him."

Razzak's onscreen chemistry with renowned actor Farida Akhtar Poppy, known by her stage name Babita, gifted their fans with timeless movies. "I have always considered him family, and I grieve his death even today," shares Babita. "I am especially emotional on his birthday, and miss him dearly."

Kabori and Razzak.

Razzak and Babita.

PHOTO: STAR

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার, মাননীয় তথ্যমন্ত্রী, তথ্যসচিব মহোদয় ও সুধীবৃন্দ আসসালামু আলাইকুম।

অমি আরাফাত রায়হান, কোহিনুর আখতার সুচন্দার বড় ছেলে অতি সম্প্রতি আমার মায়ের গলের হার্ট সার্জারী হওয়ায় একান্ত ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও এমন একটি জাতীয় অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত হতে না পারায় তিনি আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করেছেন।

অমি তাঁর কিছু অনুভূতির কথা আপনাদের পড়ে শোনাব।

অমি সুচন্দা আজ গর্বিত ও গভীরভাবে কৃতজ্ঞ যাতার বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালী জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের সুযোগ্য কন্যা, বিশ্ব মানবতার প্রতীক জননেত্রী মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার সরকারের নিকট থেকে চলচ্চিত্রের এই শ্রেষ্ঠ পুরস্কার 'আজীবন সম্মাননা-২০১৯' আমার জীবনশংশ গ্রহণ করতে পারছি বলে, অমি সেজন্য মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী, মাননীয় তথ্য মন্ত্রী এবং স্থায়ী বোর্ডের সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দের প্রতি আমার আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা ও ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছি। যাটের দশকে যখন উর্দু চলচ্চিত্র বাংলা ছবি ও সংস্কৃতিকে কোণঠাসা করতে শুরু করেছিল সেই কঠিন সময়ে এদেশের চলচ্চিত্রের মেধাবী পরিচালক, অমরা শিল্পী ও কলাকুশলীরা ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে আমাদের চলচ্চিত্র ও সংস্কৃতির হাল ধরেছিলাম। অমি চলচ্চিত্রের সেই ক্রান্তিলগ্নে একজন শিল্পী হিসেবে আজও গর্ববোধ করি।

অমি গর্বিত যে বাংলাদেশের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় অমি বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা শহীদ জহির রায়হানের সহধর্মিনী হিসেবে তাঁর পাশে থেকে স্বাধীনতার পক্ষে কাজ করতে পেরেছি।

দেশ স্বাধীন হওয়ার প্রথম প্রহরে জহির রায়হান নিখোঁজ হন। এক অনিশ্চিত ও অসময়ে অবস্থায় অমি আমার শিশু সন্তান ও মাতৃহারা ছোট ভাই বোনদের নিয়ে যখন নিঃশেষহারা তখন অমি দেখা করি জাতির পিতা, মহানায়ক বঙ্গবন্ধুর সাথে। পিতার গার্জিয়ানের মতো তিনি আমার মাথায় হাত বুলিয়ে স্বান্ত্বনা দিয়েছিলেন। তাঁর সেই স্নেহ ভরা হাতের স্পর্শ অমি আজও অনুভব করি। আমাদের আজকের প্রধানমন্ত্রী তার পিতার যোগ্য উত্তরাধিকারী অসীম স্নেহ মায়া মমতা নিয়ে বিচ্ছিন্ন সময়ে অবিশ্বাস্যভাবে অসহায় শিল্পীদের সহযোগিতার হাত বাড়িয়ে যেভাবে আমাদের চলচ্চিত্রবাসীদের পাশে দাঁড়িয়েছেন সেই ঋণ আমরা কোনদিন শোধ করতে পারবো না।

আমার অভিনয় কর্মজুল- চলচ্চিত্র উন্নয়ন সত্ত্বে তথা- বি,এফ,ডি,সিকে সরকারী উদ্যোগে সময়ের প্রয়োজনেই পরিবর্তন ও পরিবর্ধন করা হবে বলে জানেছি। এই বি,এফ,ডি,সির ১ নম্বর ফ্লোর ক্রোরটি আকারে ছোট হলেও বিশেষভাবে স্মৃতিবিজড়িত ও উল্লেখযোগ্য। এই ফ্লোরটি চলচ্চিত্রের প্রথমপ্রজন্ম পরিচালক, শিল্পী-কলাকুশলী ও গুণীজনদের পদচারনের মুখরিত ছিল, এখান থেকেই তৈরি হয়েছিল আমাদের চলচ্চিত্রের বিখ্যাত অনেক ছবি। তাই, অমি মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কাছে অনুরোধ করবো, এই স্মৃতিময় ও ঐতিহাসিক ১ নম্বর ফ্লোরটিকে একটি চলচ্চিত্র যাদুঘরে রূপান্তরিত করার বিষয়টি বিবেচনা করে দেখবে।

জীবন, সমাজ ও ইতিহাসের প্রতি গভীর দায়বদ্ধতা থেকে অমি আমার শিল্পী জীবন অতিবাহিত করেছি। দর্শকদের ভালবাসা এবং দেশ-বিদেশের অগণ্য পুরস্কার অমি পেয়েছি। অমি আমার এই পথ চলার জন্য মহান সৃষ্টিকর্তার কাছে কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই আর।

চলচ্চিত্র জীবনে যাদের সাথে কাজ করে আজ আমি একজন সুচন্দা, সেই প্রোডাকশন বয়, পরিচালক, শিল্পী ও কলাকুশলী সকলকে আমার এই আজীবন সম্মাননাটি উৎসর্গ করলাম।

পরিশেষে বলতে চাই আজীবন সম্মাননা পুরস্কার পাওয়া মানেই থেমে যাওয়া নয়। লাইফ ইজ শর্ট, বাট দ্যা জার্নি ইজ লং। সবাইকে ধন্যবাদ।

আসসালামু আলাইকুম।

Suchanda's speech at the award ceremony, which was supposed to be read by her son.

PHOTO: STAR

Suchanda's Lifetime Achievement Award: A day of elation and grief

SHARMIN JOYA

Eminent actor, director and producer Kohinoor Akhter Shuchanda was honoured with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Film Awards for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

However, the actor could not be physically present at the event to receive the award, as she had recently undergone an open-heart surgery.

"I am honoured and overwhelmed with all the love that I have received throughout my career," shares the actor. "I feel humbled to be recognised for my contribution in the film industry."

Her daughter Lisa Malik received the Award on her behalf, while her son, Arafat Raihan Opu was supposed to read a speech on her behalf – which, according to Suchanda, the organisers did not allow during the ceremony.

"I wanted my son to convey my thoughts, and express how I felt at the moment to the honourable Prime Minister and the audience," shared the disappointed actor. "However, we felt disheartened that we were deprived from that. I believe that the organisers are responsible for this, and they should have treated the matter seriously."

According to Suchanda, even the reason behind her absence was not announced to the audience at the event. "It saddens me that the Prime Minister will never know why I could not be present at the ceremony," she says.

Suchanda's daughter Lisa Malik poses with her Lifetime Achievement Award.

Suchanda began her career with National Film Award and Ekushey Padak winning filmmaker Subhash Dutta's "Kagojer Nouka" in 1966.

She was featured in iconic films like "Behula", "Shuorani Duorani" and "Jibon Theke Neya"—all directed by Zahir Raihan. The films are considered landmark projects in Bangladeshi cinema.

The actor has worked in more than one hundred films in her illustrious career. Some of her other notable works include "Dhirey Boho Meghna", "Chawa Pawa", "Noyontara", "Je Agune Puri", "Kacher Shwargo", and "Asru Diye Lekha".

Internationally acclaimed actor Babita and noted actor Champa are her younger siblings.

She produced films like "Taka Ana Pai" and "Protishodh", among others. Shuchanda made her directorial debut with "Shobuj Coat Kalo Choshma", while she received a National Film Award in 2005 for producing and directing the film "Hajar Bochhor Dhore", based on Zahir Raihan's novel of the same name.

Suchanda reminisced the struggles during the Liberation War and her career during the golden period of Bengali cinema. "When my husband, Zahir Raihan, went missing, I had no place to go, and my sons were too young," she said. "At the time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave me support. I am indebted to him."

On being asked if she ever thought about making a biopic on her own life, the actor says, "It is not that I have never thought of it. However, I would be happy if a young and talented filmmaker in our country does it," smiles the actor, who says that she is considering writing an autobiography in the future.

Anticipated film releases of 2021

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The Bangladeshi film industry faced many obstacles, as movie theatres were closed for most of last year. Although cinema halls are open now, the audience turnout is still very low. As several new films are lining up for release in 2021, the anticipation might slowly bring the audience back to movie theatres. We take a look at some Bangladeshi films that are expected to release this year.

Directed by Gias Uddin Selim, "Paap Punno", featuring Siam Ahmed and Shahnaz Sumi in the lead roles, is expected to release this year. The film also features Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Farzana Chumki among others.

"I believe that this project will be one of the most talked about films of the year," shares Gias Uddin Selim.

Directed by Raihan Rafi, the film, "Damal", is also expected to release this year. It features Siam Ahmed and Bidya Sinha Mim in the lead roles.

"Sfulingo", directed by Tauquir Ahmed, featuring Pori Moni, Mamo, Mamunur Rashid, and Rownak Hasan, is also expected to release this year.

Director Dipankar Dipon, acclaimed for his film, "Dhaka Attack", is gearing up for his much-anticipated film, "Operation Sundarban." Featuring Siam Ahmed, Riaz, Roshan and Nusrat Faaria in the lead roles, this film is also on the line for release. "The film is the result of our hard work and honesty, and we are confident that the audience will love the outcome," expresses Dipankar Dipon.

"Shaan", directed by M A Rahim is expected to hit theatres this year. The film features Siam Ahmed, Puja Cherry, and Taskin Rahman among other actors.

Jinn

Shaan

Operation Sundarban

The much-anticipated Arifin Shuvoo starrer "Mission Extreme", a police action-thriller co-directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed, was supposed to hit theatres during Eid-Ul-Fitr last year. However, the movie's release was pushed back.

Featuring Chanchal Chowdhury, the upcoming film"Hawa", directed by Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, is a tale about fishermen whose lives are intertwined with the sea.

Directed by Ashraf Shishir, the film, "570", featuring Bappy Chowdhury will also be released this year. "I hope this film will introduce me in a different light to the audience. It will be one of the most highlighted films of the year," shares Bappy.

"Tungipara'r Miabhai", directed by Selim Khan, will feature Dighi in the lead role. Shamim Ahamed Roni has written the screenplay of the film, which will be released commemorating "Mujib Borsho".

"Casino", featuring Nirab and Bubly as an on-screen pair for the first time, is directed by Saikat Nasir and is expected to release this year.

Directed by Nader Chowdhury, "Jinn", was scheduled for release last year, but all was postponed due to the pandemic. Featuring Mahiya Mahi and Sajal together for the first time, the film is set to hit theatres this year.

Featuring Jaya Ahsan and Ferdous, the film, "Beauty Circus", directed by Mahmud Didar, is also set for release this year.

"Bhalobasha Zindabad", featuring Apu Biswas and Bappy Chowdhury, has been on the line for release for some time. The film is directed by Debashish Biswas.

With several forthcoming films, cinema theatres are hoping to see a change in audience participation.

Mission Extreme

Beauty Circus

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