



Will ‘Taan’ pull audiences towards Chorki?

“The title ‘Taan’, in a broader sense, can be explained in many ways. It might be interpreted as attraction towards someone, or addiction to drugs,” says Rafi.

SHARMIN JOYA

Raihan Rafi has recently been on a roll – presenting one stellar production after another. His recent productions – “Janowar”, “The Dark Side of Dhaka”, and “Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi” have all been praised by critics.

“Taan” is his first production for 2022, which will release today (Thursday).

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the director shared insights about his exciting project, which will release on streaming site Chorki today.

Siam Ahmed, the lead actor of the film, had previously with Rafi on “Poramon 2”, later “Dohon” and “Damal”. However, this is

Shobnom Bubly’s first time working with the Raihan Rafi.

“The title ‘Taan’, in a broader sense, can be explained in many ways. It might be interpreted as attraction towards someone, or addiction to drugs,” says Rafi.

The story revolves around lovers Abani and Rashed, who elope from their respective homes. As they begin their new life, they encounter unprecedented circumstances.

“My previous projects reflected dark and mysterious vibes. However, I wanted to start the year with a romantic project” shares Rafi. “Unfortunately, the rise of Covid-19 brought

the new film releases to a halt once again, thus “Taan” will be a treat to the audience, one that they can avail from their homes.

“I like to experiment with every project, so this time I thought of introducing Bubly opposite Siam,” shared Rafi. “Honestly, she performed beyond my expectations. We perceive her as a face for more commercial films, but she proved that she is exceptional given the right script and role.”

The film is set in locations around Old Dhaka, the Buriganga river, and more. The director informs that the biggest challenge while shooting was maintaining the safety protocols during the pandemic.

A good number of films directed by Raihan Rafi are on the pipeline, including “Noor”, “Ittefaq”, “Swapnobaji”, “Poran” and “Damal”. He informs that “Poran” is expected to release on Valentine’s Day, while “Damal” is slated for release on Independence Day (March 26).

The trailer for the film showcases a thrilling plot, in which Siam portrays an addicted lover, with Bubly as his wife, a working woman who struggles to put up with his antics. While we cannot wait to see the film as it releases today, only time will tell if “Taan” pulls even more audiences to Chorki, which jostles hard to try to be a cut above other local streaming sites.



Raihan Rafi



Siam and Bubly in ‘Taan’

‘Padma Shri demeaning for a singer of Sandhya Mukherjee’s stature’

Legendary singer’s daughter says

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Legendary Bengali singer Sandhya Mukherjee has refused an offer of a Padma Shri award, when she was contacted on phone by Indian government officials for her nod, her daughter Soumi Sengupta said last night.



Sandhya Mukherjee told the senior Home Ministry official, who called from New Delhi, that she was not willing to be named as a Padma Shri recipient, Soumi told the media soon after the list of awardees was announced on the eve of India’s Republic Day parade.

“At the age of 90, with a singing career spanning more than eight decades being chosen for Padma Shri is demeaning for a singer of her stature,” she said.

READ FULL NEWS ONLINE

Popy breaks silence after 14 months

Asks members to vote for Ilias-Nipun panel

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned Dhaliwood actress Popy was deemed ‘missing’ from the media from December 23, 2020, when she posted ‘I saw you in my dreams, a light of love amidst the darkness’ on Facebook.

The actress finally broke her silence and appeared on social media through a video, in which she asked members to vote for the panel of Ilias Kanchan and Nipun in the upcoming Film Artists’ Association election tomorrow.

The 3-time National Award winner explained that she felt insulted by the activities of the former panel, who allegedly wanted to cancel her membership. “I was hurt, angry and humiliated; this is why I was away from everything. I will open up more about this later.”



COUNTRYWIDE

Illegal sand lifters choking Brahmaputra

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmोनirhat

A gang of sand lifters has been choking the flow of the Brahmaputra in Roumari upazila of Kurigram district by creating a road across the river in Kartimari Boat Ghat area.

They have been filling the river to construct the road to facilitate their business, locals said.

Once the road is complete, it will obstruct the natural flow of the Brahmaputra river, they added.

The gang has been extracting sands illegally for several years from the middle of the river. Now, they have started constructing a 200-metre-long road that will connect the river bank and the mid-point of the river.

The road will cost around Tk three lakh and the sand

lifters will collectively bear the expenditure, said the locals and the sand traders.

“They are constructing the road spending their own money to facilitate the transportation of sand,” said a resident in the area seeking anonymity.

“If the road is constructed, the river’s natural flow will be obstructed. Even, boatmen would face difficulties to navigate their boats,” said Abdullah Al Mamun, the lessee of Kartimari Boat Terminal.

“They (illegal sand lifters) are influential. That is why none dare to protest it,” he said.

However, Zahidul Islam, president of Jadurchar Union Tractor Owners’ Association and also a sand trader, claimed that they were constructing the road to help farmers transport their crops.

Meanwhile, local people said they were passing days in

fear of river erosion due to the unbridled extraction of sand from the riverbed.

Many families have already become homeless due to river erosion. Hundred hectares of arable land and a number of mosques have been devoured by the river, said farmer Mojibar Rahman in the area.

Even, Chaktabari-Dhanarchar-Rajibpur dyke collapsed due to river erosion,” said the 65-year-old grower.

However, sand trader Zahidul Islam denied the claim and said, “Sand is being lifted from the middle of the river that is far away from the shore; it does not cause river erosion.”

Contacted, Roumari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Al Imran said he was not aware of the matter.

He would take necessary legal steps after investigation, said the UNO.



A gang of illegal sand lifters has been constructing a road on their own obstructing the natural flow of the Brahmaputra river in Kartimari Boat Ghat area of Kurigram’s Roumari upazila. Such flagrant violation of law remains unnoticed by the administration.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Money launderers untouched

FROM PAGE 1

February 28 wanted to know the names, addresses, and current status of the Bangladeshis who deposited laundered money in overseas banks.

The court asked the authorities and the ACC to give details of such individuals and organisations to it by March 30 last year.

But little progress has been made since then.

On December 5 last year, the ACC submitted a “compliance report”, containing only the names of 43 people reportedly published in the papers in 2016 and 2017 but gave no details.

Irked by the graft watchdog’s inaction, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq the next day blasted the ACC for its failure to provide the court with any finding of its own.

The HC bench also directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and BFIU to submit separate reports to it by January 9 this year, explaining why they failed to provide information and documents on money

launderers to the ACC.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman is scheduled to hold hearing on the matter on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the BFIU yesterday submitted to the HC a report containing names of 69 Bangladeshis and entities disclosed in Panama Papers and Paradise Papers as money launderers.

According to the report, Panama Papers named 43 and Paradise Papers 26 people.

Contacted, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said his ministry is not responsible for finding who laundered money and purchased properties abroad.

“It is the Anti-Corruption Commission who is responsible for finding out money launderers and corrupt people and bring them to book,” he told The Daily Star on January 14.

About his November 2020 statement, Momen said he came to know about it unofficially from a person.

“A person had unofficially told me that 22 to 24 homes have been

bought by Bangladeshis in ‘Begum Para’ in Canada. Most of them are high-profile bankers and retired government officials. There are a few politicians among them. This information was unverified and unofficial. I had told this to the media without verifying it,” the minister said.

He said it was very difficult to get details about the money launderers as foreign governments are reluctant to share information.

Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Qaiyum Khan, who jointly filed the writ petition, said the ACC did not conduct any enquiry into those Bangladeshis who deposited money in Swiss banks and purchased properties abroad with laundered money.

“If the ACC had given the list of names and addresses of those corrupt people, the High Court could have issued necessary directives to bring them to book,” he said.

ACC lawyer Khurshid said the BFIU is not authorised to disclose information about individuals without permission from the countries concerned where the money was laundered

to “under the relevant provision of the Egmont Treaty”.

The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units is an international organisation that facilitates cooperation and intelligence sharing between national financial intelligence units (FIUs) to investigate and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

Qaiyum, however, said the Egmont Treaty was not a barrier.

Several money launderers were punished in India following its Supreme Court directives for taking legal action based on information in the Panama and Paradise papers, he added.

BFIU officials declined to make any comment in this regard.

Yesterday, the BFIU submitted its report to the HC through Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik.

Citing the report, the DAG told this newspaper that the BFIU found information about money transaction to Australia, Thailand and Malaysia by 13 Bangladeshis. An inquiry was going on in this regard.

Make the names public

FROM PAGE 1

committee should be neutral and unbiased in recommending names for the EC appointments.

“The recommended names should be made public so that we can see the people’s reaction to it,” he said, adding that those with any sort of controversies should not be eligible for the appointments.

He pointed out an elaborate discussion on the crucial EC bill was required in parliament, but it has not taken place yet.

Both Shamsul and M Sakhawat Hussain, a former

election commissioner, said a parliamentary standing committee should be engaged in the process to fill in the EC posts before the president makes the appointments.

Sakhawat said the search committee can forward the names to the JS body.

He said a previous EC, led by Shamsul Huda, had prepared a draft law on the appointments and proposed that the search committee recommended names be sent to the Business Advisory Committee of parliament for scrutiny.

“The proposed names should be discussed at meetings of the Business Advisory Committee. The prime minister, who is the leader of parliament, and the leader of opposition are members of that committee.”

He said the election commissioners should be neutral and they must be capable of ensuring enforcement of law.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar alleged that the proposed law has scopes for the government to form the search committee with

people of its choice. “There is also scope of appointing election commissioners who will be obedient to the government.”

“The recommended names should be revealed to the people for ensuring transparency in the process. Democracy dies in darkness,” he said, while presenting a key note paper.

Moderating the webinar, Prof Rounaq Jahan, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said political consensus and transparency were two key issues in the appointments.