



Ilias Kanchan and Zayed Khan were elected the President and General Secretary of the Film Artistes Association election. PHOTO: COLLECTED



Rawnak Hasan and Ahsan Habib Nasim are the new General Secretary and President of Actors' Equity Bangladesh. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mosharraf Karim gears up for a thrilling ride in 'Driver'

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Popular actor Mosharraf Karim and Mahiya Mahi are all set to star in Bioscope's upcoming web-series, "Driver".

Directed by Iftakar Chowdhury, the streaming platform released the first look of the noted actor glaring intensely at someone.

"It's a revenge-fuelled thriller, comprising of two of the finest leading actors – Mosharraf Karim and Mahiya Mahi. Amaan Reza will be playing the role of a villain," mentioned Iftakar Chowdhury.

"Driver" is slated to be released in the streaming platform Bioscope in February.



Of pledges, loyalty AND ARTISTRY

Election winners promise to uphold their end

An unlikely pair- Ilias Kanchan and Zayed Khan emerged victorious in BFDC's hyped up scenario as the President and General Secretary respectively, even though they were from different panels.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Elections for two of the biggest associations of the entertainment industry – the Film Artistes Association and Actor's Equity, were successfully held on Friday. The excitement was, however, not limited to the entertainment industry – by the end of the voting process, everyone wanted to know the results of arguably the biggest cultural election day to date.

While the results for the Actors' Equity came out before the stroke of midnight – 644 of the 752 voters showed up to vote, the Film Artistes' association took until early morning next day to announce the results of their 365 votes.

An unlikely pair- Ilias Kanchan and Zayed Khan emerged victorious in BFDC's hyped up scenario as the President and General Secretary respectively, even though they were from different panels. It is to be noted that Nipun, who accused Zayed of 'bribing voters', lost for the post of General Secretary by just 13 votes – she received 163 against Zayed's 176.

Ilias Kanchan, on the other hand, won by a healthy margin, receiving 191 votes against Misha Sawdagor's 148.

"I am overwhelmed with the love and support that I have received," shares Kanchan. "I promise to work for the welfare of the artistes, and I will give it all for our film industry," he said ecstatically.

Zayed Khan, even though happy with his own triumph, stated that he would miss his

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former president, Misha Sawdagor. "We have worked side-by-side for four long years, I will definitely feel his absence," he said. "I am grateful to everyone who voted for me."

Veteran artistes Rubel and Dipjol have been elected as Vice Presidents of the Film Artistes' association, by beating Riaz and D A Tayeb. "I thank the Almighty for everything," shares Rubel. Now that I have got the opportunity to work in the welfare

of the fraternity, I will do as much as I can," added Rubel.

Shahnoor has been elected as the organisational secretary. "I am grateful to everyone, but it would have been much more joyous if the entire panel won," shares the "Hajar Bochor Dhore" famed actress.

Ferdous, who was elected as an executive panel member, was happier for Ilias Kanchan than himself. "We want to join hands to improve the film industry," said the "Hothat Brishti" famed actor.

Moushumi who was elected as an executive panel member, said that she was eager to work for the industry and her brethren here.

On the other hand, newly elected Actor's Equity president Ahsan Habib Nasim shared that he wants to complete the tasks that he could not finish in the last two terms as the General Secretary.

General Secretary Rawnak Hasan, Law and Welfare Secretary Urmila Srabanti Kar, have expressed their gratitude, and have promised to work even harder for everyone, regardless of who they voted for.

While Sazu Khadem, who won as the organisational secretary, dedicated his win to the late Dr Enamul Haque.

Netflix faces \$5 Million defamation suit for 'sexist' line in 'The Queen's Gambit'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Nona Gaprindashvili, the world's first female grandmaster, filed a \$5 million defamation lawsuit against Netflix. The suit will go ahead, according to a Los Angeles judge.

The Georgian chess master filed a suit in September, which claimed that a line from the "The Queen's Gambit" series, where a character incorrectly states that she had "never faced men", is "grossly sexist and belittling". Nona had faced dozens of male competitors by 1968, the year in which the wildly popular limited series "The Queen's Gambit" is mainly set.

The streaming giant had previously tried to dismiss the defamation suit, arguing that the series is a piece of fiction.



COUNTRYWIDE

Boro cultivation on amid cold weather

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Boro cultivation is going on in full swing in all the upazilas of the district.

Several thousand farmers in all the six upazilas are now passing busy time planting seedlings of Boro paddy, ignoring the bone-chilling cold and foggy weather across the country.

Farmers said Boro cultivation started around six weeks ago and it will continue for further few weeks.

According to Patuakhali Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) around 50 percent of sowing have already been completed.

Farmer Toaj Hossain of Raghunathpur village in Kaliganj upazila said the ongoing cold wave and dense fog is hampering their work as they cannot go to their fields in early morning.

Currently they are passing busy time in sowing the saplings, but fear that the extreme cold might affect their paddy plants, he said.

Many farmers said due to a favourable weather and good price of the paddy the area of Boro cultivation is increasing every year.



Farmers at Kamlapur village in Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila are seen busy planting Boro seedlings, ignoring the biting cold. PHOTO: STAR

Farmer Mamun Hossain of Mandertala village in Kaliganj said last year he cultivated Boro on 4 bighas of land and got 100 maunds of paddy. He sold each maund of paddy at TK 1,300.

This season he brought 5 bighas under Boro cultivation as he got a good price of the paddy last year.

Jhenidah DAE Deputy Director Asgar Ali said they have a target to bring 78,855 hectares of land under Boro cultivation this year.

Of the land, 19,800 hectares are in Sadar upazila, 12,225 in Shailakupa, 9,855 in Harinakundo, 18,045 in Moheshpur, 5,555 in Kotchandpur and 13,375 hectares in Kaliganj upazila.



A tractor plies slowly with its headlights on around 10:00am yesterday as dense fog disrupts vehicular movement. The photo was taken from Kashipur area on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj regional road. PHOTO: STAR

Throwing stones continues

The phenomenon especially persists in West Zone of Bangladesh Railway due to absence of strict laws

EAMASADUZZAMAN

The incidents of throwing stones on moving trains in the West Zone (WZ) of Bangladesh Railway (BR) have been continuing unabatedly despite a campaign by BR to raise awareness.

Experts have opined that such incidents are recurring because of lax laws and the inertia of victims to file lawsuits to avoid harassment.

In absence of effective law, BR has no obligation to file a case in connection with the incidents of throwing stones rather it insists victim passengers on taking legal action.

In most cases, victims do not file cases as the incidents occur far away from their home and police stations often refuse to accept the complaints citing that the spot of occurrence is not under its jurisdiction.

Sources at the SP office of Saidpur

Railway Police in Nilphamari, which monitors the law and order in trains and rail tracks in eight districts in Rangpur division, informed that only three cases were filed in connection with stone-throwing incidents last year though the actual number of incidents is much higher.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddiquee Tanzilur Rahman said, "Dozens of stone-throwing incidents occurred but only three cases were filed last year and it would be easier for us to handle the situation if rail authorities lodge cases willingly."

On January 20, assistant train driver Liton Hossain, 35, while operating a local train in Burimari-Lalmonirhat route was injured after being hit by a stone thrown by miscreants near Roizbag Station in Aditmari upazila. The stone also damaged the windowpane of the engine compartment.



The right eye of five-year-old Azmeer Islam was damaged after being hit by a stone thrown near Saidpur Rail Station on August 15 last year. PHOTO: COLLECTED

But the victim driver disagreed to file a case to avoid harassment and even railway authorities did not do so through their property was damaged, Saidpur railway police sources informed. Earlier on August 15 last year, the

right eye of a five-year-old boy Azmeer Islam was damaged after being hit by a stone thrown near Saidpur Rail Station while he was on board of Khulna-bound Simanto Express. He was sitting by the window at the moment.

The victim's father Maruf Hossain at the request of rail police filed a case with Saidpur Railway Police Station.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) offices in Lalmonirhat and Pakshi divisions in WZ informed that on average 35-40 stone-throwing incidents occurred last year. Many of which were unreported.

Shah Sufi Noor Mohammad, DRM of Lalmonirhat division, said "It is a question, who would file a case and against whom as in most cases, culprits are either untraced or children. If railway has to file a case for each of the stone-throwing incidents, fresh law should be formulated."