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Bappy Chowdhury

Bappy Chowdhury and Zahara Mitu in 'Kushtigir'



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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of Dhaliwood's established actors, Bappy Chowdhury recently celebrated 9 years of his arrival in the industry.

He has been shooting for Shahin Sumon's upcoming project "Kushtigir", alongside with his upcoming project, Kazi Hayat's "Joy Bangla".

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Bappy opened up about his recent works, future plans and more.

What projects are you currently busy with?

I am currently shooting at Netrokona, with the team of "Kushtigir".

The film is directed by Shahin Sumon, and Zahra Mitu is my co-artist. I will be seen in a new avatar in this film.

Interestingly, the location where we are shooting is extremely beautiful. We are enjoying every moment of this project.

After this, I will start shooting for Kazi Hayat's upcoming film, "Joy Bangla".

"Joy Bangla" is based on eminent author

Professor Muntassir Mamoon's novel of the same name. How hopeful are you with the project?

I believe this project is going to be a landmark in my acting career. The plot highlights the tumultuous years from 1969 to 1971. Zahra Mitu is my co-artist in this production as well.

What is the greatest accomplishment in your career?

I have achieved a lot in my career of nine years. The audience has acknowledged me with enormous support and love. Wherever I go, I am respected and recognised, and I consider this my greatest accomplishment.

What plans do you have for the future?

This might sound generic, but I want to take up more challenging roles, and experimental stories. I want to live forever through my

works.

What are your expectations with the upcoming election of Artists' Association?

I consider the film fraternity as one big family. Whoever wins the contest, and whoever loses, they are still a part of the family, and we must be united. My best wishes are with all of them.

OMANUSH to release on February 4, confirms director

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR



Anonno Mamun's much anticipated film, "Omanush" is set to release on February 4. Marking Rafiath Rashid Mithila's silver screen debut, the film also casts Nirab Hossain, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Misha Sowdagar, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Rashed Mamun Apu, Don and Ananda Khalid, among others.

"If the halls remain open, we will release the film on February 4," confirms Anonno Mamun. "We plan to start hall bookings next week, and hope that we can

keep up the promise of finally bringing this film to our audience."

The director is also currently planning for two other projects, and wishes to release the "Omanush" before he steps into anything new.

Jaya Ahsan to star in 'Putulnacher Iti Kotha', based on Manik Bhandopadhyay's novel

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Renowned Indian director Suman Mukhopadhyay has cast Jaya Ahsan to play Kusum in a film based on eminent Indian litterateur Manik Bhandopadhyay's novel, 'Putulnacher Iti Kotha'.

The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by Jaya herself.

"Manik Bhandopadhyay is one of my favourite writers," says the National Award winning actress. "I am very excited for this project." Jaya Ahsan also confirmed that the shooting will begin from next month.

In the film, she will star opposite two big stars from India: Parambrata Chatterjee and Abir Chatterjee.

COUNTRYWIDE



Locals cross the Charalkatha river in Nilphamari Sadar upazila by boat as the nearby under construction bridge lying incomplete for years.

PHOTO: STAR

Left incomplete for 5 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About five lakh people in two upazilas are suffering as a bridge, connecting Nilphamari Sadar and Kishoreganj upazila, over the Charalkatha river at Par Ghat area has remained incomplete for nearly five years.

According to Nilphamari Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Jashore based construction firm Islam Traders got the work order to construct the 181-metre-long and 9.80-metre-wide bridge on Nilphamari-Kishoreganj road with an estimated cost of Tk 15.12 crore in 2017.

The construction firm was asked to complete the work by June 2018, but after completing only 40 percent of the work, contractor left the work.

Later, following several warning letters from the LGED, the contractor started the work again, seeking six month time extension. But, the firm missed that fresh deadline too.

In the meantime, authorities concerned extended the length of the bridge up to 252 metre, revised the budget and gave the work to another construction firm Nil Sagor Group to support the previous firm.

Although, LGED extended the work deadline for three times, with the latest in June this year, most of the work still lies incomplete.

While visiting the site on Monday, this correspondent saw pedestrians, bikers and bicyclists were crossing the river by boats, while traders and farmers are compel to travel an additional 20 kilometre to go to nearby markets.

Sumon Biswas, site engineer of Islam Traders, said the work was delayed due to interference of some local influential and then the lockdown.

Nilphamari LGED Executive Engineer Sujon Kumar Kor said they were conducting strict monitoring so that the bridge construction work can be done with the stipulated time.

The rat catcher

A Joypurhat man has been trapping and killing rats for over four decades

S DILIP ROY

Anwar Hossain has been trapping and killing rats since he was 16.

The 57-year-old man can be seen on the streets and haat-bazars in different districts of the northern region including Lalmonirhat and Kurigram. He also sells poisons to kill rats. Anwar Hossain is now popularly called 'Rat Man'.

He deposits the tails of 10-12 thousand dead rats to the agriculture office every year. In return, he receives cash incentives and gift items from the agriculture office.

Anwar Hossain is the son of

late Abdul Jabbar of Nurnagar village in Tilakpur union of Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila.

His family comprises his wife, a son and a daughter.

He was found selling rat killing poisons in Dalpatti area of Lalmonirhat town recently. When approached, he said he sells poisons to kill rats. He earns Tk 500 to Tk 600 daily by selling the poisons.

"Farmers call me to kill rats. I kill rats infesting crop fields and houses and collect the tails of dead rats. Being pleased, farmers give me a bounty of up to Tk 200 to Tk 500," said Anwar.

"I don't know any magic to catch rats. I just use strategy.

I have become accustomed to catching rats. Rats can't run away from me," he said, adding that "I deposit the tails of 10-12 thousand rats to Akkelpur Agriculture Office every year."

He has received several national awards and certificates from the Department of Agriculture for participating in the National Rat Extermination Campaign, Anwar added.

"I want to stay involved in the rat-killing campaign till I die," he said.

"Rats cause a lot of damage to crops and furniture. My small efforts relieve farmers' families of rat infestation. I am happy with my job," said Anwar.

Mantu Mia, a farmer from Khochabari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said his family was upset with the rat infestation. Later, Anwar was called and he successfully got rid of all the rats. Anwar also caught and killed the rats from his crop field.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said rats are very harmful to crops. Rat killing drives are conducted every year.

Anwar Hossain ranks number one in killing rats in the northern region and of course, he is benefiting the farmers by killing rats, said the DAE official.



Anwar Hossain poses with a rat and his credentials as a veteran rat killer in Dalpatti area of Lalmonirhat town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR