

Some people are trying to sabotage my reputation:

SHAKIB KHAN



After I came to the US, I noticed that some individuals from the film fraternity started spreading rumours about me. A senior filmmaker has also criticised my choice of coming to America.

ZAHID AKBAR

Superstar Shakib Khan is currently in the USA, planning his upcoming projects. However, rumours about his permanent stay there surfaced in the last few weeks after the actor departed from Dhaka in November.

He spoke to The Daily Star about his upcoming releases, and more.

A senior film director has been talking negatively about you. What is the reason behind it?

After I came to the US, I noticed that some individuals from the film fraternity started spreading rumours about me. A senior filmmaker has also criticised my choice of coming to America.

I feel they are taking advantage of my absence but as far as I know, we have no personal disputes.

Are you looking to take legal action against such individuals?

Not just for such cases, but my lawyers take

care of all sorts of issues that require legal guidance or involvement. If something extreme happens, they will opt for legal actions on my behalf. I feel some people are trying to sabotage my reputation.

One other senior director said he plans to make your biopic. What is your take in this regard?

I don't know anything in this regard. However, if someone wishes to make a biopic, they have to seek permission from the person in question, or their family. But I was not approached for any kind of permission.

I also wish to know, who is writing the screenplay for the production? Not everyone is able or should be allowed to work on the screenplay of a biopic. Having the right, verified information is very important. Like I said before, this is all part of a plan against me.

How are you spending your time in the US?

I was busy with some film related events for the first few days. Now I am in talks for a few

new projects. Other than that, I am following my usual routine.

I go to the gym in the morning, and then get busy with meetings for new films. Some of the films that I have been approached for are very promising.

I have come across a lot of familiar faces from my country here too.

What are your views about Hollywood? Are you visiting the movie theatres?

Hollywood seems like a dreamland. They have a lot of resources and are very technologically advanced. Bollywood artists are yet to make an impact here, and our industry is even further down the line. I have watched a few Hollywood and Bollywood releases in theatres here in the US. I have realised that the audience now looks to be entertained. Viewers now want to stay away from depressing, sorrowful stories.

Prince Mahmud and Tanzir Tuhin come together for "Anagoto"



Prince Mahmud's new song, "Anagoto", featuring Tanzir Tuhin, was released under the banner of G Series, on New Year's Eve. The number has been written by Samuel Haque, and Sajid Sarker has done the music arrangement of the track.

"Our previous venture 'Alo' was widely appreciated by the listeners, and thus, we decided to come together once again," shares Prince Mahmud. "Tuhin has sung this song beautifully, and I hope we manage to keep up with the audience's expectations with our effort this time too."

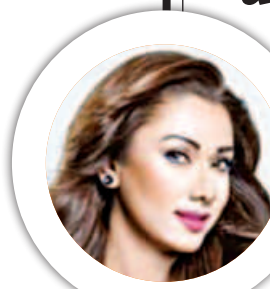
The music video, featuring Tanzir Tuhin and Rani Tripty, is directed by Aktheruzzaman Shawon. The song also features Ahnaf Khan Anik on guitars.

"Prince Mahmud has always been a mentor to me," mentions Tuhin, who has also been praised for the title track of Hoichoi original series, "Boli". "He is an amazing person, and I always look out for opportunities to work with him."



'It doesn't matter who the hero is, I can act opposite a tree'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Rashid Polash directorial "Moyurakkhi" will feature popular Dhallywood actress Bobby and debutant Shirin Shela. Khairul Basar was supposed to play a pivotal role, according to reports. However, actor Sudip Biswas Deep has officially signed the role.

"I am not sure what exactly happened, the producer and director can explain," says the actress. "It doesn't matter who the hero is, can even act opposite a tree."

The director informed The Daily Star that the shooting begins from January 15.

COUNTRY



Temporary hawkers' markets for second-hand warm clothes in Faridpur town see a large number of people coming to buy used warm clothes.

SECOND-HAND WARM CLOTHES

Makeshift markets buzzing with buyers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The hawkers' markets of second-hand warm clothes in different areas of Faridpur town are buzzing with buyers due to the current spell of bone-chilling cold.

Apart from those, belonging to the poor and low-income families, people from well-off families are also thronging the market to buy warm clothes at cheap rates.

However, buyers claimed that the prices of second-hand warm clothes are much higher this year.

During a recent visit to Mahakali and Thana road area, it was found that people of all ages were buying warm clothes while traders passing a busy time to handle the customers.

Halim Sheikh, 45, a rickshaw-puller of Chunaghata area in the town, said, "My mother is 75 years old and my daughter is a Class VII student. I am here to buy each cloth at Tk 100 to Tk 150, but the traders are demanding more."

Schoolteacher Shipi Rani Biswas of Goalchamat area, said "I need some warm clothes for my daughter. We bought some clothes from this market at cheaper prices last year, but this year traders are demanding Tk 50 to Tk 100 more for every items."

Sultan Ahmad, a second-hand warm clothes seller, said, "Last year, we bought each bale of warm clothes from Chattogram at Tk 12,000 to Tk 21,000, while the same bale costing Tk 15,000 to Tk 24,000 this year."

Another trader Sirajul Islam said they can make a profit of Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,500 from one bale of clothes.

Mir Hashem, president of Faridpur Hawkers' unit, said in a way they are helping people, especially the poor, who cannot afford to buy clothes from the shopping malls.

NETAI RIVER

Rampant sand extraction poses erosion threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

In face of repeated protests against indiscriminate extraction of sand from the Netai river, Dhobaura upazila administration conducted a day-long drive against the perpetrators and stopped the illegal act.

A mobile court led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Hasan Abdullah Al Mahmud conducted the drive in Kamakkha Ghona area a week ago and fined the culprits involved in violating the terms and condition of the lease, Dhobaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rafiquzzaman said.

During the drive they destroyed several dredgers and realised Tk 50,000 fine from those, engaged in illegal sand lifting from the river, the UNO said, adding that they are monitoring the situation so that none can took further advantage and violate the rule.

Locals said indiscriminate sand extraction from the Netai river is escalating the risk of river

erosion and posing serious threat to nearby farmland, homestead and ecological diversity of the locality.

They alleged that although the illegal act has been continuing for the last five months or so, local administration seemed reluctant to take action against the perpetrators, claiming the area is outside their jurisdiction.

They said no one dares to protest it as traders continuing the sand lifting by managing a few local influential people.

Around 19 acres area between Bhalukapara and Roypur was leased out as Balu Mahal (sand quarry), but the lease care a little in maintaining the stipulated area and started sand extraction from Kamakkha Ghona area about five months ago, said Anisuzzaman, a trader at Ghoshgaon Bazar.

Anisuzzaman, who filed several complaints with local administration and other authorities in this

regard, alleged that leases use some 40 dredgers round the clock, depriving the government from huge amount of revenue.

Anisuzzaman, also a member of Ghoshgaon union unit Jubo League, said rampant lifting of sand has put hundreds of houses along to the river bank at serious risk of being eroded.

Moreover, a flood control dyke, built to protect several educational institutions, religious establishments and government offices is also facing serious erosion threat, he added.

Ghoshgaon union unit Awami League President Abdul Karim Biswas said the Ghoshgaon Ashrayan Project, where around 80 families reside, can be seriously affected by the

heavy current in the river during the monsoon.

The indiscriminate sand lifting has been changing the course of the Netai river as well, rising the risk of erosion every year, he said.

The river needs to be preserved in its original shape because due to onrush of hilly waters from across the Indian border it has been an abundant source of country fishes, opined the AL leader.



Sand being extracted from the Netai river using dredging machines. The photo was taken from Kamakkha Ghona area in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR